

Neosho County Commission Minutes
RNR Hearing, Budget Hearing, and Regular Session
Tuesday August 22, 2023
Commission Room in the Neosho County Courthouse
100 S. Main
Erie, KS 66722

REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING

Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen opens the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) Hearing at 1:30 pm. The purpose of this hearing is for Commissioners to declare that the 2024 budget will exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. The Commissioners will also hear and answer objections of tax payers relating to the proposed dues of all funds in the amount of Ad Valorem Tax and Revenue Neutral Rate. The published Revenue Neutral Rate is 42.909 mills. The published tax rate of the proposed budget for 2024 by the Commission is 48.190 mills. This exceeds the Revenue Neutral Rate by 5.281. This will result in a tax increase of over \$500,000.

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

- County Clerk, Heather Elsworth
- Commission Counselor, Bret Heim

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Westhoff moves to open public comment. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Bryan Coover, Galesburg KS – Inquires what the county is using the increase in funds for, why are taxes going up? Wonders why commission is not using funds in these CD's.

Commission Counselor Bret Heim explains the questioning of CD's, provides history to Mr. Coover.

Sydney Ball, Treasurer explains the current funds and budgeted amounts to Mr. Coover.

Tohnjua Stipp, Appraiser explains that 70 percent of the county received an 11 percent increase in assessed value.

Shirley Estrada, Erie KS – Shares her concerns with increasing taxes and would like to comment more during the budget hearing.

Commissioner Westhoff moves to close public comment. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Westhoff says he has received more info this year from Auditor and Treasurer. Commissioner Galemore agrees. Commissioner Galemore says he thinks this is a good proposed budget and likes the idea of locking raise increases for 2 years. Commissioner Klaassen disagrees. She wants to have a wage study and place increases into a contingency funds.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to close commissioner comments. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Mr. Heim presents Resolution R-23-H: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF NEOSHO, KANSAS TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE.

Roll Call Vote:

- Commissioner Paul Westhoff YES
- Commissioner Nicholas Galemore YES
- Commissioner Gail Klaassen NO

Resolution passes by a 2-1 vote

Commissioner Galemore moves to adopt resolution R-23-H: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF NEOSHO, KANSAS TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passed. 2-1
Commissioner Klassen opposes

Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen moves to close the RNR Hearing at 2:05 pm. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passed. 3-0

BUDGET HEARING

Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen opens the Budget Hearing at 2:06 pm for the purpose of hearing comments on the 2024 Neosho County Budget.

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

- County Clerk, Heather Elsworth
- Commission Counselor, Bret Heim

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Klaassen moves to open public comment. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Shirley Estrada, Resident Erie, KS – Ms. Estrada supports the increase in the mill levy but does not support the 2024 proposed budget due to how the tax dollars are being allocated, or lack thereof, for certain line items. She lumps it into 3 items; the lack of

allocations to special funds, employee benefits, and wage increases. She urges the commissioners to not approve the proposed budget before them today and presents options for a revised budget.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to close public comment. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Klaassen moves to open commissioner comments. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Commissioner Westhoff and Commissioner Galemore are agreeable to have a wage study done. Commissioner Klaassen has done some checking and suggests a company that Dickinson County used costing roughly \$36,000. She wants to put salary amounts/increases into a contingency fund.

Commissioner Galemore moves to close commissioner comments. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes 3-0

Commissioner Galemore moves to approve the presented draft 4 of the 2024 budget. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 2-1 Commissioner Klaassen opposed.

Commissioner Klaassen declares the 2024 Budget draft 4 is adopted with a vote of 2-1.

Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen moves to close the Budget Hearing at 2:53 pm. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd motion passes. 3-0

Commission will take a 6-minute break.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen calls meeting to order at 3:02 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 Wayne Shaw, First Christian Church

AGENDA

Mr. Heim would like to add wage study survey to New Business.

SCHEDULED ATTENDEE(S)

Wayne Gudmonson, KDOT – Darrin Petrowsky with KDOT will be taking over as the new District Engineer when Mr. Gudmonson retires on September 19, 2023. Mr. Petrowsky provides update on current KDOT projects in Neosho County. K-39 and US-59 corridor has been completed. K-47 corridor is under way and will then start on the HIR piece from Girard to east city limits of St. Paul, followed by mill & fill within the city limits of St. Paul and goes to the west city limits of St. Paul.

KDOT has decided to split the US 59 Neosho River bridge replacement & the railroad overhead pass replacement. The Neosho River replacement will start October 2023 and the railroad overhead pass will start tentatively November 2024. The official detour will be changing with the 2 projects separated.

US-169 passing lanes and white-top project is ongoing.

The US-59 River Bridge will be hard closed north of bridge project. Mr. Petrowsky suggests that it would be in the best interest to hard close at the K-47 junction. First part of November before valid signed contractor is on board for project. Earliest starting date about 6 months out from contractor signature on contractor.

Mr. Brown shares his concerns for the importance of reimbursement for detour routes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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:

- Accounts Payable in the amount of \$375,291.58
- Payroll Clearing in the amount of \$181,900.41
- Minutes from 07/25/2023
- Minutes from 08/08/2023
- Road & Bridge Director Leave Request for September

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

CINDY GRAFF, PAYROLL/HR COORDINATOR – Drug & Alcohol policy. Mrs. Graff provides an update to the drug testing process. She is re-working the policy with Health Dept. Director Taylor Noyce to make sure we have pre-employment and accident screening in place. The goal is to have a draft ready before the next meeting.

