

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

May 24, 2021

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners was held in the courthouse commission meeting room Monday, May 24, 2021. Chairman Randy Lohmann called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Dennis Ray and Member Darrell Oetting present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as the recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Nancy Walter, Tami Kerth, Shelia Nelson-Stout, Susan Sprague, Patrick Wallerius, Diane Walters, Sarah Hageman, Rhonda Wright, Caleb Holeman, Geoff Jenista, Tim Meier, and Forrest Rhodes.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: A letter from the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition regarding membership with the organization; an email from Emily Benedick, North Central Regional Planning Commission, requesting that a commissioner sit on the steering committee for the County Comprehensive Plan; an update from the North Central Juvenile Detention Facility monthly meeting and 2022 budget request of \$1,000; a newsletter from the North Central Regional Planning Commission; SWANA annual meeting notice; a letter from the Kansas Department of Health containing public notice concerning Kansas/Federal water pollution control permits and applications; information from Gans Family Farms LLC thanking them for approving the KNHA opposition resolution; Hospital Board packet; and an email from Cindy Entrikn regarding the board's decision to adopt a resolution opposing the Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area.
- Action: The board appointed Chairman Randy Lohmann to serve the County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Development.
- Updates: County Clerk Harlow noted that the property owner south of the recycling center has been provided an agreement as discussed at a previous commission meeting. Commissioner Ray related that the forklift needs additional repairs and that he is currently obtaining quotes. Commissioner Ray and Clerk Harlow provided an update on the CDBG portion of the warning siren replacement project. Commissioner Ray noted that the Repeater Board is hesitant to take ownership of the warning system. Commissioner Ray suggested that the County consider allocating \$10,000 per year to the Repeater Board. The funds would help with annual maintenance expenses for the warning sirens and the repeater system and begin building funds for future repairs. Commissioner Ray suggested that the Emergency Manager be responsible for assisting the Repeater Board with coordinating maintenance checks and future repairs.
- Budget Request: Conservation District Manager Nancy Walter provided an update on conservation district activities and presented the district's 2022 budget request.
- Minutes Approved: Darrell Oetting moved to accept the minutes of May 17, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.
- Budget Request: Register of Deeds Tami Kerth presented the department's 2022 budget request.
- Update & Budget Request: OCK representatives Sheila Nelson-Stout, Susan Sprague, and Patrick Wallerius provided an overview of services offered by the organization, which includes the following: transportation,

assistance with disability claims, infant-toddler services, autism support, Alzheimer's programs, and telehealth services. Nelson-Stout presented the agency's 2022 budget request.

- Nursing Home:** Nursing Home Administrator Diane Walters updated the board on repair projects at the nursing home. Cory Shearer has looked at the assisted living damage and will provide a bid. Culligan is the only company that rents commercial water softeners; the board requested that Walters obtain additional quotes to purchase a commercial water softener. Walters inquired which company has the contract to perform maintenance on the elevator as it is due for its inspection. Walters updated the board on upcoming activities planned for residents and staff.
- Meeting Time Change:** The board approved moving their meeting time on Friday, May 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Human Resources:
Handbook Changed:** Human Resource Officer Sarah Hageman presented optional wording to modify the residency policy in the employee handbook. Dennis Ray moved to change the handbook section A Residency Requirement to include department heads to read: All Department Heads newly hired or transitioning into the position, must maintain residency in Lincoln County or promptly begin the relocation process if necessary, and will be given a grace period of 6 months to complete it. If, after the initial grace period, the Department Head is not in compliance with the Residency requirement, employment will be re-evaluated, seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried.
- Employees Hired:** Hageman requested that Joshua Tipton be hired as a part-time EMT, starting salary at \$12.80 per hour. Randy Lohmann moved to hire Joshua Tipton as a part-time per-need EMT at \$12.80 per hour, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Hageman requested that Brandon Cochran be employed as EMS Director at \$50,000 per year. Dennis Ray moved to employ Brandon Cochran as the EMS Director, starting salary at \$50,000 per year effective May 28, 2021, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Voting as follows: Ray – Aye; Oetting – Aye; Lohmann – Nay. Randy Lohmann moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of evaluation of the Landfill Director, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission room with the commission and HR (Hageman), seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 10:41 a.m. Time out: 10:51 a.m.
- Executive Session:**
- Reconvene:** The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:51 a.m.
- Budget Request:** County Appraiser Rhonda Wright presented the department's 2022 budget request.
- Highway Department:
Executive Session:** Interim Director of Highway Department Caleb Holeman requested an executive session. Randy Lohmann moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing employee status, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in courthouse commission room, with the commission, Interim Highway Director (Holeman), and HR Director (Hageman), seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 11:02 a.m. Time out: 11:12 a.m.
- Reconvene:** The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:12 a.m. with no action taken.
- Highway Department:** The board forwarded maintenance requests received to Interim Director of Highway Department Caleb Holeman.

Electronic Infrastructure Evaluation: Geoff Jenista, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, provided information and explained each of the services that the agency can provide to the county free of charge. Jenista will provide an agreement to proceed.

Inquiry: Tim Meier questioned why landfill employees are removing items from the landfill/transfer station if the public is not allowed.

Executive Session: Randy Lohmann moved to recess into executive session for thirty minutes, the purpose of discussing the EEOC complaint, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(2) for consultation with an attorney for the public body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, with the commission, Forrest Rhodes, Attorney, and HR (Hageman), to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 12:04 p.m. Time out 12:34 p.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:34 p.m. with no action taken.

County Clerk: County Clerk Harlow inquired if the board was interested in accepting the second round of funding from the federal government. Harlow will watch the webinars and report to the board. Clerk Harlow issued a concern to the board that duties she is performing are more duties of a County Administrator than they are as County Clerk and related that she could no longer continue doing some of the tasks without adequate staffing in her office.

Adjourn: Dennis Ray moved to adjourn at 12:44 p.m., seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be Friday, May 28, 2021, in the courthouse commission meeting room.