

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

February 5, 2024

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. Present for portions of the meeting were Co. Clerk Ashley Herpich, Deputy Co. Clerk Michelle Looper, Co. Admin Tina Spencer, County staff, members of the public, and members of the press.

PUBLIC FORUM: There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Gehring moved to approve the minutes of January 31st. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. Crofoot moved to approve the minutes of January 31st canvass. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0 with Gehring abstaining due to absence (abstention counted with majority prevailing).

- Spencer informed the Board that the Kanza Road Project is winning a paving award from Missouri Kansas Chapter ACPA for excellence in paving.
- Spencer reminded the board that Marion City Council was to review/approve the CUP for 1220 E Main St (Health Dept) at tonight's council meeting.
- Gehring moved to approve early checks in the amount of \$10,715.18 (check #55887-55890). Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Salary sheets were signed: Michelle Looper from \$2971.00/mo. to \$3,347.00/mo.- change from Administrative Specialist II-elections to Deputy County Clerk/Elections effective 2/1/2024; Rebecca Mowat, new Administrative Specialist I at \$2,541.00/mo. effective 2/1/2024.
- A Burns city council member contacted the county about IdeaTek expanding Broadband into Burns, Elbing, and Whitewater and would like the county to provide a letter of support. Dallke moved to approve to provide a letter of support for IdeaTek Broadband Acceleration Grant application. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Mueller moved to adopt Resolution 2024-5 authorizing participation in rural opportunity zone student loan repayment program for the 2024 calendar year. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Change orders affecting 2023 and prior years' tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board.
- Chairman Mueller signed the approved LEEP Grant.
- The county department inventory was provided to the Board. During the month of February, the Board is to review the list of items and then approve at the end of February.
- KCAMP provided a settlement offer of \$46,505.88 on the 2021 Steco SWO-45 Steel Walking Floor Open 45' LX Trailer that caught fire in December. Crofoot moved to accept the settlement offer from KCAMP in the amount of \$46,505.88. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Active shooter training was discussed. Closure of the courthouse would need to be approved. The consensus of the Board is to close the courthouse for a day for active shooter training in April.
- The Board was reminded of the Soil Conservation dinner invite. Mueller plans to attend.

CO. TREASURER: Co. Treasurer Tina Groening updated the Board on department business. The Board would like investment reports to be included in the quarterly updates.

1240 COMMERCIAL DRIVE – Emergency Mgmt. Dir. Marcy Hostetler, Planning & Zoning Dir. Sharon Omstead, and Lloyd Davies with Great Plains Computer & Networking joined the session. Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss physical and cyber security pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (13) for matters related to security issues with the Board, Spencer, Davies, Hostetler, Omstead, and Facilities & Technology Operations Dir. Coby Hayes (via teleconference) present for 15 minutes until 1:30 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

Mueller moved to approve the purchase of physical and cyber security components for 1240 Commercial Drive at a cost not to exceed \$26,000. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mike Beneke stopped at the south shop to see some road and bridge employees and reported there was a good morale, and he was appreciative of all efforts during the snowstorm. Beneke hopes everyone will remain patient.

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Comm. Becker thanked everyone for their thoughts, prayers, & cards during this difficult time.

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February 5, 2024, Continued

EVALUATIONS: Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss department head evaluations pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters non-elected personnel with the Board and Spencer present for 1 hour until 2:41 p.m. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss department head evaluations pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters non-elected personnel with the Board and Spencer present for 1 hour until 3:45 p.m. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Dallke asked the board for an update on the neighborhood revitalization on the storage units in Hillsboro. The consensus was to put the matter on the February 20th meeting.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

David Mueller, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ashley Herpich, County Clerk

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
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February 5, 2024, Continued

Resolution No. 2024-05

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MARION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING
PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MARION COUNTY, KANSAS,

Section 1. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

Section 2. Marion County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 74-50,222.

Section 3. Marion County Commissioners hereby obligate Marion County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

Section 4. Marion County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years, if the resident individual meets the terms of qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

Section 5. Marion County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

Section 6. The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by Marion County and the State of Kansas shall be \$15,000 over a term of five years.

Section 7. Marion County shall allocate \$4,500.00 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. Marion County shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis and shall inform the State of Kansas of any changes to the annual allocation. Marion County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of September each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication.

Adopted this 5 day of Feb, 2024 by the Board of Marion County Commissioners, Marion County, Kansas.

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February 5, 2024, Continued

RESOLUTION 2024-05 SIGNATURE PAGE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, KANSAS

David Mueller
David Mueller, Chairman – District 2

☒ Yea
☐ Nay
☐ Abstain

Kent Becker
Kent Becker, Member – District 1

☒ Yea
☐ Nay
☐ Abstain

Randy Dallke
Randy Dallke, Member – District 3

☒ Yea
☐ Nay
☐ Abstain

Dave Crofoot
Dave Crofoot, Member – District 4

☒ Yea
☐ Nay
☐ Abstain

Jonah Gehring
Jonah Gehring, Member – District 5

☒ Yea
☐ Nay
☐ Abstain

ATTEST:

Ashley Herpich
Ashley Herpich, County Clerk

