

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

June 5, 2023

Commission met for a human resources work session followed by regular session 11:00 a.m. in Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. David Mueller, Comm. Jonah Gehring, Comm. Kent Becker, and Comm. Dave Crofoot present. Comm. Randy Dallke joined the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Also present was Co. Clerk Tina Spencer. Present for portions of the meeting were County Counselor Brad Jantz, County staff, members of the public, and members of the press.

HUMAN RESOURCES WORK SESSION – Employee Manual: Proposed updates to the County’s employee manual were reviewed and discussed. No action was taken. An additional work session will be scheduled in conjunction with an upcoming Commission meeting. Work session adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Public Forum: Commissioner Dallke conveyed a citizen concern regarding roads affected by the Florence Grand Prix motorcycle race and encouraged the Board to pay more attention to aspects of the event before approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Becker moved to approve the minutes of May 31st. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Change orders affecting 2022 and prior years’ tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board.
- Crofoot moved to approve early checks in the amount of \$32,726.75. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0 (checks #51398-51408).
- Chemical bids for Remedy (4x1 – 192 gallons) were reviewed: Nutrien = \$57.69/gal. = \$11,076.48; Van Diest = \$58.39/gal. = \$11,210.88. Gehring moved to approve Nutrien’s bid in the amount of \$11,076.48. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- An agreement between Marion County and NF Construction for repairs of the dam at the Park & Lake was presented for review and approval. Gehring moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign subject to staff review. Mueller seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- The 2023 schedule for sale and discharge of fireworks in unincorporated areas of the County was presented for review. After discussion, Gehring moved to authorize the same dates and hours as last year. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- ARPA and LATCF funds were discussed. Becker moved to encumber the County’s LATCF funds (\$50,000.00) to be used for general County operations. Gehring seconded and motion carried 4-1 with Mueller opposed.

PERSONNEL DISCUSSION: Road & Bridge Superintendent Steve Hudson 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, Hudson, and Spencer present for 15 minutes until 1:05 p.m. Gehring seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action. Co. Counselor Brad Jantz joined the session.

VYVE BROADBAND GRANT SUPPORT REQUEST: Jeremy Huhman and Kenny Schiffner, Vyve Broadband representatives, joined the session and requested support from the County Commission for a grant application to build a broadband fiber network from Hillsboro to Lehigh. After discussion, Gehring moved to provide a letter of support. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

FENCE PROGRESS REPORT: County Resolution 2023-10 stipulated that a progress report occur on June 5th to ensure that adequate efforts have been made toward compliance with the order to correct a fencing deficiency on the north side of 70th Road. There is no new information. Comm. Dallke and Comm. Gehring agreed to check on the progress and update the Board.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Co. Engineer Brice Goebel was present for department business. A salary sheet was signed for John Beal, new Equipment Operator II at \$2,882.00/mo. effective 6/5/2023.

Transport fuel bids were reviewed:	Tank #3	Tank #1	Unloaded	
	4,000 gals.	1,500 gals.	2,500 gals.	Total
Epp’s Service, Elbing	2.8500	2.5900	2.7300	\$22,110.00
MFA Oil, Lincolnville	2.9975	2.7515	2.883	\$23,324.75

Gehring moved to approve the bid from Epp’s Service in the amount of \$22,110.00. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Area fuel bids were reviewed:	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	
	1,400 gals.	1,950 gals.	1,950 gals.	
Epp’s Service	2.849 = \$3,988.60	2.999 = \$5,848.05	2.849 = \$5,555.55	
MFA Oil	2.930 = \$4,102.00	2.900 = \$5,655.00	2.930 = \$5,713.50	

Dallke moved to award Areas 1 and 3 to Epp’s and Area 2 to MFA. Becker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

- Goebel updated the Board on current and upcoming department activities and projects.

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June 5, 2023, Continued

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT HEAD DISCUSSION: A draft job descriptions for Road & Bridge Department Director and edits to the Road & Bridge Superintendent job description were presented for review. The Department Director position would be the new title for the department head (instead of County Engineer) and the Road & Bridge Superintendent job description would still be the second in command of the department. Gehring moved to approve the Department Director job description. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0. The position will be advertised as soon as possible.

- Gehring moved to approve the amendments to the Road & Bridge Superintendent job description. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

2022 AUDIT REPORT: April Swartz, Varney & Associates, presented the County's 2022 audit. The financial statement and schedules were reviewed and discussed. Swartz noted that while there are no adverse findings, the bank reconciliation for the vehicle department should be completed monthly, and if possible – the bank should change the statements to reflect the balance at the end of each month.

- Gehring moved to accept the financial statement and audit. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Session recessed briefly.

CO. COUNSELOR: Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss matters of litigation pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (2) for consultation with our attorney in matters deemed privileged under attorney/client privilege with the Board, Jantz, and Spencer present for 15 minutes until 2:35 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

- Jantz asked whether the Board wanted to pursue a leash requirement in the County (for non-incorporated areas). After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to not pursue a leash requirement unless it is needed / requested by the Sheriff.
- Abandoned items in storage at the County Lake was discussed. The Board noted that this matter should be expedited.
- Docks at the County Lake were discussed. Jantz said he could provide a list of options for the Board to consider.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mike Beneke asked the Board to consider adding another handicap accessible parking space just south of the Courthouse, and possibly a railing from the southern-most parking lot to the ramp.

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Dallke asked why dirt roads are being maintained with berms on the side.

- Gehring said he agreed that dirt roads should be graded ditch to ditch and rounded instead. Gehring also noted that he would like to see all rock pulled onto the roads prior to equipment operators being pulled out of their sections for blacktop projects, and then moved back off before harvest.
- Dallke re-stated the idea of contracting blade-patch work and said that this work should not always begin at the same end of the County year after year but should alternate.
- Gehring reiterated that the County should be using gray (hard) rock on more roads because it doesn't need to be replaced as often.
- Dallke said that the County needs to be sure we are getting the quality of rock that we are expecting.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

David Mueller, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk