

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

June 20, 2023

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Darrell Oetting and Member Debora Smith present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Elizabeth Sheldon, John Shae, Mason Herrman, Roberta Turner, John Paul Ellis, Jesse Knight, Shawn Esterl, Tony Lamia, Jesse Zachgo, Felicia Strahm, Jim Metz, John Baetz, and Dale Hlad.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a letter from KCAMP estimating a 20-25% insurance increase for the county's property and liability insurance; a letter from the Barnard Lions Club requesting approval to block off a portion of Main St between Harper and Ballard from 4 p.m. to 12 p.m. and the use of barricades during the Barnard After Harvest Festival; and bills for Lincoln Park Manor.
- Correspondence Action: The board approved the request from Barnard Lions Club.
- Update: Commission Ray reported that he attended the City of Lincoln's City Council meeting, and the council approved the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Estimated Valuation: County Clerk Dawn Harlow presented the county's estimated valuation for 2023 at 65,065,041, which is down from last year's final valuation of 65,352,503.
- Health Department: Health Nurse/Administrator Elizabeth Sheldon provided a list of items that could be purchased with grant funds remaining that must be used by June 30. Sheldon related that many items listed have already been purchased, can be purchased with another grant, or are not needed. Sheldon recommended that the remaining grant funds be used to give a \$5,000 bonus to the three employees remaining that worked for the department during the COVID shutdown, keeping the money in the community. The board made no decision on this date; however, board members indicated if bonuses were approved, they would not be in favor of the amount recommended. Sheldon provided the only bid received to repair the north parking lot drainage issue. Dennis Ray moved to approve the bid from T&R Construction for the health department drainage project in the amount of \$19,875, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried.
- Comprehensive Vision Plan: John Shae, North Central Regional Planning Commission Executive Director with Mason Herrman, provided draft language suggested as an addendum to the comprehensive plans for the five counties along the drone corridor path. The board made no decision on this date to allow Shea and Herrman the opportunity to seek additional information to answer the board's questions.
- Transportation Bus: Transportation Bus Director Roberta Turner reported that the department's vehicles were inspected, and the red van has an exhaust leak and two oil leaks. The board told Turner to get the van repaired.
- Courthouse: Courthouse Janitor John Paul Ellis presented two bids received to remove stumps on the courthouse lawn. Debora Smith moved to accept the bid from Impulse Handyman Services to

remove stumps on the courthouse lawn in the amount of \$250, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.

LEPP Program: Shawn Esterl, Saline County Environmentalist, presented the 1st quarter Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP) performance report for services provided within the county. Esterl discussed the Drought Resistance water well program, noting that individuals approved must obtain permits to schedule a well driller. Usually, livestock producers do not need a permit to drill for a water well; however, it is recommended, and no fee is charged. Esterl suggested that the board consider revising the Sanitary Code as it has not been modified or reviewed since it was enacted.

Accounts Payable Approved: Debora Smith moved to approve mid-month accounts payable in the amount of \$41,680.84, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.

Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the June 12 minutes as presented, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.

Recycling Center: Tony Lamia & Jesse Zachgo, Slechta Enterprises, provided a list of expenses to operate the recycling center and income received for selling recyclables. Lamia requested that the board continue providing a subsidy for managing the recycling center. Lamia related that if assistance is not provided, it would not be financially feasible to continue operating the facility. Commissioner Ray inquired about whether the trash company was picking up litter. Lamia related that they pick up litter if it is bagged or included in other trash. However, Lamia stated that they would not pick up animal waste that is not bagged and that offenders' containers are tagged, notifying them why it was not picked up.

ARPA Funds: USD 298 Track Committee members Jim Metz and John Baetz provided a breakdown of funds raised during the past year as the challenged period set by the board. The duo inquired about the next step to receive the funding. Clerk Harlow will contact Bri Beck, ARPA Administrator, to determine how to proceed.

Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm presented the updated Grade and Step system, which includes the \$1.00 per hour cost of living raise approved earlier this year, for the board's approval. Dennis Ray moved to approve grade and step pay system modifications, effective today's date, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Strahm, with Director of Highway Department Dale Hlad, requested approval to hire Tari Donley as a full-time equipment operator. Dennis Ray moved to employ Tari Donley as Highway Department Equipment Operator, at \$16.34 per hour, starting date June 21, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Strahm and Hlad provided a listing of Highway Department employees currently under the starting pay of new hires and employees who Hlad believes should be adjusted with suggested hourly wages.

Executive Session: Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing highway department employees, 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, Highway Director Dale Hlad, HR Officer Felicia Strahm, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Time in: 11:01 a.m. Time out: 11:11 a.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:11 a.m. Dennis Ray moved to  
Salary Adjustments: adjust the following wages for the following people effective June 26, 2023: Tyler Garner at \$16.34, George Loy at \$16.74, Tim Lyne at \$16.74, Stephanie Meir at \$16.34, Wesley Thrun at \$16.34, Steve Tromble at \$16.98, Richard Vaupel at \$17.22, Stephen Weber at \$19.65, and Robert Zachgo at \$16.74, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Strahm related that  
Highway Department: employees in the highway department had requested that on the weeks that there are holidays, employees be allowed to work 38 hours and not be required to work two additional hours or use PTO time and that any employee that wants to use PTO may do so during the weeks with holidays. The board approved the request.

2024 Budget Estimates: County Clerk Harlow inquired whether the board would like Strahm to have additional options available for pay increases when meeting with the auditor for the 2024 budget. After discussion, the board asked Strahm to provide three estimates: one to put employees on the next available step, a cost to put employees on the next available step plus one step, and a cost to put employees on the next available step plus two steps.

Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. Monday, June 26, 2023, in the courthouse commission meeting room.