

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

April 1, 2024

- Call to Order:** The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Monday, April 1, 2024. Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Debora Smith and Member Ryley Hembry present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as the recording secretary.
- Visitors:** Others present for portions of the meeting: Jesse Knight, Felicia Strahm, Rhonda Wright, Danny Huehl, David Gerstman, Mona Gerstman, Tony Miller, Brandon Cochran, Leann Johnson, Mary Ann Stertz, Vance Kelley, and Bethany Henry.
- Correspondence:** Correspondence: a letter from the 12th Judicial District notifying them of the appointment of Dawn Snyder as the Director of Community Corrections and Juvenile Services; a flyer from Road Groom Manufacturing; pipeline safety information from Kinder Morgan; bills for Lincoln Park Manor; a letter of support for the Hospital tax credit application; and an invitation to a joint commissioners meeting with several counties located in North Central Kansas.
- Special Meeting:** The chairman called a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, to meet with commissioners from several invited North Central Kansas counties to be held at the Concordia Senior Center. All members plan to attend the meeting. A joint meeting will be held to discuss topics shared amongst the countries invited.
- Department Head Meeting:** The board approved holding a department head meeting on May 13 with lunch provided. The board requested that Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm organize and notify department heads of the mandatory meeting.
- Letter of Support:** Dennis Ray moved to approve a letter of support for the Lincoln County Hospital's tax credit application for a C-Arm and beds, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Voting as follows: Ray – Aye; Smith – Aye; Hembry – Abstained.
- Emergency Management:** Emergency Manager Jesse Knight provided an update on the following department activities and topics: renewal of radio frequency licenses; grant applications submitted to purchase highly visible reflective tape for fire apparatus; fire department 800 radio programming completed. The group discussed the Hunter siren generator and the Sheriff's Department generator. Knight noted that he has been asked to help with an April 17 exercise.
- Executive Session:** Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested an executive session. Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for five minutes for the purpose of discussing FMLA, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the commission and HR Felicia Strahm, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 9:18 a.m. Time out: 9:23 a.m.
- Reconvene:** The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:23 a.m. with no action taken.
- Executive Session:** Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for five minutes for the purpose of discussing short-term disability, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the

commission and HR Felicia Strahm, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Time in: 9:25 a.m. Time out: 9:30 a.m.

- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with no action taken.
- Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm presented a job description for a Data Collector in the Appraiser's Office for the board's approval. The board made no decision. The group discussed identifying a grade for the Data Collector position on the pay scale.
- Appraiser: County Appraiser Rhonda Wright provided a comparison from the 2023 and 2024 valuations.
- Property Concern: Danny Huehl, Vesper Community Center president and taxpayer, requested that the board consider sending a letter to KDOT asking them to review the property located at the corner of E Hwy 18 and N 120th Rd for potential violations. The board approved a letter to be sent to KDOT regarding the property.
- CASA: Tony Miller, NCK CASA presented a proclamation for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to declare April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the March 25 and March 29 minutes as presented, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried.
- Landfill/Transfer Station: Landfill/Transfer Station Operator Daniel Muchow and Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm discussed the number of hours available for part-time staff, noting that hours will be available to hire an additional part-time employee. The board discussed department work hours and requested that Muchow attend the next meeting to discuss further.
- Ambulance: The board met with Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran, County Treasurer Leann Johnson, and Deputy Treasurer Mary Ann Stertz regarding direct deposits that have been made into the county's checking account. Johnson related that county auditor Jeff Reece recommended that departments bring deposit information to the Treasurer weekly. The board discussed department work hours and requested Cochran to attend a future meeting to discuss further. Cochran provided information on the EMT class being held and presented a grant application for four of the six students for the board's approval. Alternative funding is being sought for the two students who do not qualify for the grant through the Kansas Board of EMS. Dennis Ray moved to approve the EIMP grant application for four students, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Courthouse Restoration Project: TreanorHL representatives Vance Kelley and Bethany Henry presented the draft construction document plans for the courthouse restoration project, with an estimated overall cost of \$2.9 million. The project would address courthouse drainage issues and water inundation, replacing the south and east entrance structures, tuckpointing, painting, and window restoration. The north stair structure has been placed on a temporary hold until the board can evaluate the future of the jail facility. Kelley and Henry requested that the board rank the different projects in order of priority, allowing for items in the scope of work to be combined or eliminated. Kelley explained the process for applying for Historic Tax Credits and the next steps that the firm will take to move the project forward. The group agreed to have a 30-day bid period and to allow flexibility for completion dates to attract bids from companies who might not have bid due to
- Adjourn:

schedule conflicts. Henry will finalize the documentation for submission to the State Historical Society.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m. The next meeting will be in the commission meeting room of the courthouse at 8:30 a.m. Monday, April 8, 2024.