

Thursday March 11th, 2021

Neosho County Commission Meeting

The Neosho County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Thursday March 11th, 2021 in the Commission room of the Neosho County Courthouse in Erie, KS.

Call to Order: Commissioner Galemore called meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Those present were Commission Board Chair Nicholas Galemore, Commissioner Gail Klaassen, Commissioner Paul Westhoff, County Clerk Heather Elsworth, and Commission Counselor Seth Jones.

Maintenance Director David Burnett and Donnie Little with PM Contracting led a tour around the Courthouse with Commissioner Galemore, Commissioner Klaassen, Commissioner Westhoff, Under-Sheriff Jim Keath, County Clerk Heather Elsworth, and Greg Lower with The Chanute Tribune.

SCHEDULED ATTENDEE'S

3:00 pm – Mark Houser/ Wind Farm Road Inspector and Tanner Yost/ Kirkham & Michael. Mr. Houser presented updates on repairs being made by APEX. Mr. Tanner would like to have his inspection team come in and report on structures within the Wind Farm Project. Mr. Houser recommends waiting on the inspections until APEX has completed the repairs.

RUA Amendment Agreements for inspection of additional roads to be used by APEX were conducted by Olsson, Inc. Jason Martinson with APEX has these inspections, not the county.

Commission Counselor Seth Jones advised there is a list of fines that will be going out to APEX.

Mr. Yost will get with APEX, Road & Bridge Director Mike Brown, and Mr. Houser to decide on phase(s) for finished roads, to start the inspections.

3:45 pm – Stan Basler. Mr. Basler was unable to attend the meeting in person and requested he be called to solidify the Neosho County Wind Farm Radar Activated Lighting Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Westhoff said Bryan Coover has volunteered to be on the committee.

Mr. Basler recommended the following individuals:

- Greg Duff
- Kathy Duff
- Andrew Burnett
- Andy Tromsness
- Debbie Tromsness
- Doug Reed
- Leroy Burke

The County Clerk's office will send out an application to the individuals listed above.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

DAVID BURNETT/ MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR – Mr. Burnett presented results from the Courthouse walkthrough. Commission agreed to allow Mr. Burnett to toss out the old ceiling tiles. Mr. Burnett has received quotes to replace the roof on the Extension Office but there were additional questions regarding the pitch of the new roof before a final quote can be calculated. There was also a question about whether or not antennas located on the roof are still in use. Mr. Burnett would like to address some of the landscaping around the Courthouse. Commission decided to have all of the weeds, flowers, and bushes in the beds pulled and start from scratch.

4:03 pm. Commissioner Galemore moved to enter into executive session to discuss job duties and performance of non-elected personnel and to protect the rights to privacy of the individual employee for 15 minutes with the Commission, Maintenance Director David Burnett, Gina Burnett, Commission Counselor Seth Jones, and HR Director Jim Maher. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

4:18pm Back in session, no action taken.

4:20 Pm. Commissioner Galemore moved to transfer funds in the amount of \$4,050.01 from HVAC fund line into Maintenance Personal Services fund line. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

4:22 pm. Commissioner Westhoff moved for a 10-minute recess. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

4:34 pm Back in session

MIKE BROWN/ ROAD & BRIDGE DIRECTOR. Mr. Brown would like permission to treat 190th Road (35th Street) from 169 Highway to Chase road with the magnesium chloride.

Commissioner Galemore moved to adopt Resolution R-21-G A RESOLUTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF NEOSHO COUNTY UNDER COUNTY CONTROL, ALL IN NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS. This will temporarily reduce the speed to thirty (30) miles per hour on 190th Road (35th Street) west from 169 Highway to Chase Road, Neosho County, Kansas. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Westhoff moved to treat 190th Road (35th Street) from 169 Highway to Chase Road with Magnesium Chloride. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Heckert Construction Co. was in the area and they patched a dip in the road near 180th Road.

