

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

November 20, 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. Counselor Brad Jantz, County staff, members of the public, and members of the press.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Tom Britain commented that non-residents had voted in the Florence City elections. He said that Harvey County has banned wind turbines and solar fields and he shared some of his personal experiences regarding noise, shadow flicker, and blinking lights from the wind turbines near his home. He also said he can no longer access free television channels and suggested that the County use some of the PILOT money to pay for basic cable service for himself and others similarly affected.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Gehring moved to approve the minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup> canvass, the November 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, and the special meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Dallke moved to approve early checks in the amount of \$38,771.49 (including longevity payroll in the amount of \$38,134.63). Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0 (checks #52647-52650).
- Gehring moved to approve pay application #1 for the remodel project at 1240 Commercial Drive in the amount of \$21,214.76. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Salary changes were signed for Mark Lockhart, new Equipment Operator II at \$2,940.00/mo. effective 11/21/2023; Tina Groening, from \$3,415.00/mo. to \$4,831.13/mo. effective 11/17/2023 - change from Deputy Treasurer to Marion County Treasurer; Preston Williams, from \$3,442.00/mo. to \$3,563.00/mo. effective 11/13/2023 – additional duties.
- An updated proposal from KVK for comprehensive systems management for the courthouse and annex was presented in the amount of \$2,346.00/quarter. Gehring moved to accept the proposal. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**CO. ATTORNEY:** Co. Attorney Joel Ensey updated the Board on continuing software conversion and department activities.

- Ensey requested an executive session to discuss personnel/performance. Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss job performance of a specific employee pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board, Ensey, and Spencer present for 10 minutes until 1:00 p.m. Gehring seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action. Co. Counselor Brad Jantz joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**SHERIFF:** Sheriff Jeff Soye was present for department business. Topics discussed included staffing, budget, vehicles, and drones. Soye said that Midway Motors is fixing the Dodge Durango and has pushed Chrysler and Mopar to honor the warranty.

**GENERATOR DISCUSSION – 1240 COMMERCIAL DRIVE:** Planning/Zoning/Environmental Health Dir. Sharon Omstead, Emergency Management Director Marcy Hostetler, and Road & Bridge Supt. Steve Hudson were present to discuss installation of a generator at 1240 Commercial Drive as part of the remodel project. The Commission initially rejected the alternate bid for this item. Specifications were discussed. After discussion, Mueller moved to allow the building committee to work with the general contractor to add a sufficiently sized generator to the project via the change order process. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 3-2 with Dallke and Becker opposed.

**PARK & LAKE:** Park & Lake Supt. Isaac Hett provided information regarding utility expenses for the Park & Lake. Electric utility costs of the trailer park were also reviewed. No other utilities can be tracked specifically for the trailer park. It was noted that water, sewer, electricity, and trash costs have all increased with no offsetting increase to lot rent or appliance charges at the trailer park.

- After discussion, Dallke moved to increase the annual lot rent from \$1,200.00/year to \$1,800.00/year effective January 1, 2024. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Gehring moved to charge \$100.00/year for each electrical appliance listed in the current agreement (instead of \$25.00/year). Crofoot seconded and motion carried 3-2 with Dallke and Becker opposed.
- An updated lease agreement was presented by the County Counselor for review. Jantz suggested that a work session be scheduled to review and discuss further. A two-hour work session was tentatively scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
- Hett asked whether the Board is ready to move forward with survey work for the next phase of the dam project. The Board asked Hett to bring back a cost proposal from the engineer for approval at the next meeting.
- Electrical upgrades for the campground near the trailer park were discussed. The Board was in favor of Hett seeing bids for a potential project to be completed by May 1, 2024.
- Dogs at large in the residential area were discussed. Jantz noted that there is no easy answer to the problem due to the nature of the unincorporated residential area.

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November 20, 2023, Continued

**CO. COUNSELOR:** Jantz asked how much time the Board was willing to assign at each meeting until the end of the year to make progress on matters previously discussed. The Board agreed to allow an hour (or until 3:30 p.m.) for each meeting for Attorney/Client business.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** The KAC annual conference was discussed, and voting delegates for various meetings were appointed. Gehring will be primary delegate, and Crofoot alternate for KWORCC, KCAMP, and KAC.

- Mueller moved to recess into executive session to review an employment application pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Board, Jantz, and Spencer present for five minutes, until 3:00 p.m. Becker seconded, and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:** Becker noted that a local bank executive indicated that a certain building in Hillsboro is available if there is County interest.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

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David Mueller, Chairman

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