

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

July 17, 2017

- Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners was held in the commission meeting room of the courthouse Monday July 17, 2017. Chairman Al Joe Wallace called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Terry Finch and Member Alexis Pflugh present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance.
- Visitors:** Others present for portions of the meeting: Jeannie Fern, David Dohe, Mona Gerstmann, Gerry Miller, Steve Schneider, Ray Rasmussen, Debora Zachgo, Howard Wehrman, Michel O'Hare, Robert Howe, Kelly Larson, Jennifer Huehl, Leann Bishop, Hope Wolters, Brandon Cochran, Shiloh Florence, Bret Kingan, Richard Ancell, Marc Lovin, Kayla Haring, Tommy Knapp, Damon Vonada, Ben Kratky, Kelly Hawk, Rick Horn, Gene Meitler and Jeff Reece.
- Minutes Approved:** Terry Finch moved to approve and adopt the minutes of the July 10, 2017 regular meeting as presented, seconded by Alexis Pflugh. Motion carried.
- Correspondence:** Correspondence: received notice from Lincoln County Hospital concerning two capital improvement projects and funding sources for the projects.
- 2016 Draft Audit and Correspondence Approved:** The board reviewed the draft copy of the County's financial statements for fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. Alexis Pflugh moved to allow the chairman to sign the Management Representation Letter concerning the financial statements for fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, seconded by Terry Finch. Motion carried.
- Emergency Management:** Emergency Manager David Dohe related that the State will reimburse the county a per diem rate per day while attending training in Overland Park and Pueblo, Colorado. Dohe requested approval to charge meals on the county issued credit card for the two training sessions and approval to exceed the meal allowance rates if necessary. Alexis Pflugh moved to make an exception to the credit card policy to allow David Dohe to charge meals on the county credit card for travel and meal expense, not to exceed the daily per diem rate awarded by the State, for the two training sessions mentioned, seconded by Terry Finch. Motion carried.
- Budget Requests:** Clerk Harlow provided additional budget requests received, and explained the budget request for the County Attorney, as she was unable to attend the meeting as planned.
- Insurance:** Human Resource Officer Debora Zachgo provided additional estimates for health insurance premiums for 2018 and an example of the cost to county employees at the suggested rates as requested at the July 10 regular meeting.
- Road Complaint:** Steve Schneider provided a written complaint relating to the work performed by Lincoln County as part of the Road Maintenance Agreement that was signed by both parties on May 1, 2017, stating that the county did more work to the road than what was agreed to by the parties and that it will cause future drainage and travel issues.
- Road and Bridge:** Director of Public Works Michel O'Hare with Road and Bridge Supervisor Robert Howe provided a Public Notice in regards to farming county roads and road right-of-way, for the board to review and consider publishing and/or distributing to county land owners. Commissioner Pflugh related that she would like to add something to the Notice in regards to volunteerism, requesting landowners to consider volunteering their time to cut trees and

clean culverts. No decision was made this date. O'Hare presented a cost estimate of \$30,620 to replace drainage structures on N 30th Rd, and potential funding sources. The board approved proceeding with the drainage structure replacement on N 30th Rd. Howe reported on the following: culvert project to replace failed stone arch bridge has been completed; spot graveling between Beverly and Barnard; and preparing to gravel a portion of E X-ray Dr in Cedron Township. Commissioner Pflugh inquired if the department has considered asking APAC to do a mix for the County.

Sylvan Grove CDBG
Grant Application &
Letter of Support:

City of Sylvan Grove Clerk Jennifer Huehl with Economic Development Director Kelly Larson, related that there are now nine houses that have pre-applied for demolition grant assistance and requested that the board consider removing the county hospital owned property from the demolition project, as well as continue the commitment of \$3,500 in rate reductions for disposal fees towards the in-kind match for the CDBG grant application. The board approved removing the hospital owned property from the project. Alexis Pflugh moved to sign a letter of support for the Sylvan Grove CDBG grant application and to waive \$3,500 in landfill disposal fees associated with the demolition project, seconded by Terry Finch. Motion carried.

Parliamentary
Procedures:

Commissioner Pflugh explained why she believes that it would be a benefit to adopt an agenda based upon parliamentary procedures; would like to have community action; and would like to form committees to divide up tasks. Alexis Pflugh moved to adopt parliamentary procedures. Motion died for a lack of second.

