

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

February 5, 2024

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, February 5, 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 recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Craig Stertz, Kris Heinze, Nancy Knapp, Kathy Moss, Vicki Hook, Felicia Strahm, Roberta Turner, Rhonda Wright, Jesse Knight, and Kelly Gourley.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a form from the USDA office requesting the landowner's signature; a farm survey; bills for Lincoln Park Manor; and tax abatements.
- County Clerk: Clerk Harlow discussed the bids received for the courthouse and election-specific security upgrades. Clerk Harlow will contact the companies for additional information.
- Chamber of Commerce: Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce representatives Kris Heinze and Craig Stertz presented the annual funding request and summarized chamber activities over the past year. Heinze related that the Chamber plans to complete the Live Lincoln County magazine this year and provided the cost to have a full-page advertisement similar to previous years. The board approved the annual funding contribution and a full-page ad in the Live Lincoln County publication.
- Tax Abatements: Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatements 2023-29 through 2023-32 in the amount of \$910.80, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Lincoln Senior Center: Lincoln Senior Center representatives Nancy Knapp and Kathy Moss provided a copy of the senior center's annual report. The group discussed senior center expenses, including additional wages paid to staff who work with the food program. North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging provides limited hours and pays minimum wage to staff. Knapp related that the funding the county pays will provide approximately five months of expenses for the center and that they have been working on fundraising activities to make repairs to the building.
- Transportation Bus: Transportation Bus Director Roberta Turner related that S & S Auto Body would not be able to repair the damage to the van for a couple of months and inquired if the board would like her to find another body shop. The board suggested that she should wait.
- Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm answered questions regarding the wage placement for the Board of Commissioners on the pay scale.
- Emergency Management: Emergency Manager Jesse Knight and County Appraiser Rhonda Wright met with the board regarding building permit regulations. Knight related that the County Attorney had not yet answered what the county needs to require individuals to obtain building permits. Knight provided information obtained from other counties with zoning and related that an attorney for Riley County had told him the county did not need to do anything. Commissioner Smith will contact the County Attorney for assistance.

- Emergency Management: The board discussed the recent vehicle purchase for Emergency Management, as the department did not have sufficient budget to make the purchase. Knight suggested that the Floodplain Management budget be used for a portion of the purchase as he will be using the vehicle to view properties that have applied for a floodplain permit. Dennis Ray moved to credit \$13,899 to the emergency management fund and in turn deduct \$13,899 from the equipment reserve fund (changing the fund from which a portion of the original purchase was made), seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Voting as follows: Ray – Aye; Hembry – Aye; Smith -Nay.
- Economic Development: Economic Development Director Kelly Gourley notified the board that the county was not selected for a Heritage Trust Fund grant. Gourley provided an update on the Moderate Income Housing Grant and requested that the board revise the wording in a motion for one of the projects, as repair costs exceeded the previously approved amount. Gourley noted that the project had not requested the maximum funding available, nor did another previously approved project. Debora Smith moved to amend the motion for the Moderate Income Housing Grant for project No. 3 at 411 South 4th St and project No. 4 at 106 E Yauger up to the max of 25% up to \$30,000, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Solid Waste: The board approved billing two home-based food service businesses for solid waste. Clerk Harlow related that when the landfill backhoe is sold, that revenue will be placed in the landfill fund, as it is unclear specifically where the purchase was made. Expenses for repairs to the newly purchased backhoe will be drawn from the refuse fund.
- Minutes Approved: Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2024 and January 31, 2024 meetings, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.
- Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024.