

September 18, 2023

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Payroll in the amount of \$208,182.70 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$317,849.70 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Attorney-Client Privilege Exception for 5 minutes beginning at 8:01 a.m. with Joel Mason, County Attorney, Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is pending litigation matters. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:06 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Mr. Mason reported that he had a Jury Trial last Friday and it went well. Mr. Mason also reported that the microphone at the podium is not working again. All of the other microphones seem to be working. The Board approved to have the microphone looked at and repaired.

Commissioner Mayo asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 15 minutes beginning at 8:09 a.m. with Joel Mason, County Attorney, Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is employee performance. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:24 a.m. with no action being taken during the session.

The Board received a change order from TKE Elevator in the amount of \$4,476.95 for additional work that will be done with the elevator upgrade project that is currently being worked on. Commissioner Mayo made the motion for the approval of the change order in the amount of \$4,476.95 on the elevator. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed roads, patched asphalt, hauled dirt from the museum in Wakefield, finished leveling driveways with the asphalt in the Longford area. Mr. Shomper reported that there is a company that is wanting to use the right-a-ways on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Roads to place sensors and do seismic testing. The County will need to issue a permit to allow them on the right-a-ways and then if they want to go further, they will need to get permission from the landowner. Mr. Shomper stated that he had visited with Joel Mason, County Attorney, and was advised that he did not see any reason to not allow them on the right-a-ways so Mr. Shomper will be issuing the permit to Explor Geoscience USA Inc. Mr. Shomper discussed the asphalt project that was done by APAC this year. The quality of work seems to be declining every year. We have one more year under contract with them. Mr. Shomper has met on the job sites to show the Supervisor the spots that he considers unacceptable.

Alec Trembath, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Trembath stated that they have been busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. They have also been doing a lot of dedicated stand by's at community events. Mr. Trembath presented the Board with one quote from Sterling Power Sports on repairs to the John Deere Gator. This unit was given to the EMS Department a

few years ago and has needed repairs to make it run correctly. The Board stated that they would like Mr. Trembath to go and get a bid from John Deere for the repairs and they will compare them next week. The EMS Department will be teaching the Stop the Bleed Class to the staff at USD 379 Clay Center and Wakefield this month.

The Board granted permission for the west side of the Courthouse Square to be used for the Homecoming Parade and the activities that follow the parade.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga informed the Board that they can be expecting some larger bills in the upcoming months from the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department will be renewing the contract with Axon for the body camera's that the Officers wear on duty. The contract will be for five years at a total amount of \$18,183.87. The Department will also need to replace some of the current cameras for they are several years old and are starting to have issues. Sheriff Benninga also stated that he has researched replacing the current taser guns with a new version called Taser 10. The cost to replace 7 Taser units with Taser 10 it would cost \$28,845. Sheriff Benninga will look into keeping the current one and possibly have them refurbished. It is also time to replace all of the Deputies vest that they wear every day. There is a grant available that will pay for half of the cost of the new vest.

Kara Brockamp, BNSF Manager Public Projects, met with the Board to discuss a possible sighting. Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, and Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, were also present. The sighting would be south of Oak Hill between 6<sup>th</sup> Road to 9<sup>th</sup> Road for the placement of an exchange where a 120-unit train can pull off to let another train go by. This is in the beginning stages and may be placed in another County. This Railroad is a Strong City Sub Division and goes to Courtland where CVA is building a grain transfer station and are looking for the traffic to increase. Ms. Brockamp stated that this all is in the beginning stages and the project will not start until 2024 or 2025.

The board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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David M. Thurlow, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
September 25, 2023  
Clay Center, Kansas