

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

January 9, 2023

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Monday, January 9, 2023. Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Darrell Oetting and Member Randy Lohmann present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Debora Smith, Dale Hlad, Tanner Yost, Jeff Lee, Dustin Florence, Sarah Hageman, Jesse Knight, David Gerstmann, and Mona Gerstmann.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a letter from Cody Flinn expressing an interest in continuing to serve on the Lincoln County Hospital Board of Trustees; a request to proclaim January 2023 as National Stalking Awareness month; a letter from Michelle Hair expressing an interest in serving on the Lincoln County Hospital Board of Trustees; an email from Tawnya Seitz, Lincoln County Hospital CEO/CFO inquiring if federal grant funds received by the County could be awarded to the hospital to purchase directional signage; and a bill for Lincoln Park Manor.
- Minutes approved: Darrell Oetting moved to approve the minutes of January 3 as presented, seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried.
- Correspondence Action: The board denied the nursing home bill sent by Street Plumbing. Dennis Ray moved to approve the proclamation declaring January 2023 Stalking Awareness Month, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. The board requested that Clerk Harlow contact the ARPA administrator to determine if directional signage is an allowed expense.
- Recess/Reconvene: The chairman recessed the meeting to attend the Public Building Commission Meeting at 8:40 a.m. The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 8:43 a.m.
- Recycling Center: Commissioner Ray updated the board on the recycling center and identified items that needed to be repaired.
- Oath of Office Administered: County Clerk Dawn Harlow administered the Oath of Office to County Commissioner 1<sup>st</sup> District Debora Smith.
- Board Reorganization: Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 19-219, the chairman called for the organization of the board for the ensuing year with Darrell Oetting and newly elected board member Debora Smith present. Darrell Oetting moved to keep Dennis Ray as Chairman, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to keep Darrell Oetting as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2023-01: Darrell Oetting moved to accept Resolutions 2023-01, 2023-02, and 2023-03, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. (Resolution 2023-01, designating the following Lincoln County banks as depositories of all money for Lincoln County, Kansas, for the year 2023: The Bank of Tescott - Lincoln, Citizens State Bank & Trust - Lincoln, Bennington State Bank - Sylvan Grove, Farmway Credit Union – Lincoln, Wilson State Bank – Beverly, and State Municipal Investment Pool-State of Kansas depositories; Resolution 2023-02, authorizing the County Treasurer to develop and implement a cash management and investment program for the handling of money

in the custody of Lincoln County, Kansas for the year 2023; and Resolution 2023-03, allowing the County Treasurer to invest idle funds as seen feasible in Lincoln County banks or investments)

Resolution 2023-04:

Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2023-04, a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners authorizing participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program for the calendar year 2023, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.

Highway Department:

Director of Highway Department Dale Hlad and Tanner Yost, Kirkham Michael provided the bid tab sheet for the 60<sup>th</sup> Rd reclamation project (Sylvan blacktop). APAC-Kansas was the only contractor that submitted a bid on the project at a total cost of \$2,696,024.80, \$489,969.80 higher than the engineer's estimate. The group discussed funding sources for the overage. APAC representative Jeff Lee related that if the plans were changed from a virgin mix to a 25% reclaimed asphalt mix, the County could save approximately \$175,000. Yost expressed his opposition to this change. Hlad noted that he has the additional funding available in the department's other funds to make up the difference. Dennis Ray moved to award the 60<sup>th</sup> Rd Reclamation to APAC-Kansas in the amount of \$2,696,024.80, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Yost provided the Notice of Award for the chairman to sign. Hlad provided a resignation from Michael Nelson.

Solid Waste Comment Section:

The chairman opened the Business Solid Waste comment session to hear businesses' comments regarding the solid waste disposal fee assessment. Chairman Ray read a letter from Mindy Lewick requesting that the board waive the fee for her home-based accounting/bookkeeping business. Clerk Harlow noted that Heather Meyer had called and that her former seed business was closed when 181 Ag Supply opened. Commissioner Ray related that he had received phone calls over the weekend; some individuals said they were not a business, while others said they were not really a business, yet they have a brick-and-mortar building with their business name. Commissioner Ray read the definition of a business. Commissioner Ray stated that he has a home-based business and should be billed for solid waste. The board requested that Clerk Harlow accumulate the requests and complaints received and that the board will make one determination after the January 23 public comment session.

Law Enforcement:

Sheriff Dustin Florence reported that Deputy Randy Moore has submitted his letter of retirement effective January 25 and that the department will be hosting a retirement reception on that date. Florence said he'd made a conditional offer of employment to Joel Nelson. Debora Smith moved to hire Joel Nelson at Grade 31 Step 13, \$18.41 per hour, conditional to the passing of pre-employment testing, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.

Human Resources:

Human Resource Officer Sarah Hageman provided a copy of the Lincoln County Employee Handbook. Debora Smith moved to adopt Resolution 2023-05 to establish a new handbook dated January 9, 2023, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.

Assisted Living Facility Proposition:

David Gerstmann, Lincoln County Hospital Board of Trustees member, presented an idea to repurpose the assisted living apartments for potential use by the hospital as agency staff, new hire temporary housing, and patient family rentals. Gerstmann related that the hospital would rent the units from the County, which would offer the County an additional revenue source to assist with future maintenance needs for the building. Gerstmann related that further research would need to be completed to determine if the critical access hospital could qualify for additional reimbursement from Medicare for the expense; however, the trustees agreed that

the County should be approached about the idea before the negotiation of a new lease agreement with Ryan Grace.

Special Meeting Called: The chairman called a special meeting for Friday, January 13, at 8:30 a.m. to approve longevity pay to county employees.

Board Appointments: The board discussed who would be the representative to the Hospital Board. The board approved appointing Debora Smith as the Board's representative to the Lincoln County Hospital Board of Trustees and Darrell Oetting as the alternate.

Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. Friday, January 13, 2023, in the courthouse commission meeting room.