

COMMISSION MINUTES, July 13, 2015

The Board of County Commission (BOCC) for Washington County met in regular session on Monday, July 13th, 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, July 20th, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Otott called the meeting to order.

The Board reviewed consent agenda items. Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to approve all consent agenda items. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Appointed Alison Mueller to Clerk of Greenleaf Township
- Payroll change notice for Grant Ottinger moving to part time deputy
- No objection to the Beginning Farmer Program project in Clifton Township
- Denied appropriation to RSVP

Justin Cordry, Sheriff, submitted job descriptions and pay scales for the Sheriff and Jail departments. Cordry handed out a summary of what other counties are doing for department purchasing cards. Commissioner Ouellette asked Cordry's opinion on pay scales and insurance benefits.

Michael Meier, Robert Lohse, Chuck Turk and Dustin Minge, Hanover Legion Post 306, asked for clarification on obtaining veteran grave markers from the County and reported that many older veterans do not have a DD214 available for them to present to obtain a marker. After discussion, Commissioner Mueller agreed that, if a Legion member is picking up the marker, no DD214 is required since they are the record keepers of those who served in the military. Anyone other than a Legionnaire will be required to submit a DD214 to obtain a military grave marker.

Deborah Swoboda, Emergency Management Director, and Sheila Ouellette, Communications Director, reported on changes in the emergency alert system the County currently uses. The Department of Homeland Security has decided to use a different vendor than is currently used. Both Swoboda and S. Ouellette indicated the new system is meant more for large cities or urban areas that have many emergency personnel and asked permission to stay with the current system the County uses which would cost the County no more than \$500/year. Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to stay with the current system and sign a 5 year contract with the current provider. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Wiley Kerr, Mahaska, stated the roads around Mahaska have gone beyond frustrating and wanted to know what the progress was on road repairs. Kerr said the residents around Mahaska rarely drive the roads in Washington County due to their condition and instead conduct their business in a neighboring county or Nebraska. Kerr also feels that services such as law enforcement are becoming more limited due to impassable roads. Kerr invited the Board to drive the roads after it rains to truly see the condition of the roads. The Board said they would talk to the Road and Bridge Supervisor about the plans for repairs.

In citizen contact, Chairman Otott said he received a call from Raymond Bott regarding services and chemicals available at the Environmental Sciences Department. Commissioner Ouellette visited with Jerry Miller, Morrowville, regarding the condition of roads in Highland Township. Commissioner Ouellette also visited with Harvey Herra, Linn, regarding road concerns around a culvert south of Herra's home.

Don Alldrege, Janitor, reported he will begin repairs on the Courthouse steps.

Janice Kearn, County Health Administrator, handed out a monthly report on client counts. Kearn submitted bids on tires needed for department vehicles.

The Board received a KDHE notice regarding a proposed Kansas Water Pollution Control Permit for the City of Hanover, Little Blue River, treated domestic wastewater. Comments are due before August 8th, 2015. The notice will be on file in the County Clerk's office for public viewing.

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Elizabeth Hiltgen, County Attorney, discussed culvert issues in Washington Township.

Justin Novak, Road & Bridge Supervisor, joined the conversation on culvert issues in Washington Township. Novak stated his department has spent \$165,000 in dump truck repairs for the five most used dump trucks in the last 5 years and asked if the County has ever considered leasing dump trucks as opposed to purchasing. Chairman Otott said the County has never leased. Hiltgen said the ability to lease equipment would depend on the contract language. Both Otott and Hiltgen asked Novak to gather more information on the lease stipulations. Novak was informed of concerns brought up in citizen contact and the visit with Kerr earlier in this session. Jueneman reported she had received a phone call from Harold Schwartz, Hanover, regarding downed telephone cables in two separate areas of Franklin Township. Schwartz also asked Jueneman to advise the Board and Novak that since 24th Road, west of Quivira, had not been repaired, which he reported on June 8th, Schwartz repaired the road himself so he could get into his pasture. Novak reported that he plans to start sealing roads and he received notice that asphalt will not be available until the end of July. Novak informed the Board that Jim Finlayson, Assistant Road & Bridge Supervisor, has stepped down and returned to his former position. Novak advised employees in his department that the position is open and plans to promote within the department.

Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to purchase tires for the County Health Department from Pony Express Service as the low bidder. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board worked through lunch on the 2016 budget.

At 1:00, the Board met with Health Facilities Group (HFG) and McPherson Contractors regarding the County Health Department project. Hiltgen and Kearns also attended the meeting. Bill Sims, McPherson Contractors, presented a budget of \$402,000 based on architectural plans. Sims asked the Board permission to gut the building before going out for bids. The Board approved the action. Bruce Jones, HFG, reviewed final architectural plans. Minor changes were discussed and new plans will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.