

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

May 30, 2023

The Wallace County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with, Larry Townsend, Chairman, Michael Cowles, Commissioner, Becky Larson, Commissioner, and Brionna Colvin, County Clerk present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Townsend at 8:25 a.m.

Warrants # 29484- 29562 in the amount of \$ 493,701.53 were approved for payment. Payroll warrants in the amount of \$ 124,973.27 for the working period of April 30, 2023 through May 13, 2023 were approved for payment.

Chairman Townsend informed the other commissioners that most repairs have been made to the WCCCCC. Chairman Townsend thinks he has about a day left of work to get everything fixed. Chairman Townsend has been in contact with Hope Springs, and they have full staffing to run the facility when they take over.

Duane Barber entered the meeting to report on his department.

Chairman Townsend and Duane discussed calling Russ again and seeing if he is coming out to fix seams. Duane has the north park bathroom ready to be opened. More discussion about the pool repairs needing to be done the last couple of weeks was had. If Russ does not come next week, Chairman Townsend and Duane will fix the seams.

Paulette Unruh, Ambulance Director entered the meeting.

The trees on the west side of the ambulance barn are dying. Get rid of the front 3 trees and plant some new ones. Paulette would like the commissioners to look at the trees and work with the road crew to pull them out.

Doug Springsteel, Landfill Supervisor, entered the meeting.

The KDHE was out to visit 3 weeks ago, and everything looked good on the compliance inspection. Doug has training coming up in the fall that he is planning to attend. Doug and the commissioners were able to discuss the landfill budget.

Anthony Garcia, Road Supervisor, and Andrew Heyl entered the meeting.

Since the rain, Andrew would like to start spraying and use his own judgement. The commissioners and Andrew agreed that Bob has much knowledge and Andrew should use Bob for advice. The new tablet for the spray truck can generate a report that says the location that was sprayed, product, and wind and weather conditions. The commissioners agreed to re-activate Andrew's time clock on his phone. Anthony would like to order 300 tons of AS1. The commissioners will look at the budget and discuss it with Anthony when he comes back for his budget. Culvert repairs have been made.

Melinda Daily, Karen Nelson, and Jeanne Jones, Sunflower Extension Dist. Representatives, entered the meeting.

Melinda, Karen, and Jeanne explained what role they play in the Sunflower Extension District. They gave a brochure to the commissioners of what programs they have to offer to Wallace County. Melinda will put brochures in the courthouse offices for anyone interested. Karen asked the commissioners if they have any suggestions for new programs.

Beverly Elder, Wallace County Conservation District Representative entered the meeting.

Bev gave updates on the district budget from 2022. Last year the fund request was much appreciated. The fund request for 2024 is \$20,000.00. The commissioners thanked Bev for her continued dedication.

Marshall Unruh, Sheriff and Lance Finley, Undersheriff entered the meeting.

Jayne Pearce entered the meeting.

The Sheriff's Department K-9 dog passed away during severe storms a couple weeks ago. Lance Finley, Undersheriff, will be going to San Antonio next week to get a new dog. Lance is certified in training K-9 dogs, so the training for the new K-9 will be done in house. Marshall discussed plans on purchasing a new vehicle.

Jayne spoke to the commissioners about Western Vistas Historic Byway. Jayne is very proud of all the hard work being put into the byway and how it is being advertised. Jayne thinks that they byway can be promoted to national byway status at some point. A website has just been created and it is being used as an example across the state of Kansas. Jayne is requesting \$2,500.00 to be budgeted for 2024.

Jayne gave updates on the Fort Wallace Museum. Jayne presented a coin that reflects what this year's theme is, Native Tribes of the High Plains. Jayne is proud of all the visits the museum has received this year. For the budget year 2024, Jayne is requesting \$14,000.00.

Charles Moser, County Attorney entered the meeting.

The Kansas Attorney General's Office has raised the criminal and post-conviction appeals rate from \$2,000.00 to \$2,750.00. The county is required by statute to pay above his regular rate for the appeal cases. Charles is averaging about 50-60 traffic cases a month. Last year Charles had around 630 traffic cases and this year we are on pace for 780 traffic cases. With all of the cases, that changes the workload for Charles and Allison, County Attorney Secretary, significantly.

Trish Voth, Attorney at Law with Foulston Sieken, LLP entered the meeting by zoom.

Commissioner Larson moved to go into Executive Session for Attorney-Client Privilege Exception and invite in Charles Moser, Trish Voth, the 3 commissioners, and Brionna Colvin at 11:27 am for 30 minutes. Return at 11:57 am. Commissioner Cowles seconded.

AYE 3

NAY 0

Returned to regular session at 11:57 am. No action was taken.

Commissioner Larson moved to return to Executive Session for Attorney-Client Privilege Exception and invite in Charles Moser, Trish Voth, the 3 commissioners, and Brionna Colvin at 11:57 am for 30 minutes. Return at 12:27 pm. Commissioner Cowles seconded.

AYE 3

NAY 0

Returned to regular session at 12:27 pm. No action was taken.

Wendy Dunagan, County Appraiser entered the meeting.

Wendy gave the commissioners a copy of the summary abstract values for Wallace County.

Recess at 12:30 pm.

Linda Tittle and Lissa Sexson entered the meeting.

Reconvene at 1:05 pm.

Lissa informed the commissioners that the second round of moderate-income housing applications are due June 2nd. The housing incentive is now open and is being advertised. Lissa has received 2 more storefront/signage incentive applications, and those will be reviewed at the June 13th meeting. Lissa asked the commissioners what other information they would like her to put on the county website. The commissioners think her list covers it all and will greatly benefit the community. Wallace County is meeting only 28% of childcare needs, she will have more information next meeting.

Clerk Colvin set up 10-minute time slots for department heads to meet with the commissioners to discuss their 2024 budgets. Department Heads that met with the commissioners are as follows:

Wendy Dunagan, County Appraiser and JoAnna Basgall, Deputy Appraiser, Paulette Unruh, Ambulance Director, Rosella Ryser, District Court Clerk and Joe Argabright, Court Administrator of 15th District, Tonya Medina, Health Administrator and Health Nurse, Bob Bolen, Noxious Weed Supervisor, Maggie Figurilli, Register of Deeds, Anthony Garcia, Road and Bridge Supervisor, Marshall Unruh, Sheriff, Christine Smith, County Treasurer

Debbie Welsh, Deputy Clerk entered the meeting.

Debbie presented ambulance runs she would suggest the commissioners write off due to not being able to collect payment through the Kansas Set-Off program. The commissioners discussed some of the runs and how we could possibly reach out again before writing it off. Debbie will have a finalized list at the next meeting.

Appropriation budgets for 2024 were discussed.

Clerk Colvin presented a lifeguard application.

Commissioner Cowles made a motion to hire Elli Edwards as a new lifeguard at \$15.00 and Chisum Goodwin as a previous lifeguard at \$15.50. Commissioner Larson seconded.

AYE 3

NAY 0

The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Colvin presented bills from WCCCC. The commissioners would like have accountability from the board before they pay any bills. City of Sharon Springs and Hinkle Termite & Pest Control was approved for payment.

Clerk Colvin presented a letter from the Kansas National Resource Coalition regarding rails to trails. Chairman Townsend was able to briefly explain what the letter about. Chairman Townsend would like to talk more about it next meeting.

Clerk Colvin informed the commissioners that the cleaning position for the rec center is available for bids.

Commissioner Larson moved to approve the May 1, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Cowles seconded.

AYE 3

NAY 0

Commissioner Cowles moved to approve the May 9, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Larson seconded.

AYE 3

NAY 0

Commissioner Larson moved to approve the May 17, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Cowles seconded.

AYE 3

NAY 0

Clerk Colvin followed up with the inquiry from Kathryn about helping with the website. After Kathryn had looked at the website, she does not think she will be able to help Wallace County get the website ready for publication before June 30th.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

ATTEST:

Brionna Colvin, County Clerk

Larry Townsend, Chairman

Becky Larson, Commissioner

Michael Cowles, Commissioner