

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

August 21, 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 Co. staff, members of the public, and members of the press.

PUBLIC FORUM: Colby Hett, member of Marion County Quail Forever presented youth deer hunting requests for the former Marion County Landfill, and asked permission for the committee to engage in predator management at the site. Becker moved to approve the deer hunt applications and predator management. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Tom Britain commented about the noise and the flashing lights caused by wind turbines. He said that he is now taking medicine for high blood pressure and called Marion County the eyesore of the Flint Hills. He said the turbines should be turned off for the Flint Hills Counterpoint event on September 9th. He questioned to whom noise complaints should be made. Britain said his constitutional right to speak was violated through the judicial system in a political attack against him using taxpayer money.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Gehring moved to approve the minutes of August 14th. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Salary sheets were signed for Shelby Schroeder – change from Administrative Specialist to GIS Technician I from \$2,834.00/mo. to \$3,026.00/mo. effective 8/21/2023; Bryant Edwards – change from full-time to part-time Corrections Officer effective 8/14/2023; Dakota Bruckner – change from part-time to full-time Corrections Officer effective 8/15/2023; Chris Schmidt – new Corrections Officer at \$18.36/hour effective 8/14/2023.
- Mueller moved to approve utility permit 2023-19 (for McPherson Rural Water District #1 to work in public right-of-way along Alamo 1.25 miles north of 330th in Section 17-17-01). Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0. Becker moved to approve utility permit 2023-20 (for McPherson Rural Water District #1 to work in public right-of-way along Alamo 1.25 miles north of 330th in Section 18-17-01). Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Gehring moved to approve the AIA B104-2017 agreement between owner (Marion County) and architect (Alloy Architects). Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

TAX SALE UPDATE: Attorney Keyta Kelly and Co. Treasurer Susan Berg joined the meeting. Kelly provided a spreadsheet of properties that sold and the estimated overall cost of the sale. Kelly answered several questions presented by members of the Board. Kelly indicated that if she were to do the next tax sale, the fee would be \$275 per parcel (\$25 increase per parcel over the last sale). Gehring moved to proceed with Kelly Law Office on the next sale, following County policy. Mueller seconded and motion carried 5-0.

PARK & LAKE: Supt. Isaac Hett said the dam repairs are virtually complete. Seeding took place earlier than expected, which might cause the grass to die. Hett was directed to discuss this with the contractor regarding potential retention of funds and / or ability to reseed once weather is cooler. The matter will be discussed during the next meeting.

- Hett requested permission for Park Asst. Adam Benson to carry over 24 hours of vacation to be used by the end of the week. Gehring moved to carryover the vacation hours until the end of the week. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 4-1 with Dallke opposed.
- Hett noted that the Bluegrass Festival was well attended.
- Some trailer owners have requested consideration of a rule change that would allow them to utilize the trailers full time during the permitted occupancy season, instead of only three days/four nights per week. Hett will gather some additional information and the topic will be scheduled on an upcoming agenda for more in-depth discussion.
- The Board agreed to allow Hett to close the office for a couple of hours on Saturday, September 23rd so that Hett and Benson may attend a memorial service for a long-time trailer owner who recently passed away.

APPRAISER: Co. Appraiser Nicole Reid reported that a high school student would be starting an internship with the Appraiser's Office (and possibly rotating between some other offices) this week. The Board had no objections.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Interim Director Steve Hudson and Engineer Darin Neufeld of EBH Engineering were present to discuss the cost share project on 290th. Neufeld is the project engineer, but no formal agreement is in place. The Board agreed that Neufeld should present a formal agreement for engineering services on this project at the next meeting.

- The Board also asked Neufeld if he would be willing to assist the County with continuing to submit applications for projects while the Director position is vacant. Neufeld will work with Hudson to re-submit the most recent unapproved cost share application and is willing to assist the County with other applications as needed.
- The Kanza Road project is complete except for striping.

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DOYLE CREEK WATERSHED MITIGATION PROJECT: Planning/Zoning/Environmental Health Dir. Sharon Omstead joined the session. Brian Lang, Doyle Creek Watershed engineer presented information about a proposed low water crossing at Doyle Creek and 80th Road. The approximate cost could be around \$80,000.00. It is believed that the County would be reimbursed for all costs. The Board agreed that the Co. Counselor should be involved in setting the conditions of the project to be included in a memorandum of understanding. If an agreement is reached, the Board was supportive of moving forward with a project.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Public forum time on the agenda was discussed. Since it is rare for anyone to make a comment at the end of the meeting, particularly after executive sessions, Mueller asked whether the Board would be interested in going back to a single time for public forum, at the beginning of the meeting. The consensus was to leave the public forum time as-is for now, at the beginning and the end of the meeting.

- The County Administrator salary range was discussed. The Board agreed to set the initial range as recommended between \$100,000 to \$120,000.
- Spencer requested any marketing photos / ideas for the community profile brochure be provided by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, if possible.

PERSONNEL DISCUSSION: Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss the job performance of a specific individual 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 3:18 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action. Dallke left the meeting.

- Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss personnel/hiring pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board and Spencer present for five minutes until 3:25 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 4-0. Open session resumed with no action.

PUBLIC FORUM: There were no public comments.

COMMISSION COMMENTS: There were no Commission comments.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

David Mueller, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk