

Minutes of August 2, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 9:43 a.m., Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Brenner and Chairperson Kathrens were present. Deputy County Clerk Tara Peek recorded the minutes.

Holton Recorder reporter Ali Holcomb joined the meeting. Commissioner Kelly informed the Board that he had spoken to Road and Bridge Superintendent Eric Fritz prior to the meeting and Eric suggested requesting they make an inquiry to Mid States Denison Quarry regarding holding the county's current rock price through the completion of the work being done on 142 Road. He anticipates a .50 cent increase this week on the current \$14.95 per ton price. Eric also stated that he had received the tote of dust control mix from Mid States and plans to use it on 142 Road in front of residential properties. County Counselor Lee Hendricks joined the meeting.

Watko Benefit Group President Greg Watkins joined the meeting. He presented his analysis of the county's current health insurance. He suggested educating employees to lower healthcare costs through utilizing pharmaceutical financial assistance and expanding relationships to receive reduced fees with local providers. Greg also suggested going to market to look at all vendors and captive options.

Commissioner Brenner gave an overview of the recent KAC legislative meeting he attended. He reported that the issues presented included abating nuisances, county home rule, Atchison County and City tax debate and dark store property devaluation. Commissioner Brenner added that he proposed a checklist of requirements before allocating funds to special prosecution regarding KSA 19-723 and eliminating SB13.

Public Works Director Scott Kieffaber discussed adding a lean to for storing the new equipment. Commissioner Kelly stated that he would like to see them clean and organize the storage they already have before considering anything new. Chairperson Kathrens stated he would like to see a long-range plan before more purchases are made. Scott reported that he had an estimate for about \$63,000.00 for a contractor to install a bridge kit. The county would be providing the bridge kit, concrete and be responsible for tearing out the tube and backfilling once complete. Commissioner Kelly stated that he would like to get Foreman Terry Mick's opinion before making any decisions. Chairperson Kathrens agreed. Scott shared the cost of the precast concrete tube he was asked to price as \$46,530.00. The steel option is about \$18,000.00. He will order the steel tube. Scott presented the BOCC with a quote from Foley Equipment for scarifiers. They have the frame in stock and would be done soon for approximately \$7,500.00 each. Hoffman Brothers price was \$4,600.00 plus the teeth and would have a much longer wait. They did find some on PurpleWave but the auction does not end until the end of the month and the quality was not great. Scott stated they could use the \$30,000.00 they made from the county's own sales on the auction site to purchase 4 scarifiers from Foley. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to purchase four scarifiers from Foley at \$7,500.00 each and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Scott reported that KDHE had to reschedule the well testing at the landfill due to weather. Scott presented a new thumb attachment for the backhoe from Foley. Chairperson Kathrens

suggested that the attachment presented did not look like it would work. The BOCC asked Scott to look at it in person before purchasing. Scott reported that Terry's crew was working on installing a 7-foot pipe in on 182 Road. Commissioner Kelly shared some photos he took of a gravel road where new rock had been laid and then graded off to the sides of the road. He asked that they work on the details of laying the rock to the center. He would like to see the staff reciprocate the equipment upgrades with progress in their practices. Scott informed Commissioners that he had the newspaper write an article with information about the rechargeable lithium batteries. He also reported that county resident Jerry Greene requested to have some trees trimmed that are hanging too low over the road to his residence. Scott agreed to his request.

At 11:34 a.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session for attorney client privilege to discuss personnel with County Counselor Lee Hendricks and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 11:44 a.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to revoke the March 29, 2019 minutes that reflect *"when hiring a KPERS retiree for positions that are not seasonal or temporary and require 630 or more hours of work per year, Jackson County, Kansas will allow the adjustment of the hourly pay rate currently reflected in the county pay plan of 30% less than the rate at which this employee would be hired at if they were not a KPERS retiree. This is due to a penalty imposed for hiring an employee who has retired from KPERS. Newly hired employees must not be seasonal or temporary as well as working more than 630 hours per year and make more than \$25,000.00 per year for this lesser pay rate to apply. All raises will be reduced by the additional employer's KPERS rate"* and amend the current payroll plan to remove all WAR employee language effective August 10, 2021. Commissioner Brenner seconded and motion carried 3/0.

County Attorney Shawna Miller joined the meeting. Chairperson Kathrens stated that the Board has agreed to increase her salary \$7,500.00. He added that it could be increased more if they can find a way to reduce the defense attorney fees paid by the county. Commissioner Kelly stated that he appreciates what Shawna does but this is the best they can do at this time within their budget.

County Clerk Kathy Mick asked the Commissioners on behalf of a request from Victims Services Director Lisa Hyten about the continued funding for the VOCA grant. She has been awarded up to \$5,000.00 every year from the alcohol tax generated funds. The BOCC agreed to continue the funding.

Adjourned for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Banner Lake Director Kurt Zibell joined the meeting. He informed the Commissioners that he had toured the grounds with lake employee Ray Korte. He wanted to be familiar with the water and electrical components. He stated that he would be following up with the City of Holton electric department on a possible transformer upgrade. He requested to have the Bobcat glass repaired as it had been damaged from trimming trees. The BOCC agreed. Commissioner Brenner informed Kurt that he has a seat on the tourism council and they meet on the second Tuesday of the month. Kurt shared his thoughts on having a tractor to use for mowing and beach maintenance as well as an upgrade from the current golf cart being used on the south side for emptying trash.

County Appraiser Kate Immenschuh discussed the dark stores issue presented by the KAC. Currently vacant commercial properties are eligible for decreased property taxes.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-16 Rules and Regulations for Construction and Modification of Entrances and Culverts onto Public Roads and Streets and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Approved Change Orders 2020-116 and 117.

Signed the following payroll change notices:

Department	Name	From	To	Reason	Date / /
Attorney	Shawna Miller	\$73,453.00 annual salary	\$80,953.00 annual salary		8/10/2021
Sheriff	Hope Cannon	\$	\$16.86 per hour	Hired FT	8/01/2021
Sheriff	Justin Dobier	\$	\$18.92 per hour	Hired FT	7/29/2021
Sheriff	Jeri Wells	\$	\$15.30 per hour	Hired FT	7/26/2021
Banner Lake	Kurt Zibell	\$	\$22.00 per hour	Hired FT	8/01/2021
Road and Bridge	Raymond Nioce	\$	\$16.14 per hour	Hired FT	8/10/2021
Road and Bridge	Tylor Nioce	\$	\$16.14 per hour	Transfer from Recycling	8/10/2021
Road and Bridge	Richard Spielman	\$15.71 per hour	\$16.67 per hour		8/10/2021
Environmental Services	Stephen Wagner	\$	\$16.14 per hour	Hired FT	8/01/2021

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be Monday, August 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas

Ed Kathrens, 1st District

Attest:

Kathy Mick
Jackson County Clerk

Dan Brenner, 2nd District

Keith Kelly, 3rd District

