

Pawnee County Commissioners  
Minutes  
April 24, 2023

Present: Commissioners: Burdett, Hammeke, Rein

9:00am Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present for the Communication meeting were Vanessa Feldman, City of Larned Lead Dispatcher, William Nusser, Mayor, Kara Lawrence, Pawnee County EMS Director, Josh Huff, Pawnee County Sheriff Lieutenant/Emergency Manager, County Attorney Doug McNett, Undersheriff Larry Atteberry, and Sheriff Scott King.

Vanessa presented proposals for Communications grant. Vanessa explained the mobile command center and how it would be beneficial in a disaster. Discussion took place regarding the 800MHz handheld radios, and the usefulness of them. Vanessa and Josh explained if an emergency is in a dead zone for radios, an 800 radio will allow communication outside of an emergency vehicle. Commissioner Rein stated he understood the importance of having 800 MHz radios. Mayor Nusser stated his concerns regarding the cost of the radios. Commissioner Burdett asked, "How does this change the need for an 800 MHz tower in our county?" Vanessa and Josh Huff both stated it would be a good step toward a goal.

9:42 **Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes from 9:42 to 9:52 for the purpose of personnel to include Mark McGee. Motion passes 3-0.**

9:52 Reconvened to regular session; no action taken.

9:53 **Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to enter into executive session for a period of 3 minutes from 9:53 to 9:56 for the purpose of personnel. Motion passes, 3-0.**

9:56 Reconvened to regular session; no action taken

County Attorney McNett visited with the Commissioners regarding a conflict of interest. County Attorney McNett stated a person cannot serve on two boards on which both receive taxpayer dollars.

10:00 Shae Veach, Vice President of Regional Operations and Melanie Urban, Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Administrator appear in person, Michelle Beckner, Hays Med Chief Financial Officer appeared via telephone. Michelle opened the meeting by reviewing Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Financial reports as of March 31, 2023. Michelle reviewed Balance Sheet, Statement of Operations, Other Operating Revenue and Non-Operating Income and Report of Operating Statistics. A review of the benchmarks took place from prior to COVID to the current benchmarks after COVID and the differences. Discussion took place regarding the 340B program.

Melanie reviewed the Administrator Report as of April 24, 2023. Melanie shared the news of the Mammography Accreditation earned by Shelly Stanton, Imaging Director and her team. Melanie reviewed hospitals recent events and shared upcoming events the hospital and its staff will be participating in. Melanie stated they are currently working on Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and anticipate presenting the budget to the County Commissioners by June. Melanie updated Commissioners on the Childcare Task Force project. Melanie shared the open positions list for Pawnee Valley Community Hospital. Melanie explained the hospital will

be looking for a new Emergency Department physician due to Dr. Miller moving.

County Attorney McNett presented statutes regarding County Health Funds K.S.A. 65-204, stating subsection (b) would allow the County to transfer levied dollars into a County Health Capital Outlay fund and K.S.A. 19-4606, which stated a tax for the purpose of operating, maintaining, equipping and improving any hospital managed and controlled under the provision of this act. County Attorney McNett stated he believes K.S.A. 65-204 would be the appropriate statute for the County to transfer dollars to Pawnee Valley Community Hospital in case ever needed. Discussion took place.

10:52

Tami Keenan, Pawnee County Treasure met with Commissioners to discuss Accounts Payables for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. Tami stated her concerns of some big purchases within the County that are to be reimbursed. Tami explained the length of time for the reimbursement is several months for some departments. Treasurer Keenan and Clerk Rein just wanted to express their concerns to the Commissioners. Commissioners thanked the Treasurer and the Clerk for expressing their concerns.

11:11

Kara Lawrence, Pawnee County EMS Director presented payroll change notices for three employees. Kara stated two employees has obtained Advanced EMT Certification, one obtained AHA Instructor Certification.

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to approve three payroll change notices for EMS effective 4/16/23 as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

Kara addressed the Commissioners regarding the proposal to hire another EMT for stacked calls, transfers and fill in for Burdett station.

Discussion took place regarding EMS budget if another employee was to be hired. Kara stated she does not believe she will be over budget if she was allowed to hire a new employee.

Commissioner Burdett asked if refusals were billed out. Kara explained if someone is in an accident and refuses, they are not billed. Kara stated she has checked with other agencies to see how they handle those that call frequently. She stated that some agencies will bill the patient after so many times. Kara explained that if a patient refuses the ambulance, but medication was given they are billing insurance for the medication.

At this time, the additional hiring of staff was not approved.

11:30

Gail Antenen, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Community Correction Director met with the Commissioners to review 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter report and present Fiscal Year 2024 grant applications.

Gail presented quarterly reports for AISP Adult Supervision, Juvenile Services, JCAB and Prevention, Reinvestment and Regional Collaboration. Commissioners reviewed the reports.

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to accept Kansas Community Corrections Act Quarterly Cash Reconciliation and Certification for quarter ending March 31, 2023, for Adult Supervision as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

**Motion by Burdett, seconded by Hammeke to accept Kansas Department of Correction-Division of Juvenile Services Quarterly**

**Cash Reconciliation and Certification for quarter ending March 31, 2023, for Juvenile Supervision as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to accept Kansas Department of Correction-Division of Juvenile Services quarterly Cash Reconciliation and Certification for quarter ending March 31, 2023, for JCAB and Prevention as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

**Motion by Burdett, seconded by Hammeke to accept Kansas Department of Correction-Division of Juvenile Services quarterly Cash Reconciliation and Certification for quarter ending March 31, 2023, for Reinvestment and Regional Collaboration as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

Gail presented Kansas Department of Correction – 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2024 Adult Comprehensive Plan Grant application. Gail reviewed the grant application explaining the goals and Goals, Target and the Action steps to achieve these goals and sanction guidelines for adult offenders who violate probation.

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to approve Kansas Department of Correction – 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2024 Adult Comprehensive Plan Grant as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

Gail presented Kansas Department of Corrections – 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Juvenile Services, Fiscal Year 2024 Juvenile Comprehensive Plan Grant. Gail reviewed the Goals, Targets, and Actions steps to achieve these goals. Gail explained the assessment for juvenile offenders and how this assessment determines the supervision level. Gail explained the sanctions for Juvenile Offenders. Gail stated Community Corrections is currently supervising 7 juveniles in the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

**Motion by Burdett, seconded by Hammeke to approve Kansas Department of Corrections - Juvenile Services, Fiscal Year 2024 Juvenile Comprehensive Plan Grant as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

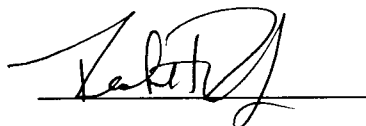
Commissioner Rein updated the Commissioners on the meeting with the Health Department, Clerk Rein, Treasurer Keenan, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding funding and placement of funds for the County Health Department.

Commissioner Hammeke updated the Commissioners on the E-Waste conversation with the American Legion representative.

Commissioner Burdett stated he has been invited to attend the Hodgeman County Commissioners meeting as they discuss 800MHz tower for their county. Commissioner Burdett also stated he would be attending the KCCA Conference in Hays.

2:00

Meeting Adjourned



For the Board:  
Chair, Board of Commissioners



Attest:  
County Clerk