

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
May 4, 2020

Commissioners Present: Brad Scholz and Charles Stimatze

Commissioners Absent: Keith Ascher (10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. due to severe storms, high winds and flooding)

Others present: Rebecca Nordyke, County Clerk; and Steve Opat, County Counselor

Vice-Chairman Stimatze called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The commission held their review and update:

- General discussion on the status of various county offices being opened/closed to the public.

Garry Berges, Emergency Management Director/Rural Fire Chief, presented the monthly report:

- Reviewed the fire calls for the year noting there is a total of 43 in 2020 compared to 82 in 2019. He stated there were 10 calls in April.
- Announced the fire truck purchased from New Jersey should arrive today.
- Stated that the EOC has been in operation for 53 days. He stated that it is operating well, anticipates they will meet for quite some time, but the number of days per week they meet may be reduced.
- Presented the Geary County COVID-19 re-opening plan.
- Discussed damage in some parts of the county due to storms this morning, noting power lines are down, high winds, and large amounts of rain and hail. Mr. Berges left the meeting.

Tammy Von Busch, Health Department Administrator, arrived at the meeting and requested signature on the agreement between KDHE, the commission, and Health Department for the Outreach, Prevention and Early Intervention Services grant. It was noted that action was taken on this grant last week. Mr. Opat reviewed the document and recommended the commission sign it. Ms. Von Busch left the meeting.

The recess was not taken.

Dan Jackson, Sheriff, arrived at the meeting. There was a general discussion regarding the storms this morning and he stated they worked several accidents. There was a general discussion regarding the re-opening of the Courts to the public. Sheriff Jackson left the meeting.

Therese Hoff, Deputy County Clerk, arrived to take the minutes for the meeting.

Jon Thummel, Human Resources Director; Diane Briestensky-Leonard, Register of Deeds; Travis Lilly, Appraiser; Kathy Tremont, Treasurer; Rebecca Nordyke, County Clerk, arrived at the meeting.

Rebecca Nordyke, County Clerk, discussed the meeting held last week with the department heads of the County Office Building. They discussed the procedures that need to be in place for when the building opens. Recommendations from the group: Treasurer Tremont said there was a discussion about not opening on a Monday, because of the public. The motion made by the County Commission was to be closed through May 15, 2020, opening the building to the public on Monday, May 18, 2020.

Commissioner Scholz stated he wants to make it easier on the departments in the building, they can open

whenever the departments heads would like. Register of Deeds Briestensky stated she thinks it would be better to open Tuesday, May 19, 2020, not having a commission meeting on that day, with all the public in the hallway. Commissioner Scholz asked if the departments will have their plexi-glass shields in place by the open date? Treasurer Tremont said her shields have been installed, Clerk Nordyke stated she is looking into different options, since the prices are so different with other offices. Treasurer Tremont said her mitigation plan will be to continue through the end of the year. Commissioner Stimatze asked Mr. Thummel about the hiring of a security guard? He got quotes from two companies, for 45 hours a week, the cost would be \$87,000.00, and \$56,000.00. If you would use Labor Max the cost would go down to \$42,000.00, but the county would have to provide uniforms and benefits. Counselor Opat stated he does not like using Labor Max type of companies, because of the liabilities. Counselor Opat also feels that every office has a different function and will have to operate their offices differently. Commissioner Scholz said that if every department had an employee work 1 hour and 20 minutes to be a "guard" at the doors to guide the public. Ms. Briestensky-Leonard and Mrs. Tremont both stated they didn't think it would work to have employees handle this task. Counselor Opat stated in this world, a security guard needs to be placed in the building. Commissioner Stimatze asked Mr. Thummel if he could talk to the Sheriff's Department and see if his department could get any employees to help with this. Treasurer Tremont asked about getting any grants to help pay for these extra costs. The group's recommendation for re-opening to public: One public entrance only-South Side (8th Street) and go out the North doors. Encourage visitors to the building to exit out the North doors. Employee entrance only will remain at the east door. Treasurer Tremont discussed her plan on allowing the public into her office. The group want the building hours open to the public to change to 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.-Monday-Friday. Clerk Nordyke stated when she has voters in to advance vote, there could be 100 voters down the hall, and with the Treasurers public, there will be a lot of people in the hallway, not able to social distance. A general discussion was held on the crowds in the hallway and how to handle them. Ms. Briestensky asked about the Treasurer's office doing things by appointment only, but Mrs. Tremont said that doesn't work with her type of business. It is the consensus of the commission that the Corona Virus isn't going anywhere, it will always be around, and any mitigation plans will be for the long haul. Clerk Nordyke said the janitorial company will be able to clean at midday for an extra fee of \$160.00 a year, added to the contract. The commission agreed to this expenditure. The commission agreed to the group's recommendation to have the water fountains taken out. Ms. Briestensky stated at the meeting the group stated to ask other departments to see if they can cut anything from their budgets to help pay for the security in the building. Mr. Thummel is going to contact maintenance about signage to the public. When the different phases change the number of public allowed, the group need to keep their employees and the public safe. The group left the meeting.

Mrs. Hoff left the meeting. Clerk Nordyke remained to take the minutes.

Mr. Thummel presented the weekly report:

- Discussed leaks in the basement of the Geary County Office Building.
- Discussed the need for a "station" at the entrance of the Office Building if a security person is be hired.
- **At 12:12 p.m.; Commissioner Scholz moved for a 5-minute executive session, to end at 12:17 p.m., to discuss non-elected personnel with Mr. Thummel and Mr. Opat. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.** The meeting resumed at 12:17 p.m. with no action taken. Mr. Thummel left the meeting.

The meeting recessed for lunch from 12:20 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Chairman Ascher arrived at the meeting.

Corey Trumpp, Public Works Director and Tom Goudey, Noxious Weeds Supervisor, arrived at the meeting.

Todd Godfrey, citizen, arrived at the meeting.

At 1:15 p.m.; the bids were opened for the Extension Office exterior painting and wood replacement as follows:

Vendor	Address	Total
R & R Developers	PO Box 1204 Junction City KS	No bid received
Heldstab Construction	1530 Oakridge Dr Junction City KS	No bid received
Morgan Painting	627 W Vine St Junction City KS	No bid received
Ben Kitchens Painting Company	611 Country Club Terrace Junction City KS	\$19,732.80

Mr. Trumpp stated he will review the bid and make a recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Trumpp presented the bi-monthly report:

- Presented the 2019 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report that must be sent to the State of Kansas each year. **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve the report. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.** Mr. Goudey left the meeting.
- Presented a request and petition for Richard Acker’s property for a temporary easement at the corner of Rucker and Crider Roads. **Commissioner Scholz moved to approve the request and petition. Commissioner Stimatze seconded and all voted aye.**
- Presented agreements for signature for the bridge replacement on Lyons Creek Road Project No. 31 C-5012-01. It is estimated the county’s share will be \$258,785.68 which would be paid from the special bridge fund. **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.**
- Reported that the new fire doors were installed at Cloud County Community College – Geary County Campus as required by the State Fire Marshall’s Office.
- Announced the bid opening for the Geary County Office Building roof project will be held on May 18, 2020.
- Stated the next clean-up day for citizens to bring to landfill brush pile is May 16, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Announced that 139 new cash/checking accounts have been established at the Transfer Station. He stated a plexiglass screen has been installed for the protection of the employee and that no one will be allowed past the counter.
- Reviewed changes that have been or will be made to various areas of his department due to COVID-19.
- Stated that he has been contacted by Herb Able, Fort Riley Recycling Center, that Fort Riley is not sure when they will re-open due to their concerns about the staff handling materials brought in by public and the fact that the COVID-19 virus can live on plastic for 3 days. Mr. Trumpp informed the commission that our recycling will remain closed until Fort Riley reopens, since we have no where to take the items for free.

