

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

October 16, 2023

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, October 16, 2023. 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: Felicia Strahm, Leann Johnson, Mary Ann Stertz, Jesse Knight, Rhonda Fernandez, Dustin Florence, and Diane Walters.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: mid-month accounts payable; a letter from the USDA; a request to sign a letter of support for the Sylvan Grove Historical Society's grant application to repair the historic double arch bridge; KAC voting delegate form; a flyer from Black Hills Energy regarding pipeline safety; Pattern Energy's sustainability report; a notice from KONE notifying of a rate increase for maintenance plans; a letter from the City of Salina, informing of rate increases; and a proclamation recognizing October 2023 as Domestic Violence Month.
- Correspondence Action: Ryley Hembry moved to approve the letter of support for the Sylvan Historical Society grant application for the arch bridge, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve midmonth accounts payable in the amount of \$245,446.34, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried
- Old Business Update: Commissioner Ray reported that the demolition of the bar building was completed and that after inspection, he had authorized the release of the final payment to the contractor.
- Meeting Dates: Commissioner Hembry requested that the board consider moving the October 30 meeting to October 31. The board approved. The chairman also called a special meeting for Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Jr Sr High School commons area to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions regarding the Floodplain map and County regulations moving forward.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the minutes of October 2nd, 9th, and 12th, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- County Treasurer: County Treasurer Leann Johnson provided the 3rd quarter 2023 Treasurer Quarterly report: Interest Earned on Idle Funds - \$25,710.08. Johnson requested an executive session to discuss office personnel. Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing Treasurer's office personnel, 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, County Treasurer Leann Johnson, Deputy Treasurer Mary Ann Stertz, HR Felicia Strahm, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Time in: 9:01 a.m. Time out: 9:11 a.m.
- Executive Session:
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:11 a.m. with no action taken.

- Emergency Management: Emergency Manager Jesse Knight reviewed the Floodplain Resolution, providing draft copies of the Floodplain Building Permit and County Building Permit. Dennis Ray moved to allow the emergency manager to submit the Floodplain Resolution and Permits to the State for approval, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- County Health Plan: Rhonda Fernandez, PIC, presented the County's 2024 BCBS insurance renewal rates using forecasted enrollment projections if all eligible employees enrolled. The county's 2024 budget for medical insurance is \$1,350,000. Fernandez provided the following options: continue self-funding at the maximum rate \$1,435,501.37; continue self-funding at the expected rate (minimum) \$1,247,349.65; change to a fully insured option through BCBS - \$1,257,588.91; or change to the Non State group health plan, which requires a three-year commitment - \$1,173,200.76 (estimated by using the cost of Plan A and Plan C which is comparable to the current health plan). The group discussed that when the county initially went to a self-funded option, the county needed to commit to fund at the maximum level for five years to build the health insurance claim fund up to \$1,000,000 before reducing to the expected rate. Unfortunately, the group's first year hit the maximum funding level and is forecasted to hit the maximum again this year. Money that has been added to the health claim fund has been from monthly premiums and remaining funds transferred from available funds left in the Employee Benefits fund at the end of each year since 2020, with the hopes of building the health claim fund as quickly as possible to relieve the tax burden. The board discussed what would happen with the remaining balance in the health insurance claim fund after all residual claims are paid in 2024 if the county returned to the State health plan. Board members related that they would be agreeable to leaving money in the health claim fund and consider self-funding options in 2026 for the 2027 plan year; however, there was no commitment as to how much money would be left in the fund or if additional funds would be transferred from the Employee Benefits fund. Debora Smith moved to switch as of January 1 to the Non State Employee Group Health Plan with the State of Kansas and have a conversation about the status of the Health Insurance Claim fund in the future, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Voting as follows: Smith – Aye; Hembry – Aye; Ray – Nay.
- Nursing Home: Diane Walters, Lincoln Park Manor, provided an update on maintenance needs for the facility. Walters requested approval to replace an aging washing machine, noting the repair history on the unit. The board approved the request. Walters updated the board on activities planned with the residents and the community.
- Law Enforcement: Sheriff Dustin Florence reported that the department will accept the delivery of a new patrol unit this week.
- Authorized Signer: Debora Smith moved to allow the County Clerk to sign the health insurance contract with the State of Kansas, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Executive Session: Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for twenty minutes for the purpose of discussing election security, pursuant to 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: (C) a public body or agency, public building or facility or the information system of a public body or agency, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the commission and County Clerk Dawn Harlow, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Time in: 10:34 a.m. Time out: 10:54 a.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:54 a.m. with no action taken.

Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m. The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. Monday, October 23, 2023, in the courthouse commission meeting room.

Clerk's Note: Beginning January 1, 2024, the Lincoln County Clerk will not be responsible for recording the commission meetings. Comments, suggestions, or volunteers should go directly to the Board by contacting your commissioner or attending a commission meeting.