

## COMMISSION MINUTES, July 20, 2015

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

The next regular meeting will be Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Otott called the meeting to order.

Before submitting bills and payroll, Jueneman explained to the Board that the Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA) made a decision pertaining to 29 Electric Cooperative companies in Kansas which resulted in the 5<sup>th</sup> certification of public utility state assessed values since June of 2014. Five of the 29 companies pay taxes in Washington County. Because of the decrease in value, Jueneman was submitting 139 change orders for the Board's signatures so the County Treasurer could reimburse those 5 companies for the excess taxes they have paid. These changes resulted in a \$169,338 loss in assessed value and \$24,609.96 in lost taxes for Washington County.

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.

- Bills and payroll totaling \$342,874.75
- Change orders 2014-60 to 2014-199
- July 13 official minutes

The Board asked Francine Crome, Appraiser, to join the meeting to discuss the use of earned time. The Board told Crome that a department head is permitted to leave work a little early and not use earned time; however, if the department head has a half day or a full day off, then the Board requires salaried personnel to use earned time for the time off.

Commissioner Mueller requested executive session for non-elected personnel and to include Jueneman. Commissioner Ouellette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Upon returning to regular session, Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to start having department head meetings the first Monday of every month. The first meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ann Hawk, County Treasurer, asked to allow department heads to vote on decisions like health insurance and time clocks. Commissioner Mueller stated that department heads would not have voting privileges but would be included on discussions and to accommodate the discussions, it was decided earlier to begin monthly department head meetings. Hawk requested a pay raise for Karen Scheele, Deputy Treasurer. Commissioner Mueller asked Hawk to submit a payroll change notice.

Duane Bruna, Environmental Science Director, submitted a Washington County Biological Control Plan and asked the Board to approve and sign the plan to control musk thistle. Chairman Otott expressed that landowners are making progress on eliminating the noxious weed but feels that musk

## COMMISSION MINUTES, July 20, 2015

thistle will always be around. Bruna disagreed and believes thistles can be eradicated by establishing a stronger approach to handling landowners who don't take care of the thistles on their property. Chairman Otott asked Bruna why the County is in the business of selling chemicals to farmers. Bruna said the County had the practice when he took over the department. Commissioner Ouellette stated the County should not be competing against local companies in selling chemicals for crops. Bruna said the decision was up to the Board on whether or not to continue the practice.

Justin Novak, Road & Bridge Supervisor, requested executive session for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Mueller made a motion to enter into executive session. Commissioner Ouellette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken upon returning to regular session. Novak stated Jim Finlayson has decided to stay in the position of Assistant Road & Bridge Supervisor. Novak and the Board discussed roads that will be sealed and overlaid this summer. Commissioner Mueller asked that either Novak or Jueneman arrange to get Cook, Flatt & Strobel on the agenda in the next week or two. Novak submitted an invoice for Highland Township. No action was taken. Novak presented information on lease/purchase agreements for new dump trucks. Commissioner Mueller made a motion to lease/purchase two 2014 dump trucks. Commissioner Ouellette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Fernandez, Professional Insurance Consultants, presented a revised spreadsheet showing comparisons of the State's health insurance plan and the County's plan and potential savings and costs associated with each plan. Last year, the County had a 24% increase in premium rates with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. Fernandez said she does not recommend changing plans now because there isn't enough data showing what rates will be this year if the County stays with BCBS. She also reminded the Board that joining the State's plan requires a 3 year commitment. However, she also stated that there are no guarantees on either plan and that the State plan averages an 8% increase whereas several other counties who are renewing with BCBS at this time are seeing much larger increases as Washington County did last year.

Hawk submitted a payroll change notice for Karen Scheele. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.