

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

March 8, 2021

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Monday, March 8, 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 recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Dawn Dolezal (via telephone), Ladonna Reinert, Baldwin Fisher, Hanna Townley, Jennifer O'Hare, Sarah Hageman, Shawn Esterl, Caleb Holeman, and Tanner Yost.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: title for a trailer.
- General Discussion: Commissioner Oetting reported that Hunter Rural Fire Chief Brad Nitsch had inquired about enacting a burn ban. Commissioner Ray indicated that some departments were wanting to hold off on a burn ban. The board determined not to pass a burn ban and will call a special meeting when needed. Commissioner Lohmann provided an update on the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting that he attended last week. Lincoln County FSA Executive Director Dawn Dolezal related that the FSA office is currently restricted to a twenty-five percent workforce. Dolezal inquired if they could utilize office space two days per week as her office, allowing staff members to work at the building. The board approved the request.
- Health Department: Health Nurse/Administrator Ladonna Reinert presented the annual grant application signature page for the board's approval applying for the following grant funds: COVID-19 ELC Expanding Infrastructure, Immunization Action Plan, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, and State Formula. Randy Lohmann moved to approve the grant application, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Randy Lohmann moved to sign the Grant Application Signature Page for four different grants totaling \$133,598.36, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Reinert updated the board on the COVID-19 vaccination progress.
- Emergency Management: Emergency Manager Baldwin Fisher invited the board to attend a floodplain mapping zoom meeting on Thursday, March 18, at 10:00 a.m. Fisher provided a map and a copy of Resolution 2004-11, which identified the County Appraiser as the Floodplain Administrator, suggesting that the board consider revising the resolution naming him as Floodplain Administrator. The board took no action this date. Clerk Harlow provided Resolution 2003-20, designating the County Clerk as administrator and the County Appraiser as maintaining maps for public inspection. Clerk Harlow suggested that both Resolutions be revised, should the board name a different floodplain administrator.
- Nepotism Policy: The board discussed the county's nepotism policy with County Attorney Jennifer O'Hare and Human Resource Officer Sarah Hageman. Commissioner Ray requested that the duo determine if like-sized counties have nepotism policies and how other counties handle conflicts if there are no policies.
- Human Resource Officer: Human Resource Officer Hageman provided the department head's anniversary dates for upcoming evaluations and provided a copy of the evaluation form used in 2020. The board approved extending the deadline for the EMS Director for an additional two weeks to March 26.

The commission noted that the Director of Highway Department position is still open and that interested applicants should apply.

LEP Program: Shawn Esterl, Saline County Environmental Sanitarian, presented the 3rd quarter, 4th quarter, and the annual report for the Local Environmental Protection (LEP) program. Esterl inquired if the board would like to update the sanitary code.

Road Concern: Shawn Esterl reported that trees have grown into the right-of-way south of the Shady Bend bridge and obstructs the view of oncoming traffic.

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 employee evaluation, 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 Highway Department Interim Director (Caleb Holeman), seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 11:13 a.m. Time out: 11:23 a.m.

Reconvene:  
2021 Wages: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:23 a.m. with no action taken. Clerk Harlow reminded the board that when completing the 2021 budget, that the board did not approve raises in 2021, except for those employees who were not hired on their respective pay scales and were still within their first year of service. The board discussed the previous BOCC's decision to not grant raises in 2021 and how to keep newly hired employees, if the board can not increase wages. Commissioner Ray requested that Human Resource Officer Hageman provide a cost by department, to grant \$.25 and \$.50 merit increases across the board for informational purposes.

Highway Department: Commissioner Oetting forwarded a concern about the size difference between the previous bridge and the two culverts installed to replace the structure. Tanner Yost, Kirkham Michael, provided a summary of the paved roads, identifying each road's length, location, current condition, and estimated cost to chip seal or overlay. Yost provided information on a cost-share program available to overlay roads, noting that it is a competitive award. The local match is a minimum of ten percent. Dennis Ray moved that the Board of Commissioners allow Tanner Yost with Kirkham Michael to apply for the cost-share program through KDOT for the six miles south of Sylvan Grove, our cost-share not to exceed 225,000 (grant application is due in 2021 with the project completed in 2022), with the remainder of \$225,000 spread amongst the other sections of the asphalt roads in Lincoln County for the 2021 calendar year, seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried. If the grant is not awarded, then money will be used to patch the Sylvan blacktop. The group discussed bridges on E Rye Dr and E X-ray Dr.

Request: Dennis Ray requested a field entrance one-half mile east of 290<sup>th</sup> on Deer Dr.

Adjourn: Dennis Ray moved to adjourn at 12:47 p.m., seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be Monday, March 15, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in the courthouse commission meeting room.