

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

June 1, 2020

Commission met in regular session in Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. with Chr. Jonah Gehring, Comm. Kent Becker, Comm. Randy Dallke, Comm. Dave Crofoot, and Comm. Dianne R. Novak present. Also present was Co. Clerk Tina Spencer. Present for portions of the meeting were Co. Counselor Brad Jantz, members of the public (by teleconference only), and members of the press.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Public Health Officer Diedre Serene reported no new cases in Marion County, but that citizens should remain vigilant because COVID-19 is still here. Serene encouraged individuals to limit the size of their gatherings until at least June 8th, in accordance with the Governor's guidelines, and she suggested that individuals keep track of their movements so that as additional cases come to light contact tracing will be easier.

- Emergency Management Dir. Randy Frank said there will be food distribution in all Marion County cities this week.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Dallke moved to approve the minutes of May 26th. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Gehring moved to approve the minutes of May 27th. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Gehring moved to approve the minutes of May 29th. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

CO. ATTORNEY: Co. Attorney Joel Ensey and Office Manager Karen Selznick joined the session. Ensey provided a brief update to the Board, and then requested that Kaitlyn Christensen be approved to change from part-time to full time. Because a related party also works in the office full-time, Ensey requested an exception be made to the County's nepotism policy for this specific situation. Christensen recently obtained a degree in Crime and Delinquency Studies. Ensey indicated that the workload in the office warrants a third full-time staff member (in addition to the Co. Attorney). After discussion, Gehring moved to grant an exception to the County Attorney's Office from the County's nepotism policy. Becker seconded and motion carried 4-1 with Dallke opposed. After discussion, Gehring made an amended motion to grant an exception to the nepotism policy for the County Attorney's Office for this specific situation and individual (Kaitlyn Christensen). Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0. Ensey will work with the Co. Clerk to develop a job description and potential salary range for Board approval in the near future.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Co. Engineer Brice Goebel requested authorization to purchase a Grizzly Feeder to help separate smaller aggregate out of the concrete piles the County will be receiving from K-DOT. The unit costs about \$17,000.00 to purchase new, or can be rented for \$2,400.00/month. No action was taken.

- Other topics discussed were current projects, the department's "tickler" list, and work priorities.

TAX SALE: Attorney Susan Robson asked whether the Board will set a minimum bid for the upcoming tax sale. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was not to set a minimum bid.

PARK & LAKE: Supt. Isaac Hett reported on some issues that arose with ATV usage at the lake over Memorial Day weekend. Hett also noted that a form needs to be developed for dock owners and the County to sign that outlines the responsibilities of each party in regard to public dock usage, and also includes a waiver of liability for the property owners.

- Other topics discussed were authority for Hett to issue citations, the heated dock, Blue-green algae, and runoff from other properties into the lake.

RECYCLING DISCUSSION: Hillsboro Mayor Lou Thurston and City Administrator Larry Paine attended remotely. County budget concerns about continuing to haul recycling to Hutchinson were discussed. A work session was tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 15th at 1:00 p.m. for collaboration between Marion County, City of Marion, and City of Hillsboro leaders on this subject.

EXTENSION DISTRICT INITIAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Extension Agent Rickey Roberts presented the names of four nominees for an initial interim appointment to the new joint extension district. Gehring moved to appoint Lyman Adams, Roger Will, Bill Fish, and Brad Vannocker as the initial (interim) Marion County Board Members for the Chisholm Trail Extension District. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0. It was noted that these Interim Board Members will become the actual board members for Marion County once the district is officially approved by the Attorney General.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COMMISSION COMMENTS: Co. Counselor Brad Jantz was consulted on potential steps to deputize Park & Lake Supt. Isaac Hett to assist with enforcement of lake rules.

- The Hillsboro EMS station lot was discussed. EMS Dir. Travis Parmley noted that the City is developing a specific legal description for the property.

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June 1, 2020, Continued

COMMISSION COMMENTS, CONTINUED: Novak asked Jantz whether the nepotism policy should be removed from the handbook (including the case-by case ability of the Board to review and make exceptions). Jantz preferred to keep the flexibility of allowing the Board to make case-by-case exceptions.

- Novak asked Jantz if he could help to develop criteria for ranking businesses that apply for the CDBG-19 grant through the County.

Gehring moved to adjourn. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Jonah Gehring, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk