

**CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen called meeting to order at 2:00 pm, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Gail Klaassen
- Commissioner Nicholas Galemore
- Commissioner Paul Westhoff

Others Present:

- Heather Elsworth – County Clerk
- Lori Nally – 911 Director
- Tohnjua Stipp – Appraiser
- Mike Brown – Road & Bridge Director
- Kathy Milner – Register of Deeds

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Commissioner Klaassen.

**AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda is used to approve non-controversial or routine matters by a single motion and vote. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- Accounts Payable in the amount of \$112,636.37
- Minutes from 4/12/2022

Commissioner Klaassen moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Galemore seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**SCHEDULED ATTENDEE(S)**

Taylor Hogue, SEKRPC – ARPA funds and Applicants who are qualified/unqualified.

Ms. Hogue gave the Commission a hand out showing what she means to file for reporting to state for ARPA funds used as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Those included were SEKRPC for \$31,091, Neosho County Fair Board for \$145,500, and Neosho County Premium Pay for \$163,577.95. Commission agrees to approve this report for filing.

Commissioner Klaassen shared that she would like to use the ARPA funds to fund some of the county projects. Projects that could be funded would be road projects in the county, Grady bridge, Road in Erie for resurfacing/shared grant with City of Erie, 21<sup>st</sup> & Plummer project.

3 entities applied and did not receive budget money for 2022. These entities were told to apply for ARPA funds. However, they did not qualify under the old rules within in the previous ARPA policy. The final rule has changed this policy for ARPA. Funds can now be deposited into county general fund, making the funds available to entities the Board of Commissioners chooses. Commission previously agreed to allocate funding for Osa Martin Safari Museum \$10,000, Osage Mission Museum \$10,000; Neosho County Fair Board \$12,000; and Erie Historical Society \$6,000. Total funding would be \$36,000 plus an ambulance of \$245,000 for NRMCM. The commission has received \$3 million. Total committed - \$700,955 which includes all payments to SEKRPC, 2 premium payments, and Fair Board. Leaving roughly \$2.3 million for expenses.

Commissioner Westhoff and Commissioner Galemore would like to help give money to Rural Water Districts in the county.

RWD No 2 had representation present at the meeting. They service citizens in 3 counties and are one of the oldest water systems in Southeast Kansas. They need 10 miles of line upgraded. Money awarded by Neosho County would be used for Neosho County residents.

Commissioner Klaassen moved to approve funds to be disbursed out of ARPA for the following applications: Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center for \$245,562 for an ambulance, Osa Martin Safari Museum in Chanute for \$10,000, Osage Mission Museum in St. Paul for \$10,000, Neosho County Fair Board for \$12,000, Erie Historical Society for \$6,500, and Rural Water District #2 for \$116,596.39. Commissioner Galemore seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

Tara Dillow & Angel Cushings – Adverse effects of the 30x30 Land Preservation Act  
Ms. Dillow requested the commission vote and sign a resolution to protect Neosho County from Biden’s 30x30 act (see attached documentation). Ms. Cushings shared many documents with Commission. These handouts can be acquired from the Clerk’s office with a KORA request.

3:27 pm Commissioner Westhoff moved for 10-minute recess. Commissioner Klaassen seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

#### **DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT**

LORI NALLY/ 911 DIRECTOR

Ms. Nally requested a 10-minute executive session for security measures.

3:31 pm Commissioner Klaassen moved to recess into executive session to discuss matters relating to security measures, regarding 911 for 10 minutes to include the Commission and 911 Director Lori Nally. To resume in the Commission Room at 3:41 pm. Commissioner Westhoff seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

3:45 pm Back in session. No action taken.

**TOHNJUA STIPP, APPRAISER**

Mrs. Stipp presented a Neighborhood Revitalization Program application and Neighborhood Revitalization Program extension requests.

Commissioner Galemore Moved to approve James Gilpin for a Neighborhood Revitalization Program application at 112 Crestview, Parsons KS for approximately \$504,000 in improvements. Commissioner Westhoff second. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve a 6-month Neighborhood Revitalization Program extension for Tim Harmon at 13699 Wallace Road, St. Paul KS. This is their 1<sup>st</sup> extension. Commissioner Klaassen seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Westhoff moved to approve a 6-month Neighborhood Revitalization Program extension for Melinda Kasten at 8227 250<sup>th</sup> Road Humboldt, KS. Commissioner Klaassen seconded. Motion passed. 2-0 with Commissioner Galemore abstaining.

