

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
May 18, 2020

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher, Brad Scholz and Charles Stimatze

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

Chairman Ascher called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The commission held their review and update:

- **At 10:23 a.m.; Chairman Ascher moved for a 10-minute executive session, to end at 10:33 a.m. to discuss legal matters regarding interlocal agreements with the City of Junction City with Mr. Opat. At 10:33 a.m.; Commissioner Stimatze moved to extend the session for an additional 5 minutes to end at 10:38 a.m. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.** The meeting resumed at 10:38 a.m. with no action taken.

Tammy Von Busch, Health Department Administrator, presented the weekly COVID-19 report:

- Provided information regarding the ability of the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to provide testing and the cost of tests. She stated she will be talking with the hospital about this option.
- Stated that Geary County has 14 cases, of which 12 have recovered.
- Chairman Ascher inquired about the status of the church which has three cases. Mrs. Von Busch stated they have been cooperative and believes they started having services again yesterday.
- Stated that some insurance companies may not be providing coverage for public swimming pools. She stated Allen Dinkel, Junction City Manager, is aware of this and is checking with the city's insurance carrier.
- Chairman Ascher stated he had a meeting with Mr. Dinkel who expressed appreciation for Mrs. Von Busch being agreeable to work with the City to make adjustments.
- Commissioner Scholz inquired how many businesses have provided her with a mitigation plan. Mrs. Von Busch stated baseball has. She stated they have fielded a lot of phone calls, especially from barber shops and beauty shops. Mrs. Von Busch left the meeting.

The recess was taken from 10:57 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

There was a general discussion regarding the federal concession, PILT, flood control monies, and Redfish LLC.

The commission and Mr. Opat reviewed and approved the vouchers.

Jon Thummel, Human Resources Director, presented the weekly report:

- Presented and requested approval of Memo 2020-20.
- **At 11:38 a.m.; Commissioner Scholz moved for a 5-minute executive session, to end at 11:43 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel with Mr. Thummel and Mr. Opat. Commissioner Stimatze seconded and all voted aye.** The meeting resumed at 11:43 a.m. with no action taken.

Garry Berges, Emergency Management Director/Rural Fire Chief, arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Thummel continued with his report:

- **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve MEMO NO: 2020-20: The County Treasurer is requesting the following reclassifications:**

Old PCN	New PCN	New Job Code	New Title	New Rate
TR1005	TR1005A	50120	Tax Specialist	\$16.16
TR1012	TR1012A	21011	Customer Service Specialist I	\$20.90

The net effect of these changes are savings of approximately \$1,600 plus benefits per year. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.

- Stated that there were scanning issues on Friday, so if the commission needs a pdf of the document he sent on Friday, he can now provide it. He stated it will be discussed next week. Mr. Thummel left the meeting.

Mr. Berges discussed the following:

- Presented a proposal for a new phone system. He noted this will replace the system that was installed in 2007; will update to current technology, provide more features, and reduce the rate for long distance. He recommended the proposal from Phone Connection. The commission accepted the recommendation.
- Stated that the State of Kansas suggested that local government extend the public health emergency. **Commissioner Scholz moved to adopt Resolution 5-18-2020 extending the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Commissioner Stimatze seconded and all voted aye.** The resolution was signed. Mr. Berges left the meeting.

At 11:57 a.m.; Commissioner Stimatze moved for a 5-minute executive session, to end at 12:02 p.m., to discuss legal matters regarding license exemptions for improvements to Geary County facilities with Mr. Opat. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye. The meeting resumed at 12:02 p.m. with no action taken.

The meeting recessed for lunch from 12:04 p.m. to 1:17 p.m.

