

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

September 5, 2023

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Debora Smith present via telephone and Member Ryley Hembry present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Rhonda Wright, Jesse Wright, Vance Kelly, Adam Flock, Mary Ann Stertz, Dustin Florence, Ben Crooks, and Veronica Padilla.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a letter from the City of Lincoln regarding a request to have chickens a quail near county property; bills for Lincoln Park Manor; a newspaper from North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging; a letter from the Kansas Department of Revenue with the final results of the county's official 2022 Real Estate Appraisal/Sales Ratio Study; a board packet for the Hospital Board of Trustees; and a draft copy of Payment In Lieu of Taxes Agreement with the Post Rock Wind Power Project, LLC.
- County Appraiser: County Appraiser Rhonda Wright explained the letter received from the Kansas Department of Revenue. Commissioner Ray requested that Wright contact Delbert Schreder regarding the property he discussed at the RNR and Budget hearing.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the minutes of August 28 and August 30 as presented, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- KPERS 457 Roth Option: Clerk Harlow related that the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 allows adding a Roth option to the KPERS 457 plan. Clerk Harlow inquired if the board would like to add the Roth as an option to employees. The board approved offering Roth contributions and Roth rollover contributions to the KPERS 457 plan beginning January 1, 2024. Clerk Harlow requested an executive session to discuss the county computer systems. Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes to discuss county computer systems pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(12) to discuss matters relating to security measures, if the discussion of such matters at an open meeting would jeopardize such security measures, that protect: (A) Systems, facilities or equipment used in the production, transmission or distribution of energy, water or communications services, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the commission, County Clerk Harlow, and Emergency Manager Jesse Knight, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 9:08 a.m. Time out: 9:18 a.m.
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:18 a.m. with no action taken.
- Courthouse Renovation Project: The board met with TreanorHL representatives Vance Kelly and Adam Flock regarding the courthouse renovation and drainage project plans. Flock provided the following timeline: September 15, submit 50% plans; Early November, project manual completed; December, bids let; and January 29, construction start date. The group discussed applying for Historic Tax Credits for the portions of the project that would qualify. Flock will add the process to the proposed timeline. The board requested that TreanorHL provide updates more frequently as the project moves forward.

- Law Enforcement Feasibility Study: Sheriff Dustin Florence, with Ben Crooks and Veronica Padilla, JSS, LLC, met with the board to answer questions regarding the feasibility study that the firm will be conducting for the law enforcement study. Crooks provided a copy of a sample report completed for another agency for the board to review. Sheriff Florence has agreed to be the liaison between the board and JSS, LLC, during the completion of the study.
- Condolences: The Board expressed its condolences to Mitchell County and the family of former Sheriff Doug Daugherty.
- Emergency Management: Emergency Manager Jesse Knight provided sample questions that the board could ask the State concerning the floodplain map and steps moving forward. Knight provided an update on department activities.
- Item Tabled: The board tabled a decision on the letter from the City of Lincoln concerning a landowner's application to have chickens and quail within the City of Lincoln near county-owned property.
- Adjourn: The chairman adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. Monday, September 11, 2023, in the courthouse commission meeting room.