Commissioner Galemore moved to approve a 6-month Neighborhood Revitalization Program extension for Jason Cleaver Carver LLC at 3820 South Santa Fe, Chanute KS. Commissioner Klaassen seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

**MIKE BROWN/ ROAD & BRIDGE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Brown presented an update on the Grady Road bridge project as well as upcoming road projects that will require road closures.

The District 4 Kansas County Regional meeting will be hosted by Montgomery County in 2023 and Neosho County in 2024.

Spring Cleanup free week at the landfill runs 4/26/22 through 4/30/22.

The Blast happened at the Neosho County Quarry last week.

The Commission agreed to allow Mr. Brown to go out for bid for new dump trucks.

Commissioner Galemore said at the intersection at 200<sup>th</sup> and Lyon Rd, the land owner owns all 3 corners of that intersection and has already done all of the ditch work. He's requesting 2 new culverts to go across the road to help push the water to the creek.

Mr. Brown requested that the Commission allow the Road & Bridge Department to buy culverts as needed instead of going out for bulk purchase bids due to the cost of steel.

Commissioner Klaassen moved to allow Road and Bridge to buy culverts from Cleaver Farm & Home as needed. Motion died for lack of second.

Commissioner Galemore would like to table this until the next meeting.

Commissioner Galemore moved to allow Mike Brown to purchase 5 – 30ft x 12in culverts. Commissioner Westhoff seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

No Quarry Contracts have been found by Road & Bridge and Mr. Neely does not have a recent contract. Commissioner Klaassen would like to see a new agreement.

HEATHER ELSWORTH/ COUNTY CLERK

Mrs. Elsworth presented a statement from Advantage that included invoices from 2020 and 2021 that remain unpaid for a total of \$3,048.20. Mrs. Elsworth would like the Commission to determine what fund these invoices should be paid out of since they would affect current budgets for services in 2020 & 2021. The Commission agreed the invoices should be paid out of the individual department budgets.

Mrs. Elsworth advised we completed a workman's comp audit with KWORCC and the County received a refund of \$4,829.00.

Mrs. Elsworth advised we are still waiting on an agreement letter from Robert E Myers Attorney at Law. His invoice was submitted on 2/12/22 and remains unpaid.

Mrs. Elsworth presented an invoice from CIC for the County's Annual Peopleware agreement renewal for \$8,625.00 which is a slight increase from last year.

Mrs. Elsworth clarified information reported in the Chanute Tribune. It was reported that there was a Department Head meeting and there was an understanding by all department heads that receipts may not be necessary for all purchases. That is not the case. It was agreed by all department heads that were present, and still present at the end of the meeting, that those receipts are 100% necessary down to the last penny because that is tax payer dollars.

Commissioner Galemore moved to suspend all County Attorney credit cards for his department immediately. Commissioner Westhoff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore would like to seek outside council to recover funds paid out by the county for Linus Thuston's defense during his private practice ethics violation hearing. This is around \$60,000 and was presented as County Attorney business. Commission agreed. Commissioner Galemore will compile some names and bring to next meeting.

Commissioner Galemore moved to re-appoint Scott Carson, Principal of Iola High school to serve as the Education representative on the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Community and Juvenile Services Advisory Board; and to appoint Eric Thomason to Mental Health Representative of the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Community and Juvenile Services Advisory Board. County Clerk will forward a letter to state this. Commissioner Klaassen seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

#### **COMMISSION DISCUSSION UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Vacating 210<sup>th</sup> Road – Discussion regarding the notice to vacate 210<sup>th</sup> and the legal description on the notice. It was determined that the legal description on the notice is for the viewing and a formal legal description will be included on the resolution to vacate. The viewing is scheduled to

start on the east side at noon on May 10, 2022. The Commission will meet after the viewing in the Commission Room at the Neosho County Courthouse.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to discuss, Commissioner Westhoff moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Galemore seconded. Motion passed. 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

  
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Commission Chair, Gail Klaassen

  
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Commission Member, Paul Westhoff

  
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Commission Member, Nicholas Galemore

  
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ATTEST: County Clerk, Heather Elsworth

