

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

November 30, 2022

Commission met for payday and other business at 9:00 a.m. in Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. David Mueller, Comm. Jonah Gehring, Comm. Kent Becker, Comm. Dave Crofoot, and Comm. Randy Dallke present. 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.

**SALES TAX:** Sales tax for the month of September was received in the amount of \$102,964.05.

**PAYDAY:** A detailed list of expenditures by fund was reviewed. The monthly comp time report was reviewed. Gehring moved to approve payments to Western Associates in the amount of \$4,299.96. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0 with Crofoot abstaining due to conflict of interest (abstention counted with majority prevailing). Dallke moved to approve the grand total payday in the amount of \$1,384,522.47 (including payroll at \$590,368.28). Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0 (checks #52835-53118; voided checks #52871, 52872, 52864, 52969, 52997).

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Gehring moved to approve the minutes of November 21<sup>st</sup>. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Area Fuel bids were reviewed:

|                       | Area 1              | Area 2              | Area 3              |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                       | <u>1,400 gals.</u>  | <u>1,950 gals.</u>  | <u>1,950 gals.</u>  |
| Epp's Service, Elbing | 4.6817 = \$6,554.38 | 4.8517 = \$9,460.82 | 4.6617 = \$9,090.32 |
| MFA Oil, Lincolnville | 4.9350 = \$6,909.00 | 4.9350 = \$9,623.25 | 4.9350 = \$9,623.25 |

Gehring moved to approve the low bid from Epp's Service for all three areas. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Crofoot moved to approve the Notice to Township Board for a cereal malt beverage application for Last Chance Bait.

A summary of audit proposals was reviewed:

|   | <u>Year One</u> | <u>Year Two</u> | <u>Year Three</u> | <u>Single Audit</u> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Varney & Associates, Manhattan          | \$19,900        | \$19,900        | \$19,900          | \$4,500             |
| Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris, Hutchinson | \$24,500        | \$24,750        | \$25,000          | \$8,000-\$14,000    |
| Forvis, Wichita                         | \$38,800        | \$41,600        | \$43,600          | \$8,000-\$9,000     |

After discussion, Gehring moved to award the audit contract to Varney & Associates. Becker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DISCUSSION / RESOLUTION REVIEW:** Chr. Mueller opened the discussion with a request for comments from the Commission. There were none. Chr. Mueller opened the floor for public comments. Retired Judge Mike Powers, Marion City Administrator Mark Skiles, Hillsboro City Administrator Matt Stiles, Hillsboro Mayor Lou Thurston, and Marion Mayor Dave Mayfield all spoke in favor of creating the County Administrator position. Former Co. Commissioner Dan Holub opposed the creation of the position without first re-submitting it for a vote of the citizens.

Commissioners reviewed a draft resolution written by Co. Counselor Brad Jantz and discussed each point. Proposed changes were discussed. The Board directed the County Clerk to edit the resolution to include the proposed changes from the discussion and to send it out for review well in advance of the next meeting. No action was taken.

**SHERIFF:** Sheriff Jeff Soyez joined the session. Mueller 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 Soyez for five minutes until 10:36 a.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action. Mueller publicly thanked all emergency personnel in the County for their work during several tough incidents. Session recessed for 10 minutes.

- Fencing of livestock was discussed. Soyez noted that the Board of Commissioners is charged with viewing fences. Soyez suggested setting a policy regarding the number of complaints that would potentially trigger action such as confiscation of loose livestock for habitual offenders.

**COURTHOUSE OFFICE SPACE DISCUSSION:** Chr. Mueller asked for feedback from the Board to see if there is still interest in considering a new office building on courthouse square. The consensus of the Board was that it would make sense to consider that option. The topic will be scheduled for future discussion.

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November 30, 2022, Continued

**EMPLOYEE PAY:** Mueller 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 Spencer present for 15 minutes until 11:21 a.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with a motion by Mueller 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 Spencer present for 10 minutes until 11:35 a.m. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

- The Board discussed employee wages and the possibility of creating a longevity program. After discussion, Gehring moved to approve an additional \$2.00/hour raise for employees of the Sheriff and an additional \$1.00/hour raise for other departments except for Ambulance and Emergency Management effective in January 2023 in addition to the \$1.00/hour that was already approved to be funded in 2023 by wind farm proceeds. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 4-1 with Dallke opposed due to no sustained future funding source.
- Crofoot moved to implement a longevity policy based on full time hire date with the County at \$50.00/year of service subject to a policy being drafted and adopted by the Board. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Mueller moved to approve a budgeted one-step raise in July. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Chr. Mueller thanked the Visit Tampa Bay, Florida campaign for paying for 100 residents of Tampa, Kansas to fly there for a trip. Mueller said that 96 people are signed up including 30 children.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

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David Mueller, Chairman

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