- Reported that he is keeping a close eye on the rock line in his budget and that through April 2020; \$200,000 has been spent. He expressed concern about the collection of fuel tax. He noted he may have to reduce the number of miles that are chip sealed in order to make up for any budget revenues that come in less than estimated and the need for more funds for rock.
- Commissioner Stimatze asked who bills the City of Junction City for work done at the Animal Shelter. Mr. Trumpp replied that after his staff has done any work; they provide the information to the Clerk's Office, who sends the invoice to the city.
- Chairman Ascher inquired about the cleaning contract at Fort Riley. Mr. Trumpp stated that B&R has submitted paperwork to him, but he has not had time to look at it.
- Chairman Ascher asked when he would be back to full staff. Mr. Trumpp stated they went back to full staff today and are working on social distancing.
- Chairman Ascher inquired if there was any damage caused by the storms this morning. Mr. Trumpp said there was to Kansas Falls Road.

Mr. Godfrey left the meeting.

The discussion on road conditions continued. Mr. Trumpp left the meeting.

No representatives of the hospital appeared to make the monthly report.

There was a general discussion regarding an email from Shilling Construction Company informing the commission that on February 7, 2020; the United States Department of Labor (DOL) issued new Wage Rate Determinations (WRDs) for each county in the State of Kansas and that they are concerned there are errors in some of the WRDs, most specifically in Riley, Pottawatomie, Geary and Wabaunsee counties for highway paving. They believe this is an issue for any streets and road projects that use Federal or Kansas funding as the WRDs are required to be used to pay the employees. They requested the commission consider sending letters to various federal government officials.

Mr. Godfrey returned to the meeting.

There was a general discussion regarding the opening of restaurants in the county.

The recess was not taken.

Rebecca Nordyke, County Clerk, presented the weekly report:

- Stated one of her staff is on FMLA leave for 14 weeks. She stated other staff members have been trained in her duties and that an election board worker will probably be hired to help with election tasks.
- Stated that a postcard mailing was sent to all registered voters so the voter can verify their name, address and party are correct. This is an effort to have accurate voter records prior to the August and November elections. The voter can also use the postcard to determine which districts they live in and where their polling place location is.

Chairman Ascher discussed a conference call between Geary, Riley and Pottawatomie Counties regarding the COVID-19 reopening plan.

Commissioner Stimatze stated that the employee evaluation for Anne Smith, a Ta Bus Director, has been completed. He stated she has not received a raise for two years.

At 3:20 p.m.; Commissioner Stimatze moved for a 15-minute executive session, to end at 3:35 p.m., to discuss legal matters and budgeting in regard to interlocal agreements, including the Animal Shelter, with Mr. Opat. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye. The meeting resumed at 3:35 p.m. with no action taken.

Mr. Godfrey returned to the meeting.

Treasurer Tremont returned to the meeting and stated that someone has tried to pry into their drop box. She inquired if a camera could be placed there and the Sheriff contacted. The commission authorized her to contact Security Solutions for the cost of a camera. There was a discussion regarding having the contents drop directly into her office. Clerk Nordyke stated that she would like consideration to have it large enough to accommodate advanced ballots. Treasurer Tremont left the meeting.

The press conference was not held since no members of the press were in attendance.

Mr. Opat discussed the efforts the courts are making to re-open to the public.

There was a general discussion about how long the administrative leave will continue.

Mr. Opat left the meeting.

Clerk Nordyke reviewed changes to the April 6, 2020 minutes.

Treasurer Tremont returned to the meeting and inquired about the need to go out for bids for the change in the drop box location. She stated a Sheriff's Officer has been by to review the damage. The commission agreed that bids were not required due to the security issue. Treasurer Tremont left the meeting.

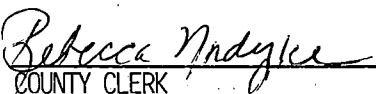
Commissioner Scholz left the meeting due to an appointment.

Clerk Nordyke continued the review of the changes to the April 6, 2020 minutes. **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2020. Chairman Ascher seconded and all voted aye.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.



CHAIRMAN - COUNTY COMMISSION
KEITH ASCHER



COUNTY CLERK
REBECCA NORDYKE

June 1, 2020
DATE