

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

March 29, 2021

Commission met in regular session at 12:30 p.m. in Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. Randy Dallke, Comm. Dave Crofoot, Comm. Kent Becker, Comm. David Mueller, and Comm. Jonah Gehring present. Also present were Co. Clerk Tina Spencer and Co. Counselor Brad Jantz. Present for portions of the session were County staff, members of the public, and members of the press.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Spencer read a COVID-19 update from Health Officer Diedre Serene which reported a rolling positivity rate through March 20th of 5.3% (yellow zone). There are currently two active cases and two hospitalizations. Vaccine information was provided. Kansas is now in Phase 5, and all adults are encouraged to get the vaccine. The Health Department is working on developing online registration for vaccines beginning April 6th.

- Dallke moved to approve the minutes of March 22nd and March 23rd. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Change orders affecting 2020 and prior years' tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board.
- An updated contract for Planning/Zoning consulting services with Baughman Co. was presented for review, with an increased hourly service rate of \$125.00/hour. Planning/Zoning/Environmental Health Dir. Sharon Omstead was present via teleconference. After discussion, Dallke moved to approve the contract, changing from \$100.00/hour to \$125.00/hour and maintain Baughman Co. for Planning & Zoning. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Area fuel bids were presented for review/approval:

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
	1,400 gals.	1,950 gals.	1,950 gals.
Epp's Service, Elbing	2.0590 = \$2,882.60	2.1790 = \$4,249.05	2.0690 = \$4,034.55
Coop Grain, Hillsboro	2.2000 = \$3,080.00	2.2000 = \$4,290.00	2.2000 = \$4,290.00
MFA Oil, Lincolnville	2.3224 = \$3,251.36	2.3024 = \$4,489.68	2.3224 = \$4,528.68

Gehring moved to accept the bid from Epp's Service for all three areas for a total of \$11,166.20. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- A draft resolution reflecting changes to the burning regulations requested by Marion County Fire Chiefs was reviewed by the Board. The Board agreed that all five Commissioners should continue to be notified by the Emergency Management Director if a County-wide burn ban is activated. The method of notification may be phone call, e-mail or text message (including group email or group text message). Mueller moved to allow notification of a Countywide burn ban to be by phone, text, or email to all five Commissioners. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0. A new resolution was not adopted.
- A recent proposal from Renodry for moisture remediation in the courthouse was discussed. The consensus of the Board was to focus on necessary exterior repairs/maintenance (including repair of the north stairs) and not move forward with the Renodry proposal at this time.

COMMISSION – MASK DISCUSSION: Health Officer Diedre Serene was present via teleconference. The Board discussed the fact that the Governor's Executive Order 20-68 requiring face coverings in public within the state of Kansas is set to expire on March 31st. It is likely to be re-issued. The Board discussed the possibility of opting out of the new Executive Order by implementing a local mask order which could potentially be allowed to expire ahead of the extended order that is likely to be issued by the State. Serene cautioned the Board not to end the mask order too soon. After additional discussion, Gehring moved to opt out of the Governor's mask mandate effective March 31st at midnight. Becker seconded and motion failed 3-2 with Dallke, Crofoot, and Mueller voting against. The topic will be discussed again once official action has been announced at the State level.

CO. TREASURER: Co. Treasurer Jeannine Bateman was present for a department update. Bateman reviewed the County's escrow program which allows taxpayers to make monthly payments on their taxes. Bateman was asked to determine a potential rate to begin charging individuals who chose to pay taxes through the escrow plan to cover administrative costs.

EMS BUILDING DISCUSSION: EMS Dir. Travis Parmley and contractor Cody Nelson with NF Construction presented a design-build proposal for the Hillsboro EMS Station. The proposal includes the cost of the building, and the fee for the General Contractor (NF Construction) at a cost not to exceed \$480,000.00 with a payment/performance bond added at a cost of \$8,200.00 for a total of \$488,200.00. After discussion, Dallke moved to move ahead with Cody Nelson as design builder for the new ambulance building in Hillsboro, Kansas. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0. The Board clarified that the payment and performance bond will be required.

Hillsboro Mayor Lou Thurston commented that the City of Hillsboro is in support of the project and will work with the County.

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

March 29, 2021, Continued

CO. COUNSELOR: Co. Counselor Brad Jantz said he needs additional information from Park & Lake Supt. Isaac Hett to finalize a document pertaining to the heated dock. Crofoot noted that it will be needed this week.

- Jantz initiated a discussion on the requested policy about private individuals performing work on County roads. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that Jantz should work with Goebel to develop a proposed policy for review by the Board at the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mike Beneke said a cash donation has been made to Middlecreek Mining in Peabody to clean up old concrete footings sitting around the building where the Peabody ambulance is housed.

- Beneke expressed concern about the lack of road maintenance in his area. He commented that the County may need to contract some work in order to keep up due to staffing shortages. Beneke said there are five or six bad spots that have been ignored by the County for years. Beneke mentioned that certain areas should receive the hard rock the County has purchased, including heavily traveled roads, roads that have traffic from heavier vehicles, and areas with soft spots.

CO. COUNSELOR, CONTINUED: Co. Counselor Brad Jantz requested an executive session to discuss personnel for 15 minutes. Dallke moved to recess into executive session to discuss personnel performance pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Jantz present for 15 minutes (until 2:40 p.m.) with open session to resume in Commission chambers following the closed session. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Mueller commented that he appreciated the strategic planning session last week, and suggested that he and Comm. Gehring be assigned to research/provide information/address questions of the Commission regarding the County Administrator position. After discussion, Dallke moved to direct Comm. Gehring and Comm. Mueller to work as a team to gather information and options for something that fits Marion County – whether it is an administrator manager, or advisor (or another title). Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Mueller suggested that a work session be scheduled to develop a specific equipment plan for Road & Bridge, and to develop a plan for a new Road & Bridge building. Dallke said he would visit with Goebel to begin the process, and that he would work on potential building specs/information.
- Mueller noted that information is needed now in order to effectively move forward with the budget process this summer.
- Becker congratulated the Hillsboro High School boys' basketball team on their second straight state title.
- Gehring said that the plan to digitize County records needs to move ahead. Spencer noted that we should have the report/recommendations from WSU within the next couple of weeks.

Dallke moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk

Randy Dallke, Chairman