

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

February 16, 2021

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Tuesday, February 16, 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: Jeanne Friess, Sheila Shirley, Barbara Beach, Kathy Moss, Chris Loveless, Brandon Cochran, Taylor Lebien, Caleb Holeman, Sarah Hageman, and Dan Heina.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: Agriculture Risk Coverage – County Option (ARC-CO) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Election and Contract for county-owned property rented to Duane Helus Trust; two resolutions; two cereal malt beverage licenses for Knot Heads @ Wilson Lake LLC; the scope of work and potential contractors to complete a Site Survey, Environmental Testing, and Geotechnical Study provided by Julia Mathias Manglitz with TreanorHL; a tax abatement; and emails from Alexis Pflugh regarding the Council on Aging and hospital board appointment.
- Correspondence Action: Dennis Ray moved to authorize the chairman to sign the FSA risk management forms for the Lincoln County property, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Dennis Ray moved to approved Resolution 2021-07 Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Randy Lohmann moved to sign Preliminary Resolution 2021R-02: Resolution 2021R-02, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. (Proposing to vacate a road beginning at the Southeast corner of the Northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter (NE1/4 NE1/4) also being the Northeast corner of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter (SE1/4 NE1/4) all being in Section Thirty (30), Township Eleven (11), Range Seven (7) thence West 540 feet, also known as E Nemaha Ln. Right away is forty (40) ft. The public hearing will be Monday, March 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.) Randy Lohmann moved to approve both licenses for cereal malt beverage, 2021-01 and 2021-02, for Knotheads @ Wilson Lake LLC, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Randy Lohmann moved to approve tax abatement 2020-19, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.
- Council on Aging: Kathy Moss, former President for the Council on Aging, with former and current members Jeanne Friess, Sheila Shirley, and Barbara Beach, discussed the Council on Aging. Moss provided a list of purchased items for the Lincoln Senior Center through a \$25,000 gift from the Council on Aging. The group discussed disbanding the organization and that a quorum can not be obtained at meetings due to member’s terms expiring. Commissioner Ray volunteered to attend the Council on Aging monthly meetings and contact North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging to determine if there are unintended consequences to programs being currently offered should the organization dissolve. Commissioner Ray asked members whose terms expired if they would serve another year to allow the county to research. Dennis Ray moved to reappoint Jeanne Friess and Kathy Moss to the Council on Aging until December 31, 2021, seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried.
- 12th Judicial District: Clerk of the District Court Taylor Lebien related that the 12th Judicial District had received a grant to purchase equipment for the courtroom, including a sound system with ceiling mounted

speakers. Lebien provided pictures from the installation in Mitchell County and requested permission to have them installed. The board approved.

Highway Department: Interim Director of Highway Department Caleb Holeman related that he instructed a landowner to build new fences outside of the right-of-way, as an adjacent landowner had declined consent to close the right-of-way. The landowner raised a question if the road was open, would a road be built, or would the neighboring landowner be required to erect a fence. The board discussed sitting as fence viewers to resolve the questions. Holeman noted that Tanner Yost, Kirkham Michel will be preparing a proposal for the paved roads; and that he has spoken with another quarry regarding material for chip sealing. Holeman provided three bids received to purchase culverts and recommended buying tubes and bands from J & J Drainage Products and sheet metal from Welborn Sales. The board approved the recommendation for the purchases. Holeman provided quotes received to purchase a skid steer and provided the insurance settlement for equipment totaled. Dennis Ray moved to authorize the Lincoln County Highway Department to proceed with the purchase of the Bobcat T770 skid loader in the amount of \$61,547.16, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Randy Lohmann moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing employee concerns, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the commission room with the commission, Interim Director of Highway Department Caleb (Holeman), and HR Officer (Hageman), seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 10:23 a.m. Time out: 10:38 a.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:38 a.m. with no action taken.

Highway Department: The board discussed whether funds are available to hire a Road and Bridge Supervisor or promote a current employee to the position, the number of positions budgeted for the department, and moving funds between line items. Holeman and Hageman will develop a proposal for staffing the department, hierarchy, and estimated total wages. Hageman requested approval to rehire Jimmy Spears at \$13.11 per hour. Randy Lohmann moved to hire Mr. Spears at the number you stated, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.

Financing Options Available: Dustin Avey, Piper Sandler & Co, met virtually with the board to answer questions regarding financing future capital projects and available funding options. Avey explained General Obligation Bonds, Public Building Commission Bonds, and lease-purchase agreements. Avey discussed scenarios that would trigger a special question election; and how to identify the benefit of utilizing available resources within the county's current budget compared to seeking financial assistance. The board did not have a specific project to discuss, so repairs to the courthouse and a new jail were used as examples to lead the conversation. Capital projects that the board has previously discussed as potential needs include courthouse repairs, jail replacement, road improvements, and asphalt road overlay.

Noxious Weed: Noxious Weed Director Dan Heina presented the annual eradication report for the board's approval. Commissioner Ray discussed the voucher system used by Labette County and suggested that the county consider moving to a voucher system and stop selling chemicals to landowners. The group discussed thistle management and the process when property owners fail to treat. Dennis Ray moved to approve the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report per requirement by K.S.A. 2-1316 for the year 2021, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Randy Lohmann moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS Interim Director situation, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commissioner room with the commission and HR director, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 11:55 a.m. Time out: 12:05 p.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:05 p.m. with no action taken.

Nursing Home: Jonathan Schale, Lincoln Park Manor, reported that the sprinkler system froze in the assisted living facility and identified damage. The board requested that Schale contact Service Master to provide cleanup and repair services. Clerk Harlow will file a claim with KCAMP.

Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. Monday, February 22, 2021, in the courthouse's commission meeting room.