

Thursday January 7th, 2021

Neosho County Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

The Neosho County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Session on Thursday January 7th, 2021 in the Commission room of the Neosho County Courthouse in Erie, KS.

Call to Order: Commissioner Klaassen called meeting to order at 12 pm. Those present were Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen, Commissioner Paul Westhoff, Commissioner David Orr, Commission Counselor Seth Jones, and County Clerk Heather Elsworth.

Commissioner Orr moved to remove public comments. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd.
Motion passed. 2-1 Commissioner Klaassen opposed.

Commission Counselor Seth Jones advised that the proposed Commissioner bonus will need to be paid from payroll. All commissioners are employees and it should be paid from payroll. Staff wasn't sure on how to process the bonus and clarification would be helpful.

Discussion was had as to which fund should be used. The original motion on 12/30/2020 was for the bonus to come out of the Wind Farm monies.

HR/Payroll Director Jim Maher said that the original \$10,000 Payroll check was voided in the system but the check stubs had already gone out which is why he sent an e-mail on 1/6/2021 to the Commissioners explaining what happened.

County Attorney Linus Thuston stated he came over here because he believes that payment is not only unlawful but he believes it is criminal. He believes that it was done in exchange for behavior to get things done. Other admissions were made that the \$10,000 payment was to be made for dealing with non-elected personnel. He believes that to be felonious. He already requested that it be investigated by the Attorney General office. He came over with the intention of hopefully minimizing the criminal damage that he believes has occurred. He asked that the payments be delayed because there was no clarification as to how the funds were to be paid.

Commissioner Klaassen requested that no check or increase be submitted for her.

Further discussion was had about emails regarding salary and bonus payments.

Commissioner Orr stated the money doesn't matter to him; he wants to give it to charity.

12:50 pm Commissioner Klaassen moved to take a 10-minute recess. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd.
Motion passed. 3-0

1:06 pm Back in session

Commissioner Klaassen is still concerned about taking the money and going over budget 7 days into the new year.

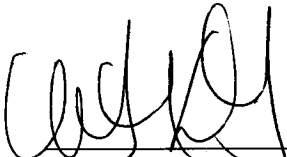
Commissioner Orr negotiated with the Wind Farm for a \$100,000 Commission fund which he meant to use for their salary and bonus.

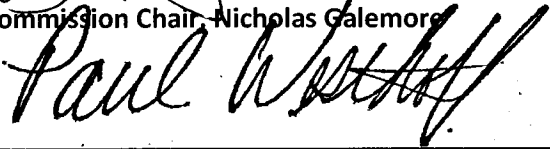
Commissioner Westhoff moved to rescind the motion for the commission to receive a bonus and salary increase previously made at the 12/30/2020 meeting. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Westhoff moved to raise the commissions salary from \$18,000 to \$23,000 as of January 1st, 2021. Motion died for lack of a 2nd.

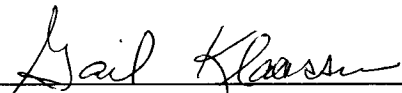
1:23 pm Commissioner Klaassen moved to adjourn this meeting. Commissioner Orr 2nd. Motion passed.


Next Regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday January 12th, 2021 at 4:00 pm.



Commission Chair, Nicholas Galemore


Commission Member, Paul Westhoff



Commission Member, Gail Klaassen


County Clerk, Heather Elsworth