

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

March 18, 2024

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Monday, March 18, 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: Shawn Esterl, Elizabeth Sheldon, Dale Hlad, Jeff White, Jesse Knight, Diane Walters, Felicia Strahm, and John Paul Ellis.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: an invoice for KCCA annual dues; a Public Notice regarding a proposed Kansas Water Pollution Control Permit; Medicare renewal requirement for the Lincoln County Ambulance Service; a thank you card and rolls from the Lincoln Senior Center; and mid-month accounts payable.
- LEPP Program: Saline County Sanitarian Shawn Esterl notified the board of a regional LEPP grant opportunity to provide funds to qualifying residents to repair or replace failing onsite wastewater systems and for private water well testing. Esterl explained that there is a fast turnaround time to apply for the grant funds, and he is not sure of the dollar amount that Lincoln County could qualify for as Ellsworth and Saline counties plan to apply for funds as well. The board agreed to apply for the grant to provide cost-share funds for the repair or replacement of private septic systems. Debora Smith moved to approve participating in the LEPP septic system grant with the State of Kansas, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Health Department: Health Nurse/Administrator Elizabeth Sheldon provided the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Grant Application Signature Page for the board's approval. Sheldon provided an update on department activities and upcoming events, including a Narcan Education class for incidental fentanyl exposure presented by DCCCA on April 10 at the Finch Theatre from 6:30 – 7:30. Debora Smith moved to approve the grant application for the health department: IAP, PHEP, and State Formula, totaling \$23,687, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Highway Department: Director of Highway Department Dale Hlad provided information on a used 2017 CAT motor grader. The board made no decision on this date. The board discussed equipment rotation, past practices, and funding sources when replacing equipment.
- Repeater: Repeater Board President Jeff White reported on the status of the repeater antenna repairs and the results of testing the emergency sirens during the Statewide Severe Weather drill. The repeater board is working on a plan to maintain and replace backup batteries used by the sirens as a backup power source for electric power failure. White stressed that while several fire departments are updating their radios to digital capable radios, there are no current plans, nor has the repeater board agreed to move to a digital radio system.
- Nursing Home: Nursing Home Administrator Diane Walters provided an update on facility maintenance projects. The facility is seeking bids to replace a heater in a resident's room, solutions and prices to install bathroom doors, and replacement flooring in portions of the facility. The board requested that Walters ask companies bidding on the heater to place a bid on providing

additional units to store and have on hand for future facility needs. Walters related that the facility is planning several upcoming events for the public, residents, and staff.

- Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm provided an update on department activities. Strahm requested approval to hire a part-time employee for the landfill/transfer station. The board asked that Strahm schedule the department head on the agenda to discuss staffing needs for the department before deciding. Strahm requested an executive session. Dennis Ray moved to recess five minutes for the purpose of discussing extended illness leave, 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: 10:24 a.m. Time out: 10:29 a.m.
- Executive Session:
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:29 a.m. with no action taken.
- Noxious Weed: Commissioner Ray provided a list of vehicles available to purchase that would be sufficient to replace one of the noxious weed spray trucks. Debora Smith moved to approve allowing Dennis Ray to negotiate the price and vehicle on behalf of the noxious weed department, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Minutes Approved: Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024, commission meeting, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Mid-month Accounts Payable Approved: Debora Smith moved to approve mid-month accounts payable in the amount of \$82,411.51, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Courthouse Building Project: Commissioner Ray related that TreanorHL plans to be on the agenda in April to provide an update and plans for the courthouse renovation project.
- Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. Monday, March 25, 2024.