

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

July 29, 2024

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, July 29, 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: Don Berner, Jesse Knight, Nancy Walter, Brad Rahe, Jeff Flathman, Jesse Zachgo, Brandon Cochran and Felicia Strahm.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a flyer from Road Groom Manufacturing; an email from Central Kansas Mental Health Center regarding a board vacancy for Lincoln County; and a notice that the county is a recipient of a ROZ marketing grant.
- Exeuctive Session: Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for thirty minutes for the purpose of discussing employee status, 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, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the commission, County Clerk Dawn Harlow, and Attorney Don Berner via telephone, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Time in: 8:31 a.m. Time out: 9:01 a.m.
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:01 a.m. with no action taken.
- Emergency Manager: Emergency Manager Jesse Knight provided an update on truck repairs needed.
- Board Appointment: Debora Smith moved to appoint Dennis Ray as the representative for Lincoln County on the Central Kansas Mental Health Center board, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Hospital Meeting Update: Commissioner Smith gave an update on the Hospital Board of Trustees monthly meeting, noting that the hospital did not meet its bond covenant based on the auditors' preliminary report. County Clerk Dawn Harlow provided the board with the estimated shortfall for the March 1, 2025, bond payment due February 1, 2025, if the hospital continues paying the current rent payment.
- Business Offerings: Jeff Flathman and Brad Rahe, Energy Solutions Professionals, provided information about their company's services.
- LEPP Waste Water Grant: Wastewater grant committee members Dawn Harlow, Shawn Esterl, and Nancy Walters provided the ranking criteria and results for the seven applicants who applied for grants during the initial grant period. The committee recommended that the board approve \$2,500 as the maximum grant fund for individuals meeting the income requirement; all others will qualify for eighty-five percent of the maximum funding amount. Debora Smith moved to approve funding for qualified applicants at \$2,500 maximum for the wastewater grant, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. The board agreed to allow the County Clerk to sign grant agreements as the county's representative and to enable the grant committee to determine application periods until all funding is exhausted. Clerk Harlow will prepare applicant agreements for approval at a future meeting.

- Recycling Center:** Jesse Zachgo, Slechta Enterprises, related that CB Trucking stopped accepting recycled materials and that a different company requires a semi-load before they will pick up materials at the facility. Zachgo requested that the board consider purchasing a carport to store recycled materials. The group discussed building a lean-to on the north side of the building and asked Zachgo to obtain contractor bids.
- Ambulance Service:** Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran, with Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm, provided an update on ambulance billing, noting that he now has access to the shared file with Delisa's Medical Billing, and that the health department had received some remittance advices. Cochran requested approval to employ Gabriel Fenn. Debora Smith moved to approve employing Gabriel Fenn at grade 13 step 5, \$14.04 per hour, as a part-time per-need EMT, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Cochran related that the WEB fund had approved payment of both EMT students who were under 18 when they took the course. The group discussed the director's exempt status. Dennis Ray moved to change the salary status for Brandon Cochran from exempt to nonexempt, effective July 28, 2024, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Executive Session:** Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten 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, HR Felicia Strahm and County Clerk Dawn Harlow, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 10:31 a.m. Time out: 10:41 a.m.
- Reconvene:** The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:41 a.m. Debora Smith moved to approve the shared leave application, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- 2025 Budget:** The board reviewed the 2025 draft budget with edits to add a department for an administrator, adjusted funding for capital improvements, and adjustments to the health department and employee benefits fund. The board authorized the County Clerk to publish the 2025 Lincoln County Budget and Special District Budget Hearing Notice. The budget hearing will be on August 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. County Clerk Harlow will post the draft budget on the county website.
- Minutes Approved:** The board discussed whether to correct the July 15 minutes. Clerk Harlow will present corrections at the next meeting. Dennis Ray moved to approve the July 22 minutes as presented, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Followup:** Commissioner Ray said he would notify Central Kansas Mental Health that he was appointed to the board. Commissioner Hembry provided an update on repairs to the landfill backhoe. Commissioner Smith agreed to contact the PBC bonding attorney with board questions and Eric Johnson, Campbell & Johnson, concerning whether the firm completed a code footprint for the nursing home.
- Meeting Time Set:** The board set the meeting time for the end-of-month meeting to begin at 8:00 a.m.
- Adjourn:** The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m. The next meeting will be held in the courthouse commission meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.