

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

April 20, 2020

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

**COUNTY COUNSELOR:** Gehring moved to recess into executive session to discuss potential litigation for 30 minutes pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (2) for attorney/client consultation with Co. Counselor Brad Jantz and the Board present until 9:35 a.m. Novak seconded and motion carried 5-0. Open session resumed with no action.

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** The Statewide Stay at Home Order has been extended through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Marion County Health Officer Diedre Serene updated the Board via teleconference regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. There are five confirmed positive cases in Marion County. Serene discussed the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) website where a lot of information is available. The Board asked that Serene include recoveries in her weekly report. Serene indicated that there has been one recovery in Marion County.

- Serene has applied for and is receiving several grants related to the pandemic. In addition, the state formula grant for the fiscal year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 has been increased.
- The restriction on out-of-county visitors at the Marion County Park & Lake was discussed. That order is in place through April 30<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken to extend that order or to cancel it early.
- Emergency Management Dir. Randy Frank reported that the Governor is working on a plan to open the State in phases once there is a sustainable decrease in new cases over a 14 day period. Frank reminded the Commission that we are still in response phase, not recovery phase yet. Food assistance is now a major focus. Frank has applied for several grants and other reimbursements.
- Frank encouraged businesses to apply for the paycheck protection and small business loans through the Small Business Administration, as there may be another round of funding.

**ROAD & BRIDGE:** Co. Engineer Brice Goebel presented transport fuel bids for review:

	Tank #3 4,500 gals.	Tank #1 2,000 gals.	Unleaded 1,500 gals.	Total
Epp's Service, Elbing	1.3065	1.0385	0.8599	\$9,246.10
Coop Grain, Hillsboro	1.3192	1.0631	0.8901	\$9,397.75
MFA Oil, Tampa	1.3599	1.1090	0.9191	\$9,716.20

Gehring moved to accept the low bid from Epp's Service (per Goebel's recommendation) for \$9,246.10. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0 with Dallke abstaining. (Abstention counted with majority prevailing.)

Goebel presented quotes for flail mowers:

Iowa Erosion Control	Ventura Trim Pro 225 85" cut	\$13,575.00	(six week delivery)
John Deere	Samaskz KBRP 200 79" cut	\$11,200.00	(June 1 delivery)
Tiger	RBF-2C-80 80" cut	\$20,088.90	(not stated)

Goebel presented quotes for used tractors:

G&R Equipment, Durham, KS	1992 White 170F FMWD – 170 hp	5,255 hours	\$36,900.00
Lang Diesel, Smith Center, KS	1996 White 6175 MVWD – 175 hp	10,822 hours	\$35,900.00
Kan-Equip, Wamego, KS	International 5488 – 165 hp	3,564 hours	\$15,900.00
Kan-Equip, Garden City, KS	Case IH 7420 MWFD – 195 hp	6,122 hours	\$52,900.00
John Deere, Concordia, KS	1997 John Deere 8100 – 160 hp	9,670 hours	\$49,000.00
John Deere, Emporia, KS	1997 John Deere 8300 – 200 hp	12,011 hours	\$38,000.00

After discussion, Becker moved to purchase the Ventura Trim Pro flail mower from IEC for \$13,575.00 and the White Tractor from G&R in the amount of \$36,900.00. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Informational items were reviewed: previously approved lease agreement for property near Lincolnvill to be used for stockpiling road materials, Clerk's report and budget activity reports for March, vehicle incident report for the Health Department, cancellation notice for the April Planning Commission meeting, and Department on Aging updates.

- Crofoot moved to extend the closure of County offices (continue current procedures) through May 4, 2020. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Gehring moved to approve the minutes of April 13<sup>th</sup>. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Early check #48399 in the amount of \$1,288.13 to Postalocity for advance postage was approved for processing from the Appraiser's fund.

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April 20, 2020, Continued

**ADMINISTRATIVE, CONTINUED:** Gehring moved to approve pay estimate #2 for the Transfer Station project in the amount of \$212,308.90. Novak seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Gehring moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a Cereal Malt Beverage Notice to Township. Novak seconded and motion carried 5-0. This is for a new application for Last Chance Bait.

**RECYCLING DISCUSSION:** Weed/HHW/Transfer Station Dir. Josh Housman reported that the first bill has been received from Stutzman for recycling, and the County is being charged \$120.00/ton. The Board noted that no changes will be made during the COVID emergency, but discussed ways to continue to carry on and fund recycling at a County level. Increasing the solid waste assessment fee was one option discussed.

- Marion City Administrator Roger Holter said that voluntary participation and a structure that charges individuals directly would be preferred by the City of Marion. He noted that the additional cost for Marion's recycling (above the regular solid waste expense) is approximately \$8,000.00 per year based on tonnage.
- Hillsboro City Administrator Larry Paine said that he will need to complete a sanitation rate study, but feels that they can continue with the current rate structure even with an increased cost of disposal.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT PHASED RE-OPENING OF COUNTY:** Becker suggested that the County should consider facilitating a collaborative effort with all the cities for phased reopening of businesses when the COVID threat lessens. Crofoot agreed, noting that the County should take a leadership role in assisting the cities and helping small businesses to develop marketing and additional resources like websites as needed.

- Holter suggested an accreditation process for businesses and for the County to help establish the standards and potentially assist with marketing.
- Gehring said he would like to designate a group of people to serve on a committee to help move the process forward, but no decisions were made.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DISCUSSION:** A written statement from Kevin Suderman, in support of an Administrator, was read by Chr. Gehring.

- Matt Voth submitted a written statement and made comments regarding his support of an Administrator.
- Gehring reviewed a packet of information including a flow chart and some examples of job descriptions.
- Paine noted that an Administrator does help with efficiencies, and would be able to allow the Board to focus on other things, like the development of a strategic plan.
- Gehring moved to approve the creation of the County Administrator position. Motion died for lack of a second.
- Becker moved to continue discussion about a possible County Administrator position and to dovetail that discussion into the budget preparation process and allow the Board time to conduct additional research and determine a possible funding level. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 3-2 with Novak and Dallke opposed.

**Public Comments:** Amy Soyez asked whether the administrator position would be advertised statewide.

- Linda Peters asked if there was any level of commitment from Commissioners to reduce their salaries if the new position is created.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:** Dallke expressed concern that no progress has been made with the City of Hillsboro regarding a possible build site for the Hillsboro EMS Station. Gehring noted that the City is working with their legal counsel to develop an agreement.

- Gehring commented that he had raised some concerns with tax sale attorney Susan Robson about the upcoming tax sale, and that answers are temporarily on hold.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Comm. Novak read a comment from Linda Peters, asking why masks are not being worn in the Commissioner meetings, and asking if they should be provided for those in attendance.

Spencer suggested that when County offices gradually re-open it might be prudent to require employees and patrons to wear masks, if it is recommended at that time, and also consider adding some barriers to limit direct face to face contact in County offices (plexi-glass or alternative barrier).

Becker moved to adjourn. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

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Jonah Gehring, Chairman

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