

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

February 18, 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 were Co. Clerk Tina Spencer, members of the public and members of the press.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Beneke reported that an incident / argument had occurred between him and Road & Bridge staff regarding snow removal recently.

- Matt Voth presented a letter to be signed by the Board on behalf of Marion County Fire District #2 for a grant application. He also indicated that he needs another letter to be signed by the County Counselor.
- Josh Tajchman was present to find out if the Board had decided whether to waive or offer discounted construction and demolition (C&D) waste disposal fees as previously requested. A policy has not yet been implemented.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Gehring made a motion to hold the tab (delay billing) for the Taco Truck improvements and building development on C&D waste until an official policy is made for disposal. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Change orders affecting 2019 and prior years' tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board. Novak abstained from signing two change orders affecting Novak Farms, Inc. Novak disclosed that she had inadvertently signed two change orders affecting Novak Farms, Inc., at a previous meeting. If necessary, she was willing to have the Board reverse the rebate to correct the oversight. The consensus of the Board was to accept the disclosure and continue the practice of disclosure and abstention if similar situations arise in the future.
- Dallke moved to approve the February 10th minutes as written. Crofoot seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Information about a previous program that waived C&D waste based on an application process was reviewed. The topic will be placed on the agenda for possible revision / re-implementation.
- Information regarding two past petitions for road closures (one on Chisholm and one on 310th) was reviewed. The Board noted that a new petition for closure could be filed by landowners if the issue is to be reviewed again.
- A new signature card for the working bank was signed by Chr. Gehring and Vice Chr. Dallke.
- Dallke indicated he would like to speak with Co. Counselor Brad Jantz regarding some questions about the 4th Fire District. The Board had no objections. Gehring noted that Jantz should share any guidance with the full Board.

THE RESTORATION CENTER: Joy Waldbauer reported that approximately 50 people have been served by the Restoration Center since the last time she appeared at a Commission meeting. After learning more about services being offered, the Board requested that the working budget and financial statement be provided for review so a decision can be made regarding a potential funding allocation from the County for 2020.

RECYCLING UPDATE: Josh Housman proposed to accept recycling on Fridays between 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This would be for commercial haulers (cities of Marion and Hillsboro) as well as the public. No trash would be accepted during those hours. Becker moved to begin hauling Marion County recyclables back to Fort Riley whenever possible with the backup to be South Hutchinson. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0. (It was noted that we should only haul to Hutchinson as a last resort, due to cost.)

- Crofoot moved that effective February 28th the County begin accepting only recycling at the Transfer Station on Fridays between 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. from the cities and the public until further notice. Gehring seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Crofoot noted that Housman should be considered for a pay increase due to increased duties in the absence of the Interim Director. Spencer suggested an executive session be held for discussion later in the session.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Co. Engineer Brice Goebel was present for department business. Goebel presented a road crossing permit for Flint Hills RECA to install electric line along 210th between Sections 29/19/4 and 30/19/4. Becker moved to approve the permit and authorize the Chairman's signature. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Gehring moved that the Chairman be authorized to sign the Request to Exchange Federal Funds under the Federal-Aid Fund Exchange Master Agreement. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0. (Such action signifies approval of program participation for 2020.)
- The Board signed an acceptance letter for Cook, Flatt & Strobel to perform the 2020 Biennial Bridge Inspections for Marion County in the amount of \$22,480.00, as previously approved.
- Goebel requested permission to bid on a used Rome disk on Purple Wave. After discussion, Gehring moved to authorize Goebel to purchase a Rome tandem disk on Purple Wave at a price not to exceed \$10,001.00. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

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February 18, 2020, Continued

ROAD & BRIDGE, CONTINUED:

- Goebel asked for permission to conduct a “blind study” to test rock varieties from several different quarries on different roads in the County. Costs and wear would be tracked to determine the best rock / value for future use in the County. The Board did not prohibit the study, but were interested to know which roads would be involved.
- Other topics discussed for possible future action were road maintenance methods and training, development of a policy for times when landowners take care of certain stretches of roads and the impact on the County, including the ability to purchase rock at County prices, stock-pile locations, and possible enforcement actions when people damage roads by “pleasure riding” in muddy conditions.
- Goebel was directed to get County decals on the new truck. The Board agreed that the 2016 Ford Explorer for multi-department use should also get permanent decals.

Public Comments – Road & Bridge: Marion City Administrator Roger Holter suggested that the County develop operational standards for employees, contractors and others to follow regarding road maintenance. If an individual does not perform road work at least to the minimum specifications on file, there could be penalties assessed.

- Holter requested that the County re-implement plans to cooperatively chip seal South Third / Sunflower and Eisenhower / Timber as previously planned, and also requested updated connecting link agreements.

PERSONNEL DISCUSSION: Gehring moved to recess into executive session to discuss pay rate, job selection, and performance for 10 minutes, until 12:00 p.m. with the Board and Spencer present pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.

- Open session resumed with a motion by Gehring to recess into executive session to discuss job performance pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel for 15 minutes, until 12:15 p.m. with the Board and Spencer present. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Open session resumed with a motion by Gehring to recess into executive session to discuss pay and job performance pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with only the Board present for five minutes (until 12:20 p.m.). Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Open session resumed with a motion by Gehring to recess into executive session to discuss personnel/job performance until 12:35 p.m. with the Board and Josh Housman, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Dallke seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- Open session resumed with a motion by Dallke to hire Josh Housman at a rate of \$3,200.00/mo. for the Weed/HHW/Transfer Station Director and to review his progress with required certifications in six months. Becker seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Session recessed until 1:00 p.m.

PAY PLAN WORK SESSION: Session resumed with Chr. Gehring, Comm. Becker, Comm. Dallke, and Comm. Crofoot present. Comm. Novak was absent. The current pay plan / structure and the report and recommendations provided by McGrath Human Resources Group in December, 2018 were reviewed. After discussion, the Board asked for additional information to be prepared, showing the cost of a two-year implementation for everyone making less than \$37,500.00/year to be placed at least into the lowest level of the pay schedule. Cash overtime vs. comp time and associated costs were discussed. Dallke requested information regarding comp time earned in 2019, and what the cost would have been if it had been paid as cash overtime.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION: Gehring agreed to talk with Hillsboro City officials to determine a specific location and potential lease agreement for the property on which the County will build the new Hillsboro Ambulance Station next year.

- Becker commented that a storage facility needs to continue to be a Board priority.

Gehring moved to adjourn. Becker seconded and motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Jonah Gehring, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk