

Neosho County Commission Minutes
Regular Session
Tuesday September 19, 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.

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Gail Klaassen
- Commissioner Nicholas Galemore

Others Present:

- County Clerk Heather Elsworth
- Commission Counselor Bret Heim

1:31 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel, regarding Health Department for 25 minutes to include the Commission, and Commission Counselor Bret Heim to resume in the Commission Room at 1:55 pm. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

1:45 pm HR Director Heather Elsworth and HR/Payroll Coordinator Cindy Graff were asked to join the executive session.

1:55 pm Back in Session. No action taken

1:55 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel, regarding Health Department for 15 minutes to include the Commission, Commission Counselor Bret Heim, HR Director Heather Elsworth, HR/Payroll Coordinator Cindy Graff, and Taylor Noyce to resume in the Commission Room at 2:15 pm. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

2:15 pm Back in Session.

Commissioner Galemore moves to hire Taylor Noyce as the Health Department Director for Neosho County. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.

INVOCATION

The invocation is given by Caleb Stover, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

AGENDA

No additions or changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shirley Estrada – Ms. Estrada received a copy of the 2023 employee benefits guide and the section of the employee handbook concerning benefits. Ms. Estrada expresses concerns about the wording contained and suggests alternate wording for consideration. Ms. Estrada would also like to see the rate that the county is paying for benefits and not just the rate the employee is paying.

Cindy Graff – 90th Road – Mrs. Graff shares her concerns about the professionalism of recent Commission meetings and asks for grace at these meetings.

SCHEDULED ATTENDEE(S)

Randy Dick and Hailey Marple with Kaw Valley Insurance – Provides an overview of Bukaty company who Kaw Valley Insurance has merged with. Shares some options and opportunities that Mr. Dick can provide through Bukaty. Offers their services of benefits through consulting to the county.

Kevin McGuffin, Chief Court Services Officer – District Court Remodel Update –

2:39 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess into executive session to discuss matters relating to security measures, regarding District Court for 10 minutes to include the Commission, Commission Counselor Bret Heim, Maintenance Director David Burnett and Kevin McGuffin to resume in the Commission Room at 2:50 pm. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

2:52 pm Back in Session. No action taken.

Jalaa Miller and Ryan Powell with IMA Benefits; Insurance Renewals – Provides summary to renewals for Blue Cross Blue Shield with an overall 2.6 % decrease for 2024. The decrease is due to lower overall utilization of the health plan. The estimated total decrease is \$34,169. The initial renewal decrease was 1.3% but through negotiations, the renewal came down to 2.6%. IMA presents several options for Commissioners, but suggests no change to employee contributions due to the decrease in renewals. Mr. Powell offers to unlock the tool and can offer changes to employee contributions based on the Commissions request. IMA recommends the following actions for 2024 renewal: Neosho County approve renewing medical, dental, vision with the current incumbent carriers, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Dental Delta of Kansas, and Superior Vision. IMA recommends Neosho County approve the medical and dental contribution illustrations as presented. The total cost of the renewal recommendations is \$1,337,482. The cost to Neosho County is \$1,166,752 and is an overall decrease of \$31,851.

Commissioner Galemore moves to approve insurance renewal for medical, dental, and vision. Medical with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Dental with Delta Dental, and vision with Superior Vision Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Employee contributions will be discussed and finalized at next Commission meeting on October 6, 2023.

3:45 pm Commissioner Galemore moves to take a 5-minute break returning at 3:50 pm. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

3:50 pm Back in session.

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 \$227,858.68
- Payroll Clearing in the amount of \$180,206.60
- Leave Request for Road & Bridge Director Mike Brown for the month of October.

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

SCHEDULED ATTENDEE(S) cont.

Tom Giefer, Brian Coover, Shirley Estrada, John Kramer, Carl Brungardt, Justin Graff. Request to formulate an Advisory Committee. Mr. Graff would like to explore the idea of establishing a committee with the primary focus of looking at road & bridge projects or road & bridge maintenance aspects within the County as a whole.

Mr. Heim provides comments.

Commissioner Galemore suggests tabling discussion until Commissioner Westhoff is present.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

David Burnett/ Maintenance Director – Mr. Burnett requests approval to purchase a new ice machine for the Courthouse as the current one is no longer operable.

Commission agreed for Mr. Burnett to research new machines and present price comparisons at the next Commission meeting on October 6, 2023.

Mike Brown/ Road & Bridge Director – Department Updates

Mr. Brown advised Commission that Dekon Strickland, Noxious Weed Director, recently resigned. Mr. Brown would like to hire him back on a part-time basis in order to handle the paperwork required at the end of the year.

Commissioner Galemore moves to hire Dekon Strickland, previous Noxious Weed director, as a contractual employee allowing up to 2 weeks of pay at his previous rate to be paid contractually through Road & Bridge. Mr. Strickland will need to provide a W9 or copy of Social Security Card to the County prior to taking on contractual work. The purpose for contractual hire is to complete the annual Noxious Weed reporting necessary by the State. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Mr. Brown requests to rent/lease a 6E/M/R 105-195HP for 12 months or 350 hours, lease is \$7,252.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to lease from PrairieLand Partners, a 6E/M/R tractor for 12 months in the amount of \$7,252 or 350 hours and authorize Mr. Brown to sign the contract. Payment to be made from Equipment Reserve. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Mr. Brown presents Commissioners with a Haul Route map for the US-169 project that is north of K-47 which shows the route the trucks will be utilizing to unload materials.

Mr. Brown presents a proposal from Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$16,157.06 to install a power pole at the quarry.

Commission requests additional bids for line extension starting at existing electric pole then going approx. 1270' North along the west side of quarry with overhead power lines to a spot at the top of quarry next to gates. Last pole will have transformer and meter loop with GFCI outlet built on to the meter loop. These bids pertain to the Quarry location.

Mr. Brown requests a mower swing arm. Discussion tabled until next meeting. Commission requests acquiring bids.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Client Executive Session for potential litigation – n/a

Procurement Policy – Mr. Heim request to add wording to the bid process when there are minimal vendors to go out for bid that provide a specific service needed. Commission is agreeable.

Evergy RUA Agreements – Commission Counselor provided statement of reply to Evergy on counter requests.

District Court 2024 Budget Signature – Budget signed.

Courthouse Booster – County Clerk Heather Elsworth presented a quote from Parcom to install a cell phone booster in the Courthouse.

Commissioner Galmore moves to install/purchase cell phone booster from Parcom. Equipment cost at \$2500 and \$1000 for installation to be paid from Courthouse contractual. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Mr. Heim presented an update on the wage and benefits study proposal.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION NEW BUSINESS

Commission Klaassen moves to notify Wood Insurance of the possibility of termination for 2024 with the intent to go out for bids of insurance. Commissioner Galemore 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Next Commission Meeting will be Friday October 6, 2023 at 9 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Gail Klaassen

Commission Chair, Gail Klaassen

Nicholas Galemore

Commission Member, Nicholas Galemore

Paul Westhoff

Commission Member, Paul Westhoff

Heather Elsworth

ATTEST: County Clerk, Heather Elsworth

