

## *Minutes of August 30, 2021*

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 9 a.m., Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Brenner and Chairperson Kathrens were present. Deputy County Clerk Tara Peek recorded the minutes.

Public Works Director Scott Kieffaber and Road and Bridge Superintendent Eric Fritz joined the meeting. Chairperson Kathrens reported a concern on 198<sup>th</sup> Road where the shoulder is falling off. He also reported issues on 254 Road west of M Road and the need for a tube extension on 246 Road. Scott reported that the tire came off of a trailer and rolled into a property owners antiques causing \$50.00 in damages. He stated that he reminded the staff to complete a checklist when conducting their regular maintenance. Currently crews are working at C and 246 Roads, 126 and Q Roads and 142 Road. Scott is seeking a quote for more 24 inch pipes as they are down to two in stock. He would like to get 8 more. He informed Commissioners that the landowners near 276 and T Roads will be in at the end of the day to sign agreements to purchase easement for completing the bridge project. County resident Ron Karn joined the meeting. He asked if there was any plans to overlay 198<sup>th</sup> Road as it has not been patched and is very rough. He also shared concerns for gravel roads north of Denison and the need for proper grading. He informed Commissioners of an area on his property where he plans to build a berm to divert water and has washouts marked currently with flags. The area is on the corner of 190 and X Roads. Commissioner Kelly explained that the crews are playing catch up and when they finish their projects they will be back to regular maintenance of roads. Ron stated that grader operators should be able to complete 12 to 13 miles every day with 3 passes. Commissioner Kelly added that the County has recently hired subcontractors to do some chip seal and bridge projects so that the maintenance workers can stay on their jobs. Road and Bridge Superintendent Eric Fritz stated that he is preparing for winter and will start making the worst areas a priority. This will mean they focus more on priority jobs than on a complaint basis. Eric expects the chip seal overlays to be done this week if the weather cooperates. Commissioner Kelly asked for a road rock plan for the Commissioners to review.

County Clerk Kathy Mick and Treasurer Linda Gerhardt joined the meeting to request pay increases. They provided data from a 2019 KAC study for wage comparisons. Commissioner Brenner asked what figure they would like to receive to which they agreed that the .50 cent raise most other county employees are getting would be sufficient. Commissioner Kelly stated that he did not have any issue with raising their wages if he can justify it to the taxpayers and that he was under the impression that elected officials would ask during the budget process. Linda and Kathy explained that elected officials have never had to ask before, they were just included when raising wages with all other employees. Commissioner Brenner asked for input regarding a Covid leave policy for the County since the last one expired. The consensus was to wait and see and table the idea for later.

Courthouse Custodian Chad Phillips joined the meeting to get an update on the construction projects for the courtroom and Elderly Services building. The county is still reviewing the terms of the agreement.

Blue Cross Blue Shield representative Doug Martens joined the meeting to introduce himself to the BOCC and discuss feedback about premiums and plan design. He did not have renewal figures yet and Commissioner Kelly asked why we receive them so late, after the budget process. Doug explained that because the County has a January 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary date, they cannot have renewal figures until Fall. He stated that the county can possibly switch to an 18 month instead of a one year agreement to adjust the renewal rate time period.

Banner Lake Director Kurt Zibell gave his weekly report. He plans to update old electrical components this winter. He was able to discuss the new transformer with the City of Holton and it should be installed this winter. He verified that he does not have much capacity to expand because of electrical limitations. Kurt presented an example map brochure that he would like to have created that shows the layout of the campsites and what they offer. He will work on this during winter too. He reported that they had a new light installed at Cedar Point and added straps to help keep the trash from blowing in the wind. He discussed his concerns for swimming off the docks and will be replacing signage. He will be distributing updated regulations once approved. He discussed a mower belt issue that he is working on resolving with John Deere. He plans to complete a controlled burn near the science center very soon and will be removing a fallen tree from the south side this Fall.

Adjourned for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

County Clerk Kathy Mick, Courthouse Custodian Chad Phillips, Holton Recorder reporter Ali Holcomb and County Counselor Lee Hendricks joined the meeting.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve a \$2,080.00 increase to the salaries of Sheriff, County Clerk, Treasurer and Register of Deeds for 2022. Commissioner Brenner seconded and motion carried 3/0.

Historical Society members Suzette McCord Rogers and Layne Hunley joined the meeting to discuss the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the courthouse building and the celebration planned for Fall Festival. They requested financial support from the County to purchase a banner and cake plus supplies totaling an estimated \$250.00. The Commissioners agreed to their request. They discussed their plans to have a coloring page for children, series of articles in the newspaper, courthouse tours and a ribbon cutting.

