

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

March 13, 2023

Commission met at 10:00 a.m. in Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. David Mueller, Comm. Jonah Gehring, Comm. Kent Becker, and Comm. Randy Dallke present. Comm. Dave Crofoot joined at 10:17 a.m. Also present was Co. Clerk Tina Spencer. Present for portions of the meeting were Co. Counselor Brad Jantz, County staff, members of the public and members of the press.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REVIEWS: Mueller moved to recess into executive session for department head performance reviews pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and department heads from the following departments: Department on Aging, EMS, Co. Appraiser, Planning & Zoning, and Road and Bridge until 11:30 a.m. Dallke seconded and motion carried 4-0. Comm. Crofoot joined the executive session in process. Open session resumed with a motion by Mueller to recess into executive session to continue a department head review pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Co. Engineer Brice Goebel until 12:00 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action. Session recessed until 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM: There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Becker moved to approve the minutes of March 6th. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Change orders affecting 2022 and prior years' tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board.
- Early check #47543 in the amount of \$135.00 was presented for approval. Gehring moved to approve. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Mueller moved to approve proposed changes to the Aging Benefits/Program Director job description. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Dallke moved to appoint Tracey Roberts to the Planning Commission Board / Board of Zoning Appeals for District Three. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

WEED/HHW/TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING: Dir. Josh Housman presented the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Report. Mueller moved to approve. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Housman presented the Noxious Weed Management Plan. Mueller moved to approve. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Chemical bids were presented: Van Diest \$42,715.13; Nutrien \$42,229.50. Housman recommended accepting the low bid. Gehring moved to accept Housman's recommendation and award the bid to Nutrien in the amount of \$42,229.50. Dallke seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
- Mueller moved to recess into executive session for department head review pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Housman present for 15 minutes until 1:15 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

PARK & LAKE: Supt. Isaac Hett presented mower bids from three vendors. Becker noted that a fourth in-County vendor should also be contacted. No bid amounts were announced. After discussion, Becker moved to reject all bids. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Co. Counselor Brad Jantz joined the meeting.
- The bid package for the dam repairs was discussed. A conference call will be scheduled for next week to further discuss with the project engineer.
- Mueller moved to recess into executive session for a department head review pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Hett present for 15 minutes until 1:45 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Dir. Krista Schneider presented the KDHE grant application for approval: Chronic Disease Risk Reduction (CDRR) \$14,180.00, Immunization Action Plan (IAP) \$3,181.00, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) \$14,549.00, and State Formula (SF) \$15,563.00 – grand total \$47,473.00. Mueller moved to approve the application. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Mueller moved to recess into executive session for a department head review pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Schneider present for 15 minutes until 2:05 p.m. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with a motion by Mueller to recess into executive session to continue the department head review pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Schneider present for five minutes until 2:13 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

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March 13, 2023, Continued

ROAD & BRIDGE: Co. Engineer Brice Goebel presented a salary change sheet, which was signed, for Sheyenne Feckner – new Equipment Operator I at \$2,855.00 / mo. effective 2/27/2023.

- Culvert bids were presented:

J&J Drainage Products	\$69,288.84
Welborn Sales	\$80,821.43
Contech	\$81,084.18.

Mueller moved to approve the bid from J&J Drainage Products in the amount of \$69,288.84. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- The Cost-Share grant application was discussed. Goebel presented several options for consideration. After discussion, Mueller moved to apply for cost share for 290th from Nighthawk to Remington for a total estimated project construction cost of \$2.2 Million with the County putting in a 50% match. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

CO. COUNSELOR: Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss pending litigation pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (2) for consultation with our attorney on matters deemed privileged under attorney/client privilege with the Board, Jantz, and Spencer present for 10 minutes until 2:38 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

- Other upcoming / ongoing matters were discussed in open session: including the bridge at Marion Reservoir; Lease agreements at the Marion County Park & Lake; Veteran's Memorial; Cattle Out Policy. No action was taken.

PERSONNEL DISCUSSION: Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss personnel/performance pursuant to K.S.A. 75-419b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Spencer present for 15 minutes until 3:07 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action. Session recessed for five minutes until 3:15 p.m.

- 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 3:30 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.
- Mueller moved to change the Park & Lake Superintendent from Step 3 to Step 7 (on the pay plan). Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Gehring moved to change the Planning/Zoning/Environmental Health Dir. position to Pay Band O, Step 7 (on the pay plan). Crofoot seconded and motion carried 3-2 with Becker and Dallke opposed.
- Gehring moved to change the Sheriff to step 4 (on the pay plan). Mueller seconded. Becker asked for justification. Gehring stated that the Sheriff had only received a \$2/hour increase when employees of the department received \$3/hour, and there has been increased transparency in the office and apparent good results. Motion carried 4-1 with Becker opposed.

PUBLIC FORUM: There were no public comments.

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Dallke said that the Board is trying to watch out for taxpayers and also be fair with employment decisions in unprecedented times. He expressed concerns about the budget and said that outside forces are causing the Board to have to make decisions that are different than in the past. Becker echoed this, noting that those on fixed income are facing difficult choices and that departments will need to look for efficiencies as we enter the upcoming budget process.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

David Mueller, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk