

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

June 12, 2023

Commission met in regular session at 12:30 p.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 Deputy Co. Clerk Ashley Herpich, Co. Counselor Brad Jantz, County staff, members of the public, and members of the press.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** There were no public comments.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Co. Treasurer Susan Berg reported that the County tax sale is tentatively scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The Board was in favor of holding the sale at the Marion County Lake Hall. After discussion, Becker moved to set the minimum bid at \$50.00. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Gehring moved to approve the minutes of June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Gehring moved to approve early checks in the amount of \$38,908.92. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0 (checks #51409-51414).
- A regular weekly approval of payables was discussed. The Board had no objection to paying weekly.
- Unencumbered ARPA funds were discussed. The funds have tentatively been set aside for a health department new build or remodel, but no official approval / designated amount has been set. No action was taken.

**8<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT 2024 BUDGET REQUEST:** Chief Judge Ben Sexton, District Court Clerk Jan Helmer, Court Administrator, Nikki Davenport, Court Service Officer Loyce Smith, and Court Trustee Director Stephanie Petrie joined the session to present the 2024 budget request for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. It was noted that in 2025 there will be a large cost for the purchase of a new server. No action was taken. Co. Counselor Brad Jantz joined the session at 1:02 p.m.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:** Comm. Becker said he would like Park & Lake Supt. Isaac Hett to be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss potential signage for docks.

- Becker noted that Riley County is considering changing to four 10-hour workdays and many other counties are already using that type of structure.
- **Fence:** Dallke said he viewed the fence along 70<sup>th</sup>, and he is not sure if any progress has been made. Some brush has been cleared, but no survey has been filed, and no construction has taken place. The Board directed Co. Counselor Jantz to send a letter to the landowner.
- Gehring noted that a fence along 190<sup>th</sup> near the McPherson County line appears to have been damaged by the County's motor grader. The matter will be discussed with Road & Bridge department leadership.

**HARVEY/MARION COUNTY CDDO 2024 BUDGET ALLOCATION REQUEST:** Kevin Gaeddert reported on services provided to Marion County clients and requested a budget allocation of \$70,000.00. Session recessed, briefly.

**PRAIRIEVIEW 2024 BUDGET ALLOCATION REQUEST:** Marcy Johnson and Matt Ankenbrandt presented information and statistics. Johnson stated that Prairieview is moving away from inpatient to a behavioral urgent care model. The budget request for 2024 was \$97,232.00.

**HOME COMMUNICATIONS, INC., GRANT SUPPORT REQUEST:** Becki Regier and Eric Norstrom from HCI indicated that they have been working on a grant application to provide broadband service to the City of Lehigh. Angie Schwerdtfeger of TCT Broadband Solutions was also present. The Board already approved a letter of support for Vyve's grant application for a similar project. After discussion, the Board agreed to provide support to both companies' grant applications. Gehring moved to provide a letter of support to HCI. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**CO. APPRAISER:** Asst. Co. Appraiser Carl Miller expressed confidence in Co. Appraiser Nicole Reid and the staff of the Appraiser's Office and thanked the Board for their support. His contract as Assistant Appraiser expires June 30<sup>th</sup>. Miller noted that he is available for phone calls if needed.

**ROAD & BRIDGE:** Co. Engineer Brice Goebel provided updates of ongoing projects and activities of the department. Goebel confirmed that County personnel did hit the fence structure on 190<sup>th</sup>. There seems to be some work occurring on the fence issue on 70<sup>th</sup> because brush has been cleared on private property.

- Goebel requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters. 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 only the Board and Goebel present for 10 minutes until 2:32 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

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June 12, 2023, Continued

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2024 BUDGET REQUEST:** Dir. Krista Schneider presented her 2024 budget allocation request.

**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 in matters deemed privileged under attorney/client privilege with the Board, Jantz, Herpich or Spencer, Attorney Andrew Holder, and Planning/Zoning Dir. Sharon Omstead until 3:10 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

- Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss pending 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, Ambulance Dir. Curt Hasart, and Spencer present for 10 minutes until 3:22 p.m. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.
- Jantz noted several ongoing items with no action. Docks were discussed. Jantz said he needs to spend several hours working with Park & Lake Supt. Isaac Hett to make progress on several matters.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Gehring noted that the state has designated \$4.7 million dollars to fund the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary.

- Gehring said he would like the Board to consider a scholarship matching fund in the amount of \$500.00 for Marion County students.
- Crofoot said he would like to have the Kansas Water Authority present information to the Commission about water sales to outside entities from the reservoir, which is the water source for three Marion County communities.

Letters of support were signed for Vyve and HCI.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

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David Mueller, Chairman

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