

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

March 4, 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, 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 February 26th and 29th. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Gehring moved to approve invoices to Western Associate in the amount of \$1,505.86. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0 with Crofoot abstaining due to conflict of interest (abstention counted with majority prevailing).
- Gehring moved to approve the early checks in the amount of \$10,309.06. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0 (checks # 56138-56140).
- Change orders affecting 2023 and prior years' tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board.
- The board reviewed the list of 2023 encumbrances. Whether to extend the deadline to receive invoices or to cancel the unused encumbrances was discussed. Gehring moved to extend the deadline for the encumbrances until March 15, 2024. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Audit is scheduled for April 9-10, 2024.

PUBLIC FORUM: A public chat comment was received from Nathan stating he believes he missed public comment. With the road closure on Quail creek and 350th area, would there be anyway you the commission or Marcy can make a phone call to Union Pacific to advise them that blocking the roads with the trains and the road closure will significantly reduce access into and out of Ramona for emergency services. Giving them a heads up may be more mindful. Thank you.

BROADBAND GRANT: Angela Schwerdtfeger from TCT discussed the Acceleration Grant program of fiber high speed internet for the Hillsboro, Durham, and rural customers on Highway 15 and 290th road. Schwerdtfeger is seeking a letter of support and a donation if the grant is approved. After some discussion, Gehring moved to approve the letter of support, \$100 per household if the grant is approved, and flexibility on easement. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Dir. Marcy Hostetler and Facilities & Tech. Operations Dir. Coby Hayes were present. Mueller moved to recess into executive session to discuss physical security pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (13) for matters related to security measures with the Board, Spencer, Coby, and Hostetler present for 30 minutes until 1:35 p.m. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

- Emergency Management equipment storage was discussed. After discussion, Muller moved to proceed with the rental agreement that has been presented in Hillsboro for the Emergency Management equipment storage that is on a month-to-month lease. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 4-1 with Gehring abstaining due to conflict of interest (abstention counted with majority prevailing) and Dallke opposed.

1240 COMMERCIAL BUILDING TOUR: The Board, Spencer, Herpich, Hayes, and the press toured the 1240 Commercial building at 1:50 p.m.

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Dallke wanted to thank the team for putting together and presenting the Commission with a good product on the 1240 Commercial building and appreciates the work.

Mueller moved to adjourn. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

David Mueller, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ashley Herpich, County Clerk