

COMMISSION MINUTES, January 20, 2015

The Board of County Commission (BOCC) for Washington County met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20th, 2015 in the Commission room at the Washington County Courthouse. Members present: Tim Mueller, 1st District Commissioner; Roger Otott, Chairman, 2nd District Commissioner; and Gary Ouellette, Vice-Chairman, 3rd District Commissioner. Denae Jueneman, County Clerk, was present to record meeting minutes.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 26th, 2015 at 8:30 A.M.

Chairman Otott called the meeting to order.

Sharon Pierce, Public Works Secretary, called in to report Public Works had been broken into over the weekend. The Board told her to call the Sheriff's office to report the incident.

Jueneman presented bills and payroll totaling \$275,454.33. Jueneman said that Cemetery District #4 had turned in all records to the Clerk's office and there are currently no board members for the district. Jueneman has been in contact with the County Attorney to see what the next steps are regarding the future of the district.

Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to sign Resolution 01-15 waiving the requirements of K.S.A. 75-112a(a) and generally accepted accounting principles. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mueller received a phone call from the 12th Judicial District Community Corrections Director informing him of a meeting in Concordia tomorrow afternoon. Commissioner Mueller said he would check his schedule and let them know if he would be attending the meeting.

Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to sign an agreement between Washington County and KDOT to enable the County to participate in benefits from federal-aid funds and to comply with the inspection and evaluation of County bridges which was presented to the Board in last weeks meeting. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board received a letter of thanks from Three Rivers Inc. for the appropriation of \$5,000.

Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to increase the private vehicle mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.53 per mile. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mueller indicated he would like to see changes to the County's website.

Duane Bruna, Environmental Science Director, presented the Noxious Weed annual report and management plan. Bruna also presented a newsletter that will be sent out with a county-wide soil conservation newsletter. A letter that is handed out to construction customers at the landfill was re-signed due to the change in 1st District Commissioner. Bruna asked to enter into executive session under non-elected personnel and asked Jueneman to join the executive session. Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to enter into executive session. Commissioner

Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken upon returning to regular session.

A group of concerned citizens addressed the Board regarding the recent termination of Public Works Director, David Willbrant. Chairman Otott addressed Ron Wurtz, who called the meeting and placed the ad in the paper to get citizens to attend the meeting, by stating that the Board would not discuss the termination but was willing to talk about concerns regarding roads and bridges. Attendees expressed that they felt the roads in the County were the best they had been in years and didn't understand why the Board would terminate someone who could work well with farmers and township boards. Commissioner Ouellette said it was a hard decision to make and reiterated that it was a personnel issue and would not be discussed. There was discussion regarding plans to hire an engineer and some concerns about future asphalt projects in the County. The Board said that the money has been in the budget to get the projects done but the projects were not completed as they had planned.

Justin Dragastin, Dragastin Insurance, presented new insurance ID cards and the first half insurance premium. It was noted that the premium was \$7,723 less than quoted. Chairman Otott signed a fraud statement. Chairman Otott asked Dragastin to get someone to do safety trainings for County employees.

Dan Thalman, Washington County News, was on hand to listen to the group discussion and stayed on to ask questions regarding those in attendance.

Elizabeth Hiltgen, County Attorney, informed the Board that a tax foreclosure on 13 parcels has been filed. The Board asked if anything could be done about non-Courthouse visitors parking in front of the Courthouse. There have been several complaints about the lack of parking in front of the Courthouse. Typically, 6 of 16 spots are taken by employees from businesses across the street which limits the parking for patrons of the Courthouse. Hiltgen said parking regulations are set by City ordinance.

Commissioner Ouellette told Jim Finlayson, interim Public Works Director, that he had visited with Duane Bruna regarding Public Works' need for CDL drivers during snow storms. Bruna agreed that his staff would help Public Works if needed. Finlayson gave the weekly work report and said that every two years they are required to perform a reflectivity test at night of all County roads. The testing will begin next week and two employees will be working nights to administer the test. Finlayson indicated he would like to dispose of 3 backhoes that are in poor shape and buy one good one. The Board agreed and Jueneman advised that the County's purchasing policy needs to be followed and bids should be taken on the purchase. Public Works also has two motor graders in excess of 11,000 hours. The lease purchase agreements on two other motor graders are about to be paid off and Finlayson would like to dispose of two older motor graders and get two newer models on lease purchase. The Board agreed to allow the bid process for two motor graders. Finlayson said he visited with employees at Public Works regarding the process of sealing roads. In the past, a double seal was being performed but it was not holding up. In the future, the department will go back to a single seal. Commissioner Ouellette said he received a complaint regarding excessive smoke breaks at Public Works. Every employee is allowed two 15 minute breaks during the day and a lunch break. Smoke breaks should not be in addition to these breaks and if additional time is needed

outside the break time or lunch period, then earned leave needs to be used for the additional time. Commissioner Ouellette requested executive session for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken upon returning to regular session.

The Board broke at 12:35 for lunch and returned at 1:15 to hold architect interviews for the County Health Department project. Janice Kearn, County Health Administrator, and Hiltgen joined the Board in the interviews. Two architectural firms were interviewed. Kearn then accompanied one of the firms to the site for their review. The other firm will return tomorrow for a site visit.

Commissioner Mueller left the session at 3:30.

The Board approved 2014 Farmington Township year-end report.

Chairman Otott signed a public official bond for Commissioner Mueller.

The Board reviewed year-end inventories for the County Clerk and the Custodial Departments.

Pierce called to say it was discovered that keys to the Public Works building had been stolen. Chairman Otott authorized contacting a locksmith and changing all the locks on the building.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.