

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission Board Chair Gail Klaassen calls meeting to order at 1:00 pm, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Gail Klaassen
- Commissioner Paul Westhoff

Others Present:

- County Clerk Heather Elsworth
- Commission Counselor Bret Heim

INVOCATION

The invocation is given by Ryan Van Peurse, Galesburg Christian Church

AGENDA

No changes

PUBLIC COMMENT

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 \$249,220.71
- Payroll Clearing in the amount of \$174,337.77
- Minutes from 10/06/2023
- Leave requests for Emergency Management Director and 911 Director for month of October

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

SCHEDULED ATTENDEE(S)

1:00 pm Carla Rush – Mrs. Rush shares her concerns about the lack of maintenance for loved ones at cemeteries.

1:10 pm – Tom Geifer, John Kramer, Carl Brungardt, and Shirley Estrada – Mr. Geifer expresses the need for the appointment of a Road & Bridge Advisory Committee. District 1 constituents

held an informal meeting 30 days ago to discuss needs for repairs on the roads. Mr. Geifer explains that member of the informal current committee is requesting that Commissioner Westhoff have a stronger voice for them. Mr. Geifer is hoping to achieve the adoption of a half percent sales tax by placing this request on the November 2024 ballot. The committee would also be providing suggestions to Board of Commissioners on different projects or ideas relatable to Road & Bridge department.

Commissioner Klaassen is helping the committee with the help of Senator Peck to approve the sales tax percentage as well as shares her agreeance to participate in the upcoming informal committee meetings.

Commissioner Westhoff would like to see the interested members of the committee seek signatures through a petition.

1:30 pm – Hope Unlimited, Domestic Violence – October is Domestic Awareness month.

Commissioner Klaassen reads out loud the presented proclamation (see attached).

Commissioner Westhoff moves to hereby proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Becky Gray, Executive Director and Dee Yount, transportation Program Manager Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas. Ms. Gray and Mr. Yount are looking for a support letter from Neosho County as they are wanting to help provide services by placing an additional vehicle available for transportation to those in need.

Commissioner Westhoff moves to support the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas by providing transportation services to Neosho County and direct the County Clerk to draft a letter of support on behalf of the commission. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

CINDY GRAFF, HR/PAYROLL COORDINATOR - HR Update – Mrs. Graff provides payroll reports. Mrs. Graff clarifies budget process because she has met with several Road & Bridge employees concerned that they will not be getting raises in January 2024.

1:51 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel, regarding HR for 10 minutes to include the Commission, Commission Counselor Bret Heim, HR Director Heather Elsworth and HR/Payroll Coordinator Cindy Graff to resume in the Commission Room at 2:05 pm. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

2:05 pm Back in session. No action taken.

MIKE BROWN, ROAD & BRIDGE DIRECTOR – Mr. Brown shares updates on ongoing projects.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to approve Whitaker Rock Hauling to haul up to 10,000 ton at \$8.70 per ton. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Mr. Brown asks for approval to bid on a new bush hog. Commissioner Westhoff suggests bidding for 2 to see if we can get a better price. Commissioner Klaassen asks where this will be paid from because Equipment Reserve is getting low on funds. Commissioner Westhoff would still like Mr. Brown to seek bids for the equipment.

HEATHER ELSWORTH, COUNTY CLERK – Request for Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) conference voting delegate.

Commissioner Klaassen moves to appoint Commissioner Westhoff as KAC voting delegate for the upcoming KAC conference in December with Commissioner Klaassen as the alternate voting delegate. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

COMMISSION DISCUSSION UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Client Executive Session for potential litigation – Phone conference on Thursday

Procurement Policy – Mr. Heim provides updates to changes and will send out draft to department heads for their input.

Road & Bridge Advisory Committee – tabled

Evergy RUA Agreements – Mr. Heim negotiated and had conversation with Evergy representatives and is close to being agreeable to Commissions requests regarding the RUA.

County Insurance Coverage/Work Comp Coverage Bid Wording –

Commissioner Klaassen moves to submit the insurance proposal bid as presented by County Clerk. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

Mr. Heim advises commission that he received notice from the Attorney General’s office that Neosho County will be receiving another check from the opioid settlement in the amount of \$6,695.20.

3:15 pm Commissioner Klaassen moves to recess into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, regarding audit for 5 minutes to include the Commission, Commission Counselor Bret Heim, and County Clerk Heather Elsworth to resume in the Commission Room at 3:10 pm. Commissioner Westhoff 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0

3:13 pm Back in session. No action taken.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION NEW BUSINESS

Employee Health Fair on October 27, 2023.

Next meeting on October 31, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to discuss, Commissioner Westhoff moves to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Klaassen 2nd. Motion passes. 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 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



**PROCLAMATION
OF
NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS**

Whereas, Home should be a place of warmth, unconditional love and security and for most of us, home and family can indeed be counted among our greatest blessings. Tragically, for many these blessings are tarnished by violence and fear; and

Whereas, Domestic Violence is not confined to any group or groups of people but crosses all walks of life.

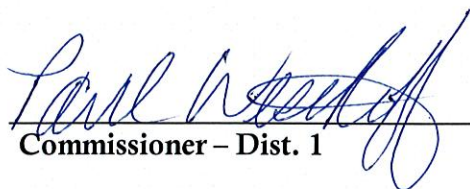
Whereas, A collaborative response is necessary to directly address this issue, including law enforcement, domestic violence advocates, health care providers, faith-based organizations, and other concerned citizens. We recognize the commitment and dedication of these professionals, volunteers, and citizens; and we applaud their efforts to increase public understanding of this issue.

Now, *therefore*, we the commissioners of Neosho County, Kansas do hereby proclaim the month of October as

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

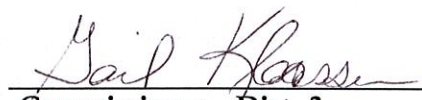
We urge all citizens to observe this month by becoming aware of the tragedy of domestic violence, supporting those who are working towards its end and participating in community efforts throughout the year.

Signed and dated this 17th day of October, 2023.



Commissioner – Dist. 1

Commissioner – Dist. 2



Commissioner – Dist. 3



HOPE UNLIMITED