

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

February 16, 2021

Commission met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. Randy Dallke, Comm. Kent Becker, Comm. Dave Crofoot, and Comm. Jonah Gehring present in person and Comm. David Mueller present by teleconference. Also present was Co. Clerk Tina Spencer. Present for portions of the meeting were County staff, members of the public, and members of the press.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Spencer presented a COVID update on behalf of Health Officer Diedre Serene. Marion County's rolling positivity rate is now at 8% which is the lowest rate since November 1st. It was noted that the Health Department is not able to request additional vaccine from the State. All allocations are set by KDHE. At this time, all remaining PODs on the schedule after February 17th will be for booster doses only.

- Gehring moved to approve early checks (#542878-52879) in the amount of \$67,790.67. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Dallke moved to approve the minutes of February 8th. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Change orders affecting 2020 and prior years' tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board.
- Salary sheets were signed: Camille Bremyer from \$15.30/hour to \$15.55/hour effective 2/14/2021 – six month raise as Paramedic; Timothy Vogel from \$13.30/hour to \$13.55/hour effective 2/1/2021 – six month raise as EMT; Luke Dawson from \$2,319.00/mo. to \$2,362.00/mo. effective 2/18/2021 – six month raise as R&B Equipment Operator I; Amanda McReynolds from \$2,362.00/mo. to \$2,408.00/mo. effective 2/10/2021 – one year raise and change in position to Transfer Station Equipment Operator I; Daniel Selznick from \$2,652.00/mo. to \$2,683.00/mo. effective 1/6/2021 – six month raise as Transfer Station Equipment Operator II.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Co. Engineer Brice Goebel presented transport fuel bids. Only one bidder responded.

	Tank #3 4,000 gals	Tank #1 1,500 gals.	Unleaded 2,000 gals.	Total
Coop Grain, Hillsboro	2.3610	2.1050	2.0529	\$16,707.30

Gehring moved to accept the bid from Cooperative Grain in the amount of \$16,707.30. Becker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

- Goebel indicated that the extremely cold temperatures have affected equipment.
- Utility Permit 21-02 for Zayo to relocate buried fiber optic lines from 24" depth to 60" depth near Remington Rd. and 240th in Section 6-16S-4E was reviewed by the Board. No objections were stated, and the permit was signed by Chr. Dallke.
- Bids to replace the County's fuel pumps and tanks were presented for review:

Hoidale – Wichita, KS	\$37,361.00
Double Check Co. – Hutchinson KS	\$56,600.00

After discussion, Mueller moved to move forward with the purchase from Hoidale in the amount of \$37,361.00. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 4-1 with Becker opposed. Goebel noted that additional work may be needed to correct drainage and grade issues. The approximate cost will be \$8,000.00. Goebel will bring additional information for formal approval.

- Goebel was directed to prepare a progress billing form for NF Construction on the NRCS project which shows the total amount of the contract along with the amount requested for this payment.

PLANNING/ZONING/ENV. HEALTH: Omstead provided a report regarding the clean up of three properties in Lost Springs. Marion County has received the 75% reimbursement from KDHE. Omstead suggested the possibility of implementing a solid waste fee reduction program not specific to construction & demolition waste to encourage clean up of similar properties. No action was taken.

- Energy saving measures due to the cold weather were discussed with no action.
- Omstead requested an executive session to discuss personnel/performance. The request was tabled until later in the session.

RENO-DRY PRESENTATION: Don Brown and Michael Clancy with Reno-Dry USA asked for permission to test the Courthouse for rising damp. The Board had no objection to them testing and providing a report and no-obligation proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dianne Novak questioned the use of taxpayer money to pay legal expenses for Sharon Omstead for a civil domestic case, and asked if it is the Board's intent to provide this benefit to all County employees when they are not on duty. Dallke said that the incident occurred because of Omstead's job. Gehring echoed that, noting that if she had not worked for the County that the incident would not have happened. Crofoot agreed. Becker commented that the issue arose during the course of her work and was ongoing and was all related to the County.

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February 16, 2021, Continued

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Rolling electrical blackouts due to the weather were discussed. Gehring noted that Emergency Management Dir. Randy Frank has been in communication regarding the topic and is keeping up to speed. Gehring also encouraged everyone to take the matter seriously, saying it is a last-chance mitigation measure to prevent a more severe emergency situation.

PLANNING/ZONING/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: Dir. Sharon Omstead rejoined the session. 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, Omstead, and Spencer present for 10 minutes (until 11:00 a.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 DISCUSSION – WEATHER ISSUES: The current weather issues and energy conservation request were discussed. It was noted that the Courthouse has a generator, and that operations should be able to continue through any brief power outages. However, if the situation worsens, it may be necessary to close offices. Becker moved to authorize the Chairman to handle questions / decisions regarding a potential shut down due to the weather. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Dallke moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Randy Dallke, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk