

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

February 22, 2021

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room, Monday, February 22, 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: James Gabelmann, Jonathan Schale (telephone), Emily Benedick, Kelly Gourley, Norman Mannel, Caleb Holeman, Sarah Hageman, Brandon Cochran, and Alexis Pflugh.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: the Lincoln County Hospital Board meeting packet; and a bill for Lincoln Park Manor.
- Juvenile Detention: James Gabelmann updated the board on the North Central Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Facility meeting he recently attended. Gabelmann discussed the facility's education and job training programs.
- Clarification of Prior Meeting Discussion: Board members clarified that the meeting on February 16 regarding bonds was purely for information purposes only. Clerk Harlow requested Avey to use courthouse repair and jail as examples to lead the conversation for new board members to understand municipal financing options.
- Nursing Home: The board discussed liability concerns regarding damages at Lincoln Park Manor Assisted Living Facility caused by frozen water lines. Board members discussed comments received that Lincoln Park Manor employees turned off or turned down the heat in that portion of the facility.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the February 16 minutes as written, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Darrell Oetting moved to accept the February 19 minutes, seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried.
- Battle Creek Township: Clerk Harlow presented Holli Stewart's resignation as the Battle Creek Township Trustee. Harlow discussed that Mike Spear was elected to the Treasurer and Clerk position and that Spear has not resigned from either position at this time. Gary Jones, who is currently taking care of the books, is no longer the Treasurer. The board requested Clerk Harlow contact Spear to determine the position he wants to keep and contact Jones to inquire if he is interested in being appointed.
- Courthouse Studies: Clerk Harlow clarified RFP specifications for three studies needed for the courthouse repair project, utilizing the scope of work provided by TreanorHL. Clerk Harlow presented the grant agreement for CDBG 21-PF-013, siren replacement project, for the board's approval. Randy Lohmann moved to appoint Dawn Harlow as the point of contact for the CDBG grant, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. Randy Lohmann moved to sign the CDBG Grant Contract No. 21-PF-013, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried. The CDBG Grant will replace sirens in Beverly, Sylvan Grove, and Vesper. Clerk Harlow provided a project budget form prepared by Kelly Gourley for the siren replacement projects. Harlow reported that the county had received a \$10,000 grant from the Post Rock Community Foundation and the WEB Fund to replace sirens in non-qualified CDBG grant communities. The Dane Hansen Foundation denied a grant request for funding. The total amount remaining after utilizing 100% of the county's commitment for

funds is \$22,050. Commissioner Ray volunteered to meet with the Repeater Board and fire chiefs to determine how to proceed with the project to replace sirens in Lincoln, Barnard, Denmark, and Westfall.

**Nursing Home:** Commissioner Lohmann contacted Jonathan Schale, Lincoln Park Manor, to update the board on damages caused by frozen water lines.

**Recess/Reconvene:** The chairman recessed the meeting for ten minutes from 9:48 – 9:58 a.m. The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:58 a.m.

**County Comprehensive Plan:** Emily Benedict, North Central Regional Planning Commission Executive Director, notified the board of an opportunity to complete a county comprehensive plan. Flint Hills Regional Council received a grant to assist counties located in the UAS Corridor Study to develop a comprehensive plan. Benedict provided a copy of the Request for Proposals that will be released if the county agrees to participate. The grant award for Lincoln County is \$20,000, and NCRPC will provide the in-kind match. Economic Development Director Kelly Gourley identified benefits to completing the plan. During the plan development, the public will be asked to participate and provide input. Darrell Oetting moved to approve to proceed (with the County Comprehensive Plan Development Request for Proposals), seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.

**Letter of Support Approved:** Clerk Harlow forwarded a request and a prepared letter of support for a grant application. Dennis Ray moved to allow the board to sign the letter of support to the Kansas Historical Society per the grant application for the Bank of Tescott for the former Three Amigos restaurant, seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried.

**Highway Department:** Interim Director of Highway Department Caleb Holeman, replying to a previous inquiry that there was approximately \$2,000 in savings when comparing the price to purchase and install a rail tank versus a culvert. Human Resource Officer Sarah Hageman provided a spreadsheet of total wages for the highway department using different scenarios. Holeman notified the board that the Local Road Safety grant application is due on February 26 and recommended completing a county-wide pavement marking program that would last five years. The county would be required to commit to upkeep by budgeting to repaint in future years. If funding is approved, the project will begin in 2023. Holeman related that Tanner Yost, Kirkham Michael is working on a plan for the asphalt roads and will present it at the March 8 meeting. Holeman reported that crews are busy marking the backs of intersection signs with road names to assist emergency vehicles. Commissioner Ray requested material to fill a hole in a bridge on E Iron Dr one-half mile east of N 280<sup>th</sup> Rd. Commissioner Oetting related that Gerald Huehl would allow the county to feather the dirt windrow left after replacing a culvert onto his property. The windrow is located south of E Kale Dr on N 130<sup>th</sup> Rd. Randy Lohmann moved to recess into executive session for five minutes to discuss highway department employment hiring issue, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the commission meeting room with the commission, HR Director (Hageman), and Interim Director Holeman, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 11:22 a.m. Time out: 11:27 a.m.

**Reconvene:** The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:28 a.m. with no action taken.

- Nepotism Policy:** Brandon Cochran requested that the board consider changing the nepotism policy as three of the EMS department's highest skilled employees are related.
- Ambulance Service:** Interim Ambulance Director Jerry Hlad related that he has spoken with Kansas Board of EMS representatives Curt Shreckengaust and Jim Reed regarding the service and the medical consultant. The EMS department is still operating under the 2017 protocols. Hlad contacted Dr. Sean Herrington to see if he would be interested in being the Medical Consultant. Alexis Pflugh suggested that the board contact the hospital to add a contract requirement that new physicians also be the medical director and consultant for county departments. Dennis Ray moved to terminate Dr. Cheema. Ray withdrew the motion. Dennis Ray moved to authorize the Board of County Commissioners to have Jennifer O'Hare send a notice to terminate the medical director contract, termination dated April 1, 2021, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.
- Human Resources:** Sarah Hageman related that she had received the annual review for the County Attorney Office Manager, including a salary increase to step 2. Randy Lohmann moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes to discuss the County Attorney Office Manager's evaluation, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene with the commission and HR (Hageman) in the courthouse commission room upon completion, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Voting as follows: Lohmann – Aye; Ray – Aye; Oetting – Nay. Time in: 11:53 a.m. Time out: 12:03 p.m.
- Executive Session:**
- Reconvene:** The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:03 p.m. Dennis Ray moved to authorize HR to increase the pay raise per evaluation for Sarah Timson, in the attorney's department, up to a Step 2 at \$16.42 per hour, effective January 26, 2021, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.
- Salary Increase Approved:**
- Meeting Time Change:** The board approved moving the start time for Friday, February 26, 2021, regular meeting to 11:00 a.m.
- Adjourn:** Dennis Ray moved to adjourn at 12:09 p.m., seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried. The next meeting will at 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 26, 2021, in the courthouse commission meeting room.