

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, KS**

August 12, 2019

Commission met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. Kent Becker, Comm. Randy Dallke, and Comm. Dianne R. Novak present. Also present was Deputy Co. Clerk Ashley Herpich. Present for portions of the meeting were Co. Counselor Brad Jantz, Marcy Hostetler, Henry Ethem, Tom Britain, Jonah Gehring, Dina Vogel, Randall Eitzen, Shawn Crabb, Lucious Carter, Mary Crabb, Amy Soye, Linda Peters, Ron White, Dave Crofoot, Duane Unruh, other members of the public, and members of the press.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Supplements affecting the 2019 tax roll were reviewed by the Board.

- Salary sheets were signed for: Megan Chizek – part time reserve officer at \$12.00/hour effective 7/15/2019; Aaron Christner – 6 month raise as a Deputy Sheriff from \$17.02/hour to \$17.36/hour effective 8/6/2019; Carroll (CJ) Perry – new Deputy Sheriff at \$17.02/hour effective 7/31/2019; Noah Richter – 1 year raise as EMT from \$12.25/hour to \$12.50/hour effective 7/20/2019; Anthony Wyant – 6 month raise as EMT from \$12.00/hour to \$12.25/hour effective 8/2/2019; Lisa Reeder – 2 year raise as County Appraiser from \$4,928.00/mo. to \$5,011.00/mo. effective 8/1/2019.
- The Board signed a supplemental payroll in the amount of \$529.30 for an administrative correction, per policy.
- A request to exchange federal funds (for local road projects) under the Federal-Aid Fund Exchange Master Agreement was reviewed and signed. The total amount requested for reimbursement is \$126,714.44.
- Becker moved to approve the minutes of August 5<sup>th</sup> as written. Dallke seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Options regarding sales tax process for the transfer station were discussed. The wording on the special legislation passed to authorize the Commission to call for a vote for implementing a special sales tax to finance certain potential projects has limitations which would require the County to seek a full ½ cent sales tax (not a lesser amount), and would require the county to include property tax relief and economic development as additional components of the project. Options discussed included seeking corrective legislation, requesting an Attorney General opinion whether the County would have authority to seek less tax than stated in the statute, develop a ballot question for the full ½ cent and include economic development and property tax relief as part of the ballot question, or pursue an alternate method of funding. After discussion, the Board agreed that the County Clerk should contact project Engineer Randy Purdue to seek options and a cost estimate to simply repair the tipping floor of the existing facility before making a final decision about whether to proceed with a new building and / or funding.
- An email from Patty Decker with questions about the County's budget and finances was discussed.

**PLANNING/ZONING/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Dir. Sharon Omstead presented a request for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a wireless communications tower on land zoned "A" Agricultural, on behalf of Duane and Karen Unruh. Also present were Kole Talbott of Branch Communications and Duane Unruh. Unruh requested that a culvert be installed to provide proper drainage. After some discussion, Becker moved to adopt Resolution 2019-12, approving a conditional use permit to establish a wireless communications tower on certain property generally located at 1181 Highway K-15, Newton, Kansas with the additional condition to be added that proper drainage (be installed by US Cellular). Dallke seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**ROAD & BRIDGE:** Co. Engineer Brice Goebel presented a salary change sheet for Gina Hardey – new Equipment Operator I at \$2,267.00/mo. effective 8/05/2019.

- Goebel presented an amendment to a previously approved road crossing permit for Rural Water District #4, changing the proposed location. Becker moved to approve the amended road crossing permit for RWD #4. Dallke seconded and motion carried 3-0.
- After discussion, the Board agreed to allow the purchase of crushed concrete from KDOT per Goebel's recommendation.
- Becker moved to extend the deadline for Goebel to receive his engineering license another 60 days. Dallke seconded and motioned carried 3-0.
- Job descriptions and specific road problems and repairs were discussed with no formal action.

**SOUTH CENTRAL KS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SCKEDD):** Executive Director Steve Wilkinson & Program Manager Bill Lampe discussed the weatherization program which helps with household energy efficiency. Services provided include assistance with furnace repairs, insulation repairs, roofing repairs, plumbing, and handicap needs and repairs. Property owners and renters can qualify based on household income relative to federal low-income guidelines.

Co. Counselor Brad Jantz joined the session at 10:45 a.m.

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, KS**

August 12, 2019, Continued

**HEALTH DEPT.:** Dir. Diedre Serene proposed that her department bill Blue Cross Blue Shield for the flu shots offered to employees by the County, suggesting that any potential savings could be utilized toward the cost of family members receiving the flu shot. No decision was made. Serene was asked to provide additional information regarding employee co-pays or deductibles associated with immunizations.

Serene requested an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel performance. Becker moved to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel performance pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters with the Board, Jantz, and Serene present for 10 minutes (from 10:50 a.m.) until 11:00 a.m. with open session to resume in Commission chambers following the closed session. Dallke seconded and motion carried 3-0. Open session resumed with a motion by Becker to give Serene discretionary authority of salary changes for Jessica Gilbert, Erin Hein, and Sherry Moody as discussed. Novak seconded and motion carried 2-1. Dallke opposed.

**AMBULANCE:** Dir. Travis Parmley asked for approval to carry over 40 hours of vacation for an employee due to a shortage of coverage. The Board agreed to allow the employee to carry over 40 hours of vacation until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Board discussed the possibility of changing the County's vacation accrual policy to a calendar year system instead of by anniversary date.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dave Crofoot asked how much money has been spent on lawsuits. It was unknown at this time.

**CO. COUNSELOR:** Jantz requested an executive session to discuss attorney/client contract negotiation. Becker moved to recess into executive session to discuss contract negotiation pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (2) for attorney/client consultation with Jantz and the Board present for 15 minutes (from 11:15 a.m.) until 11:30 a.m. with open session to resume in Commission chambers following the closed session. Dallke seconded and motion carried 3-0. Open session resumed with no action.

Becker moved to recess into executive session to discuss contract negotiation pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (2) for attorney/client consultation with Jantz and the Board present for 10 minutes (from 11:30 a.m.) until 11:40 a.m. with open session to resume in Commission chambers following the closed session. Dallke seconded and motion carried 3-0. Open session resumed with no action.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** The additional condition was added to Resolution 2019-12 for the Board to sign. After review Jantz suggested adding "subject to the approval of the county staff". The Resolution will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting for signature.

Becker moved to adjourn. Dallke seconded and motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent Becker, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk