

Neosho County Commission Minutes
Regular Session
Tuesday June 27, 2023
Commission Room in the Neosho County Courthouse
100 S. Main
Erie, KS 66722

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

- County Clerk Heather Elsworth
- Commission Counselor Bret Heim

INVOCATION

The invocation is given by Caleb Stover, Good Shepard Lutheran Church

AGENDA

Commissioner Klaassen requests to pull the accounts payable from the consent agenda and adding leave requests for Maintenance Director. Commissioner Galemore moves to approve the changes to the agenda. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes from 5/16/2023 Regular Meeting
- Minutes from 5/30/2023 Regular Meeting
- Minutes from 6/13/2023 Outside Entity Budget Work Session
- Minutes from 6/13/2023 Budget Prep Work Session
- Minutes from 6/13/2023 Regular Meeting
- Vacation Request for Road & Bridge Director
- Vacation Request for Maintenance Director
- Payroll Clearing in the amount of \$77,709.62

Commissioner Klaassen moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

SCHEDULED ATTENDEE(S)

Matt Raird, Evergy – Not present.

Virginia Crossland-Macha – “Cost” of Industrial Solar Farms on counties – Ms. Crossland-Macha shares her story about information regarding energy and searching the truth and dangers on the industrial realization of transmission lines, solar farms, wind farm energy pertaining to South East Kansas.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

TERESA STARR, HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR – Department Update by phone – Requests for approval for 2 of her employees to attend a training.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to approve 2 employees from the Health Department to attend a KCSDV training in Topeka on July 10 and 11th. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

TOHNJUA STIPP, APPRAISER – Neighborhood Revitalization Applications

Commissioner Westhoff moves to accept a Neighborhood Revitalization Program application for Zachary Mitchell at 115 E. 7th Street, Erie KS as presented by Appraiser. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Commissioner Westhoff moves to accept a Neighborhood Revitalization Program application for Commercial property for Chad Newberry at 20935 80th road St. Paul, KS as presented by Appraiser. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

MIKE BROWN, ROAD & BRIDGE DIRECTOR – Department Updates. Tina sent a proposal to Commission on the fractured critical bridge components in Neosho County that need repaired.

Commissioner Galemore moves to approve contracts with bridge inspection for 5 fractured critical bridges, master agreement structure list at the cost of \$38,350.00 to be paid from Road & Bridge budget. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

40th and Queens – 40th curves off to the north and ties into Queens Road which creates a dangerous intersection. Mr. Brown recommends to eliminate the danger by removing the yield sign and replacing with a standard stop sign. Commission is agreeable with this change.

2:56 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel, regarding Road & Bridge for 5 minutes to include the Commission, Commission Counselor Bret Heim, Road & Bridge Director Mike Brown, and HR/Clerk Heather Elsworth; followed with a short break, to resume in the Commission Room at 3:05 pm. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

3:05 pm Back in session. No action taken.

Commissioner Galemore moves to approve Mr. Brown to replace one of the truck driver/operator positions. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Mr. Brown shares that he received a text from Dave Fillpot with Liberty this morning that Kale with IEA would be in town and asked if Mike and Tanner Yost could meet with him. It was too short of a notice to meet. IEA wanted to discuss which project that we (county) want them to start on next. Mike believes no project should be started until the box culvert on 150th is completed fully. Commission is agreeable.

4th street project is moving forward and County has committed \$150,000 to the City of Erie.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to pay City of Chanute for the 21st and Plummer project invoice in the amount of \$137,798.25 to be paid from ARPA funds. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Discussion had about Heckert Construction invoice and what fund to pay from. The invoice will be paid from the Road & Bridge budget as it is reflected in the Accounts Payable report.

Mr. Brown requests that the “no thru trucks” language be revamped for proper law enforcement protection. Commission is agreeable for Mr. Brown to work with Mr. Heim and Sheriff Taylor for proper wording of a resolution.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$131,512.24. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 2-1 Galemore opposed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Client Executive Session for potential litigation – not needed today.

Payment to Heckert Construction for work done on unofficial detour roads for Hwy 59 closure.
– Discussed under Road & Bridge reporting.

Solar Farm Moratorium –

Commissioner Klaassen moves to adopt Resolution R-23-G: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MORATORIUM ON CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL REQUESTS TO USE NEOSHO COUNTY ROADS, RESOURCES, AND/OR INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMERCIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Procurement Policy- Discussion tabled until the next meeting on July 11th.

Cell Phone Booster for Courthouse Basement – Commission is agreeable to place a landline in the basement. Commission is agreeable for County Clerk to contact KS communications.

Payment to City of Chanute for 21st and Plummer – discussed under Road & Bridge reporting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to discuss, Commissioner Westhoff moves to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:11 pm.