Commissioner Klaassen moved to approve the contract with Mark Houser as Road Inspector within the Wind Farm footprint, effective March 2nd, 2021 with a rate of \$27 per hour and a mileage rate of \$0.56 per mile. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Accounts Payable \$153,090.56 and Payroll Clearing in the amount of \$81,611.57 and minutes from 02/23/21. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Klaassen moved to accept the Change Order Request from PM Contracting on the change in the lighting fixture additions plus 2 extra lights as presented in the amount \$9,295.00. Payment will be made from the HVAC fund. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

TERESA STARR/ HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR – Ms. Starr presented updates on grant applications.

- State Formula – Covers for office operations not covered under other categories
- IAP (Immunization Action Plan) – covers immunizations for children to get vaccinated
- Family Planning – covers Well Woman Health
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness – covers emergencies such as flood, MOU's, preparing for emergencies and training
- Covid – keep covid research going
- Maternal child health – covers children from pre-natal, focuses on making families successful by providing parenting classes etc.

WIC will open up for in person appointments on April 1st, 2021.

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve seeking grant applications for a total amount of \$283,116.96. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Covid-19 Update – Neosho County is currently on Phase III vaccination. The State of Kansas has determined that counties cannot proceed with Phase III until ALL of Kansas is caught up to the same Phase. Anyone still covered under Phase I & Phase II can still receive the vaccine. And anyone who has already received their 1st dose can still receive their 2nd dose.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Galemore provided an update “Jaws of Life” for the Erie Fire Department. Neosho Memorial Foundation stepped forward to provide the funding for the “Jaws of Life”.

Commissioner Klaassen moved to pay Advantage Computer a total of \$31,000 for work done on District Court to install YouTube streaming in all 3 courtrooms located in Erie & Chanute; as well as a new sound system in the Erie, Courtroom and the upper-level Courtroom at the Hudson Judicial Center in Chanute. This will cover invoices Q43333, Q43334, Q43335, Q43337, and Q43906. To be paid out of Equipment Reserve fund. If any funding comes in to cover SPARKS money, this money should be reimbursed to Equipment Reserve fund. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore asked HR Director Jim Maher to attend in regards to reports the county has received from the IRS and the State of Kansas indicating we had not filed some of the state payroll reporting.

5:18 pm Commissioner Klaassen moved to enter into executive session to discuss job duties and performance of non-elected personnel and to protect the rights to privacy of the individual employee for 15 minutes with the Commission, and Commission Counselor Seth Jones. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

5:30 pm Back in session

Commissioner Galemore moved to place Payroll under the County Clerk with assistance of an accounting firm and CIC. The Clerk will give a payroll update in 6 months. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Commission will start looking for accounting firms to help the County Clerk with the transition and oversight to make sure the county is compliant.

The Neosho County Board of Commissioners held further discussion in regards to authorizing County Clerk Heather Elsworth to hire an additional person in Payroll, seek the help of a CPA, and have CIC come in for additional training.

HR will remain under the Commission but will be separated from Payroll.

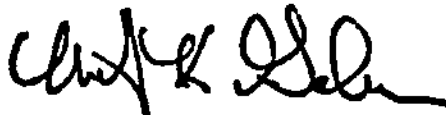
Commissioner Klaassen would like the following items put on the agenda for the next commission meeting to be held on March 30th, 2021 at 2:00 pm:

- CRDA Executive Director Matt Godinez to report on the moratorium committee
- Neosho County mask mandate
- Appoint NMRMC Hospital Board


Commissioner Galemore moved to approve Maintenance Director David Burnett his 6-month raise up to \$19.43/hour effective March 1st 2021. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Klaassen advised that the Federal Government signed another stimulus package. Neosho County will be receiving \$3.1 million from this fund. The county will receive the 1st half, approximately \$1.6 million, in the next 60 days; and then we will receive the 2nd half in 12 months. This money is coming directly from the Federal Government and we will have until the end of 2024 to spend the funds. Commissioner Klaassen would like to see this money used more for economic development and would like the commission to think about how they would like to administer the funds.

6:05 pm – Commissioner Westhoff moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0



Commission Chair, Nicholas Galemore



Commission Member, Paul Westhoff



Commission Member, Gail Klaassen



ATTEST: County Clerk, Heather Elsworth