Jackson County EMS owners Brent Teter and Jay Watkins joined the meeting to review their services provided in Jackson County. Other Jackson County EMS staff present were Kristi Watkins, Curt Johnson, Jessica Baker, Jacque Jacobsen and Con Olson. Brent discussed the reimbursement rates and the billing process. Chairperson Kathrens asked what part Covid has affected their business to which Brent replied the reduction of call volume along with the quantity of billable calls/fees. He stated that 2020 and 2021 are both down from the 2019 call volume. Con Olson added that Jackson County EMS was awarded the American Heart Association 2021 Mission Lifeline EMS Gold Plus achievement award for their application of up to date evidence-based treatment for the patients they care for. Jackson County EMS presented two options for contract renewal. The first option was for a 60 hours per week staffed second truck for \$593,237.00 for year 2022. The annual rate would raise to \$658,237.00 in 2023 and \$723,237.00 in 2024. The second option was for an 84 hours per week staffed second truck for \$658,237.00 for year 2022. The annual rate would raise to \$723,237.00 in 2023 and \$788,237.00 in

2024. The current contract, 2020 through 2022 is \$352,000.00 each year for a 64 hours per week staffed second truck. All of the proposed and current contracts have a 24/7 fully staffed first truck. They stated that the rate paid by Jackson County is much lower than Nemaha and Osage Counties where they also provide service. Commissioner Kelly voiced his concerns with not knowing the need to adjust the current contract before the budget was finalized. He stated that he did not know where the County would be able to find the funding. Brent suggested they look into using some of the \$2.5 million ARPA funding that the County has received a portion of. His agency has started researching the ARPA funding and its acceptable uses. Commissioner Kelly and County Counselor Lee Hendricks both stated that the County has not learned enough about the funding to be certain what does and does not qualify. The County has chosen to wait and see what other counties do with the funding they received. Commissioner Brenner added that he thought the ARPA funds could be the solution and that the BOCC needs some time to discuss further. Chairperson Kathrens left the meeting at 2 p.m.

Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve Agreement 2021-24 Bednar Repayment Amended and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 2/0. Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve Agreement 2021-25 Coal Creek Construction pending confirmation of proper bonding and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 2/0. Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-18 Stop Sign 246 and D Roads and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 2/0.

Northeast Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Facilitator Teresa McAnerney joined the meeting to discuss the Rural Opportunity Zone and eCommunity programs. Jackson County is enrolled in the ROZ program, allowing businesses to offer student loan debt repayment to help incentivize new employees moving into the County. The eCommunity program assists entrepreneurship with start up and expanding businesses through a certified lender loan match. Commissioner Brenner stated he would contact Atchison County for more information regarding their eCommunity program.

Approved a Lawn Use Request for Lifetime Eye Care on October 8<sup>th</sup> for their 12 year anniversary celebration.

Approved payroll and bills.

Received a public notice regarding proposed Kansas Water Pollution Control Permits for Agricultural and Related Wastes and Authorization to Discharge under the National pollutant Discharge Elimination System for DF & WC Cattle Co. LLC in Emmett.

Signed the following Purchase Orders:

Department	PO #	To	For	Amount
Road and Bridge	6783	Welborn Sales	Tubes and bands	\$7729.20

Signed the following payroll change notices:

Department	Name	From	To	Reason	Date / /
Sheriff	Damien Rubanick	\$16.58 per hour	\$	Resignation	9/07/2021
Sheriff	Dolly Simpson	\$16.89 per hour	\$	Resignation	8/26/2021

Sheriff	Dan Ballenger	\$20.39 per hour	\$20.77 per hour	Length of Service Increase	8/10/2021
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Signed the following Occupy County Right of Way petitions:

Company	To	Sec/Twp/Rng	Address	Date
RWD #3	Bore service line to west side	10/7S/15E	13387 222 <sup>nd</sup> Road	08/26/2021
RWD #3	Bore service line	10/7S/15E	13255 222 <sup>nd</sup> Road	08/26/2021
RWD #3	Bore service line	10/7S/15E	13153 222 <sup>nd</sup> Road	08/26/2021
RWD #3	Bore service line	10/7S/15E	14313 222 <sup>nd</sup> Road	08/26/2021
RWD #3	Set new meter		19362 V Road	08/30/2021

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners  
Jackson County, Kansas

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Ed Kathrens, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Attest:

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Kathy Mick  
Jackson County Clerk

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Dan Brenner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

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Keith Kelly, 3<sup>rd</sup> District