At 1:17 p.m.; the bids were opened for the Cloud County Community College – Geary County Campus landscaping project as follows:

Vendor	Address	Total
Rothwell Landscaping	203 E Ash St Junction City KS	No bid received
Turf Design	2116 Rucker Road Junction City KS	\$59,761.64
Prairie Stone	3266 Kimball Ave Manhattan KS	\$34,837.03
Blueville Nursey Inc	45396 Anderson Ave Manhattan KS	\$47,851.00
Deep Roots Landscaping	3061 Zeandale Rd Manhattan KS	No bid received
Masters Landscaping	2040 Fort Riley Blvd Manhattan KS	\$88,010.00
Proscape Inc	955 2440 Lane Abilene KS	No bid received
Outdoor Unlimited	7113 McGeorge Rd, Milford KS	\$91,362.00

Mr. Trumpp will review the bids and make a recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Trumpp discussed the following:

- Reviewed the bid that was previously opened for the Extension Office exterior painting project and recommended the bid from Ben Kitchens Painting Company. **Commissioner Stimatze moved to accept the recommendation and approve Ben Kitchens Painting Company in the amount of \$19,732.80 and that it be paid from the capital improvement fund. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.**
- Presented a request and petition from Evergy. **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve the request and petition from Evergy Electric Company for a 1.5-mile pole line on Old Highway 40. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.**

At 1:33 p.m.; the bids were opened for the Geary County Office Building roof project as follows:

Vendor	Address	Total
Flint Hills Roofing	PO Box 3032 Junction City KS	No bid received
Superior Roofing	2151 Fort Riley Blvd Manhattan KS	No bid received
Danker Roofing	8521 E Hwy 24 Manhattan KS	\$58,222.00 Bid bond received
McGee Roofing	1961 Navajo Rd Clay Center KS	\$62,925.27 Bid bond received
VA Commercial Roofing	610 N 9 th St St Marys KS	\$61,135.00 Bid bond received
Yutzy Roofing Service LLC	15208 Partridge Rd Partridge KS	No bid received

Mr. Trumpp will review the bids and make a recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Trumpp continued with the bi-weekly report:

- Reviewed the preventative maintenance contract renewals with TCA. He noted that there is a \$3.00 increase in the labor rate. He recommended that the contracts be approved and authorize him to sign the documents. Per the commission's direction the Animal Shelter will be removed from the contracts because it is not a county-owned building.

Lori Feldkamp, President/CEO Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc., arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Trumpp continued with the bi-weekly report:

- **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve and authorize Mr. Trumpp to sign the contracts with TCA for the Courthouse and Detention Center. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.**
- Reported that May 16, 2020 was the second day for brush drop off at the landfill. He stated there were only 11 vehicles.
- Announced that on May 11, 2020; they began accepting cash and check customers at the Transfer Station. The normal hours of operation have resumed.
- Stated they have begun accepting items to be recycled but only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He stated the hours are reduced because Fort Riley now requires the bins be quarantined for 6 days.
- Announced the concrete work for the Treasurer's Office drop box was done last week.
- Reported they ran two of the gutter spouts underground to the street gutter pan at the Geary County Office Building to help with drainage issues.
- Announced the Public Works crews' summer hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. starting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Regular hours will resume on September 8, 2020.
- Per Chairman Ascher's request, he reviewed the use of masks in his department.

Mr. Opat inquired who the building contact for the Pennell Building is. He stated that County Attorney Blaisdale re-opened the building this morning and Ed Wheeler, Court Trustee was not aware of the reopening. The commission decided that Loyce Smith should now be the contact person.

At 2:06 p.m.; Commissioner Scholz moved for a 10-minute executive session, to end at 2:16 p.m. to discuss licensing from this morning with Mr. Trumpp and Mr. Opat. Commissioner Stimatze seconded and all voted aye. The meeting resumed at 2:16 p.m. with no action taken. Mr. Trumpp left the meeting.

Mrs. Feldkamp discussed the following:

- Reviewed services provided to 33 residents of Geary County.
- Discussed the importance of the mill levy which funds their transportation program. This program allows clients to access their services because their clients do not drive.
- Stated they are requesting \$89,984.00 which is the same amount as last year.
- Discussed the lack of funding from KDOT the last 5 years, which has made it hard to break even, predict gas prices and cost of vehicle repairs.
- Stated they did receive a rate increase from the legislature, but now that the state is having revenue issues it might be cut.
- Discussed Medicaid funding which largely takes care of salaries and benefits.
- Reported there are 34 people from Geary County on the waiting list. She stated they are waiting due to lack of funding. She stated there are over 4,000 across the state on a waiting list and the average wait time is 8 years. She stated the wait list increases the costs because they must retrain the residents on things they learned in school and forgot in that time.

- Discussed budget issues attributable to COVID-19.
- Reviewed the COVID-19 operations timeline and changes to services. She noted that 40% of their population has underlying health conditions so they are more vulnerable.
- Presented and reviewed the Pandemic Plan - Stage 5 recovery matrix. Mrs. Feldkamp left the meeting.

Rebecca Nordyke, County Clerk, presented the weekly report:

- Presented Commission Change Orders. **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve Commission Change Orders 2019-330 through 2019-336. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.**
- Presented the contract with Pottberg, Gassman, & Hoffman Chartered for 2021 budget preparation. **Commissioner Stimatze moved to approve the contract with Pottberg, Gassman, & Hoffman Chartered for 2021 budget preparation. Commissioner Scholz seconded and all voted aye.**
- Reviewed the agenda for the Special Commission meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

Commissioner Scholz moved to adopt Resolution 05-18-2020A recognizing Elisa Robinson. Commissioner Stimatze seconded and all voted aye.

Mr. Opat reported that Loyce Smith should not serve as the building contact person for the Pennell Building since he is a state employee and not a county employee.

The recess was not taken.

Robbin Cole, Executive Director Pawnee Mental Health Services, discussed the following:

- Presented the annual report.
- Reviewed their response to COVID-19 and impact to their budget.
- Stated they are asking all counties not to cut their budgets for 2021 and they are asking for the same amount as 2020, which was \$201,000.00
- Reviewed statistics for Geary County, including but not limited to: 110,403 units of service valued at \$2.8 million were provided and over \$1 million was not compensated.
- Discussed the impact the higher deductible health plans have had to their budget and having to shoulder the burden of people not being able to pay the deductible. She noted this has caused write-offs to go up.

Mr. Opat left the meeting.

Ms. Cole continued:

- Reviewed accomplishments in 2019, particularly the crisis stabilization center opening on November 4, 2019.
- Reviewed revenues and efforts to secure other sources of funding. She stated that “fee for service” is the largest source of their revenue and that Medicaid funding is flat or declining. She reported that the State restored their funding to 2006 levels. She stressed the importance of continuing to push for Medicaid expansion.
- Announced that a part time grant writer has been hired.
- Reported they held two major fund raisers and opened funds in seven community foundations including Geary County.
- Stated they have applied for a grant to start up tele health in several counties, including Geary.

- Reviewed comparative values:
 - Geary County citizens account for 23.35% of total clients served by Pawnee.
 - If Geary County budgeted for the 23.35% it would total \$335,926 annually.
 - Geary County currently budgets \$4.07 annually per capita; the average from the other 10 counties is \$8.04. If Geary County budgeted the per capita rate it would be \$261,980. The current budget is \$201,000.
- Chairman Ascher inquired if they received CARES Act funds. Mrs. Cole stated yes, they used it for payroll and therefore, they have not had to furlough any staff. Ms. Cole left the meeting.

Mr. Opat returned to the meeting.

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

Commissioner Scholz reviewed the Animal Shelter meeting held last week.

There was a general discussion regarding mitigation plans for baseball in Geary County.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.



CHAIRMAN - COUNTY COMMISSION
KEITH ASCHER



COUNTY CLERK
REBECCA NORDYKE

June 1, 2020
DATE