

Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Neosho County Commission Meeting

**The Neosho County Board of Commissioners** met in a Regular Session on Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the Commission room of the Neosho County Courthouse in Erie, KS.

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

Matt Godinez provided an update on the Wind Farm Moratorium Advisory Committee.

Seth Jones recommended solid protection for the county to include comprehensive zoning. The County needs to engage someone who can put this plan together and then decide if we need to adopt this comprehensive zoning to regulate land use.

Mr. Godinez – the committee did not recommend county wide zoning but rather industry specific zoning.

The Wind Farm moratorium will expire September 2021.

**SCHEDULED ATTENDEE**

LEROY BURK – Voiced concerns about road conditions between 70<sup>th</sup>/80<sup>th</sup> Road and Harper, 60<sup>th</sup>/70<sup>th</sup> Road and Elk Road, and the bridge on Galesburg Road has damage.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

MELANIE KENT-CULP/ Emergency Management Director – Mrs. Kent-Culp provided an update on the American Rescue Plan, discussed options, and limitations. Money needs to be spent by 2026.

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve vacation time off request for 05/28/2021 for Emergency Management Director Melanie Kent-Culp. Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

DAVID BURNETT/ Maintenance Director – Mr. Burnett provided an update on the HVAC project. There will be a final walk thru with PM Contractors. Training for the system has yet to be scheduled.

Mr. Burnett also presented quotes for window tinting the Courthouse windows.

MIKE BROWN/ Road & Bridge Director -- Mr. Brown concurred with Leroy Burk's comments about the road conditions

Mr. Brown and his crew had to put up barriers and close the road between 70<sup>th</sup> road and 80<sup>th</sup> road, as well as Elk Road and Harper Road. Chase Road remains unfinished. Elk Road is finished and Mr. Brown signed off on it.

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve Project No. 67 C-5103-01 Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program. Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

One of Mr. Brown's employees witnessed and took pictures of an individual stealing rock from a county road. Mr. Brown reported it to the Sheriff's department. The property owner would like to make it right with the county. Mr. Brown would like to offer the property owner the opportunity of restitution of \$500.00 to be paid for the rock stolen. Neosho County Board of Commissioners needs to consult with County Attorney Linus Thuston before a decision can be made. Commission Counselor Seth Jones will confer with Mr. Thuston and Sheriff Greg Taylor to make sure everyone is on the same page and if the money is paid that the property owner would not be prosecuted.

Commissioner Klaassen moved to raise Tina Freeberg's wage to \$15.50 an hour and promote her to Office Manager of Road and Bridge. Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

BOB MCELROY/ County Appraiser – Mr. McElroy presented 2 Neighborhood Revitalization Plan applications.

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan application for Tony & Melinda Kasten | 1205 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Court | Chanute KS 66720. Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan application for Tim or Jackie Harmon | 13699 Wallace Road | St. Paul KS 66771. Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

4:14 pm Commissioner Westhoff moved to take a 10-minute recess. Commissioner Galemore 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

4:24 pm Back in session

LORI NALLY/ 911 Director – Ms. Nally reported that Rick Wrestler is the new City of Galesburg Fire Chief. Galesburg Fire has 4 volunteers but no radios or equipment. The Galesburg City Council is going to start ordering radio systems and equipment for Galesburg Fire. They would like to install another Repeater. As they slowly get started; they are only going to answer fire calls, no rescue or medical.

Ms. Nally suggested an idea for the use of American Rescue Plan funds. She would like consideration for a new multi-agency station in the southern part of Neosho County that would house fire department, basic 911, and housing for ambulance employees. Land near 70<sup>th</sup> Road has been donated.

4:45 pm Commissioner Westhoff 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 10 minutes to discuss 911 with the Commission, Commission Counselor Seth Jones, and 911 Director Lori Nally. Commissioner Klaassen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

4:55 pm Back in session. No action taken.

4:56 pm Commissioner Klaassen moved to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to attorney client privilege for 15 minutes to discuss matters related to the ambulance with the Commission and Commission Counselor Seth Jones. Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

5:18 pm Back in session. No action taken.

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve Lori Nally for 16 hours of vacation and Mike Brown to use vacation time in June. Commissioner Klaassen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Westhoff moved to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$169,938.34.  
Commissioner Klaassen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve Payroll Clearing in the amount of \$76,918.37. Commissioner  
Klaassen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve the continued contract with Delta Dental for 2022  
Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

Commission Counselor Seth Jones wanted to remind everyone that the Tax Sale will be held on Thursday  
May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10am in the Courthouse lobby.

Commissioner Westhoff read a letter from Lori Marshall.

Next commission meeting will be on Monday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

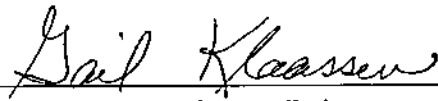
5:31 pm – Commissioner Klaassen moved to enter into executive session to discuss job duties and  
performance of non-elected personnel and to protect the rights to privacy of the individual employee  
for 10 minutes with the Commission, Commission Counselor Seth Jones, and HR (Heather Elsworth &  
Sydney Ball). Commissioner Galemore 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

5:45 Back in session. No action taken.

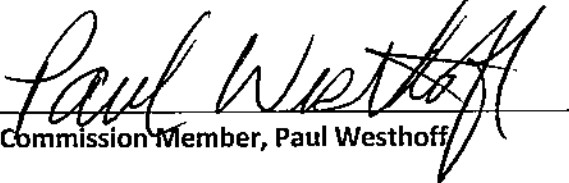
5:55 pm Commissioner Westhoff moved to adjourn the meeting. Nick 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0



Commission Chair, Nicholas Galemore



Commission Member, Gail Klaassen



Commission Member, Paul Westhoff



ATTEST: County Clerk, Heather Elsworth