TOHNJUA STIPP, APPRAISER – Disaster Relief Application – Mrs. Stipp presents a disaster relief application.

Commissioner Galemore moves to approve a Disaster Relief application for Dr. and Mrs. Gurnsey, 18725 Ford Road, Chanute KS. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Mrs. Stipp presents a training request for approval.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to approve training request for Monae Westhoff in the Appraisers office for an excel basic and intermediate class in Topeka with a registration cost of \$250 plus expenses. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Mrs. Stipp advises one of the Appraiser's vehicles broke down while she was out of town for training. It's currently at Shields Automotive. Depending on what it costs, she would like to tell them to go ahead and repair it if it's under \$2,000. Commission is agreeable.

TAYLOR NOYCE, HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR – Department Updates and Executive Session for Security. Ms. Noyce provides a list of trainings the Health Department employees would like to attend. Breastfeeding week was Aug 1 – August 7. WIC celebrated with a special video posted on our Facebook page. Family planning will host a guest speaker next week. National Health Reproductive Conference is virtual Sept 11 – Sept 13. They are getting ready for breast cancer awareness in October. They hope to attend the Neosho County High Schools for their pink out games which are usually senior night or homecoming. Immunizations has been busy with back-to-school shots. The drive-thru flu shot clinic will be on October 5th. NCH is currently doing parenting classes, assisting family planning with upcoming events, educating current clients on ages and stages of development, breastfeeding, post-partum depression, as well as pre-natal and post-natal anxiety, CPR and first aid classes and is pre-planning for September for the resource carnival and other up-coming events. WIC numbers continue to rise within the county. Raising awareness to pregnant women & letting them know they may qualify for the program. Ms. Taylor has been finalizing grants for the upcoming year.

3:44 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess into executive session to discuss matters relating to security measures, regarding Health Department for 10 minutes to include the Commission, Commission Counselor Bret Heim, and Health Department Director Taylor Noyce to resume in the Commission Room at 3:55 pm. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

3:55 pm Back in session. No action taken.

DAVID BURNETT, MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR – Mr. Burnett shares a contract with PM contracting for the purpose of maintaining the new HVAC system. Integrated Controls company is monitoring the system online.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to approve the Base Level Semi-Annual Planned Maintenance agreement for \$5,700 with PM Contracting out of Grandview Mo. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Mr. Burnett provides a bid proposal for the purpose of necessary elevator repairs in the Courthouse. Commission is agreeable for proposal to be published.

Mr. Burnett spoke with Eric Craft who is the shop teacher at the Erie High School about the possibility of getting the students more involved and doing some community service by building a new desk for the commission room. They will meet to get dimensions and specifics and will hopefully have something to present at the next meeting.

LORI NALLY, 911 DIRECTOR – Ms. Nally had a hard drive crash on station 2 in dispatch. This is a station that dispatch needs to have so she had the hard drive replaced. Ms. Nally attended a 911 Advisory Board meeting this morning and St. Paul Fire Department advised they are entering an inter-agency contract between them and Galesburg. They are in the process of doing the contract and she will forward it on to Mr. Heim as soon as she has a copy of it.

MIKE BROWN, ROAD & BRIDGE DIRECTOR – Department Updates. Mr. Brown requests to purchase bulk storage tank for magnesium chloride.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to approve the storage tank location agreement between the County and Scotwood Industries for placement of up to 2 tanks at the Earleton grader shed. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Commissioner Galemore moves to treat Dorn Road from 70th to 80th for dust control. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Mr. Brown received the Road Use Maintenance agreement proposal from Evergy. Mr. Brown and Mr. Heim would like CFS engineers to look at it. The Commission is agreeable.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Client Executive Session for potential litigation – No update.

Indigent Representation Agreements – Mr. Heim suggested ideas on how to make contracts more appealing to attract representation; limit case load with a maximum amount. Mr. Heim requests permission to make modifications and resubmit the contracts.

Mr. Brown asks about the no through trucks resolution. Mr. Heim reads the resolution.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to adopt R-23-J: A RESOLUTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NO THROUGH TRUCK DESIGNATIONS OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF NEOSHO COUNTY UNDER COUNTY CONTROL, ALL IN NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

Procurement Policy – Mr. Heim provides a draft for consideration.

4:44 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess for 5 minutes. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

4:50 pm Back in session.

Mrs. Elsworth provides a copy of the Procurement Policy draft to each Commissioner.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION NEW BUSINESS

Wage Study Survey –

Commissioner Galemore moves to go out for wage and benefit survey. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0

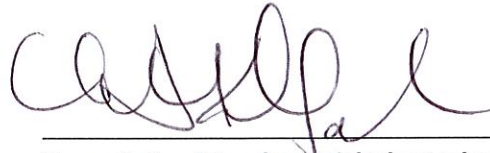
Mr. Heim will enlist HR/Payroll Coordinator Cindy Graff to help put together a Request for Proposal (RFP).

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to discuss, Commissioner Westhoff moves to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.



Commission Chair, Gail Klaassen



Commission Member, Nicholas Galemore



Commission Member, Paul Westhoff



ATTEST: County Clerk, Heather Elsworth