Ambulance Service:

Lincoln County Ambulance Service staff members Hope Wolters and Brandon Cochran with the following staff present: Shiloh Florence, Bret Kingan, Richard Ancell, Marc Lovin, Kayla Haring, Tommy Knapp, Damon Vonada and Ben Kratky, addressed concerns that have been stated in open meetings and on social media concerning the ambulance service and Interim Director Bret Kingan. Cochran identified positive characteristics of a leader and provided examples of how Interim Director Kingan has demonstrated these characteristics in everyday activities for the service; related that the service is conducting monthly meetings and training sessions; currently partnering with the Bennington Ambulance Service to hold an EMT class to begin in the fall or early next year; and employee access to the 24-7 program which allows staff members to obtain continuing education training at a time that is convenient for them. Commissioner Pflugh inquired about the following: continuing education, inquired if EMS staff would volunteer for the highway department and road signage. Lovin related that although road signs are important, the ambulance service struggles with identifying homes due to the lack of house numbers on homes in rural areas.

Policy Change Request:

Sylvan Grove Rural Fire District Fire Chief Marc Lovin requested the board consider revising their currently policy that prohibits any volunteer firefighters, rescue squad member and EMS staff from taking photos and/or video of on scene incidents and suggested that each fire chief or their designated representative be allowed to photograph the scene to assist the State Fire Marshall during investigations. The board took no action this date, but will review the current policy to determine if modifications should be made.

Ambulance Service:

Mitchell County EMS Director Kelly Hawk and Mitchell County Emergency Manager Rick Horn with Interim Ambulance Service Director Bret Kingan present, thanked the board for the utilization of the ambulance service. Hawk provided the following information concerning Mitchell County's use of the ambulance: it was assigned to the Cawker City Station and was in the county for 5 days; 225 miles were placed on the unit from the time it left Lincoln and was returned to Lincoln; and that the unit was used to respond to the Tipton area for a code

situation, in which the patient was revived, and had the Beloit unit responded the delayed time might have changed the outcome. Horn related that it is vital that counties share resources in rural Kansas. Kingan addressed why he approved loaning the ambulance and that he believed they needed it the day they asked and not after board approval two days later. The group discussed problems with the Mitchell County and Lincoln County Ford units with the 604 engines. Hawk related that he is currently pricing new units to replace theirs as they are constantly having mechanical issues.

- Ambulance Service:** Interim Ambulance Service Director Bret Kingan addressed the following topics that have been brought up in past meetings and on social media: Kingan provided a copy of the section of the ambulance staff policy book, that was previously pointed out by a citizen who stated that he was in violation of the handbook, citing that the portion of the policy that was previously provided was listed under the section discussing building policy and that he did not violate the policy; Unit 34 was broke down and has been repaired, noting items repaired included a high pressure oil pump, high pressure oil rail and injectors on one side, it is unknown why or where the 6 quarts of oil went, however the breakdown was not caused by employees not checking the oil or adding oil, nor was it caused by Mitchell County who put 225 miles on the unit compared to Lincoln County who has added an additional 1,575 miles in the three weeks prior to the breakdown, reiterating that the 604 motor in the Ford ambulances nationwide have been experiencing mechanical issues, and this particular unit has had numerous breakdowns since we purchased. Discussion ensued on whether the service should begin seeking bids for a new ambulance as the current fleet is aging.
- Inquiries:** Gene Meitler inquired as to why the county has not purchased any gravel from his pit for 2016 and 2017, relating that if the county is not going to use it he would like to terminate the lease agreement. Meitler suggested that the county consider adding grizzly from APAC to mix with the gravel. Meitler inquired about noxious weed management and whether the county is legally bound to provide noxious weed eradication in ditches and whether Johnson grass is considered a noxious weed.
- Postpone Agenda Items:** Alexis Pflugh moved to postpone the rest of the morning agenda to the July 24, 2017 regular meeting, seconded by Terry Finch. Motion carried.
- EMS Staff Hired:** Terry Finch moved to employ Kayla Haring as a part-time per-need EMT-B, starting salary \$12.55 per hour and Deedra Stertz as a part-time per-need paramedic, starting salary \$14.50 per hour, seconded by Al Joe Wallace. Motion carried.
- Recess:** The chairman recessed the meeting for lunch at 11:54 a.m.
- Reconvene:** The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:00 p.m.
- 2018 Budget Preparation:** County Auditor Jeff Reece, Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris Chtd. presented the 2018 preliminary budget using budget proposals submitted by department heads. The board worked on finalizing the 2018 proposed budget.
- Adjourn:** The chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. Monday, July 24, 2017 in the commission meeting room of the courthouse.