

COMMISSION MINUTES, March 21, 2016

The Board of County Commission (BOCC) for Washington County met in regular session on Monday, March 21st, 2016 in the Commission room at the Washington County Courthouse. Members present: Tim Mueller, Vice-Chairman, 1st District Commissioner; Roger Otott, 2nd District Commissioner; and Gary Ouellette, Chairman, 3rd District Commissioner. Denae Jueneman, County Clerk, was present to record meeting minutes.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 28th, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Ouellette called the meeting to order.

It was noted Washington County offices will be closed on Friday, March 25th, in observance of Good Friday.

Roxanne Schottel, Washington County Hospital Administrator, and Jennifer Hiltgen, Hospital Board Member, requested executive session under the topic of confidential data relating to financial affairs. Commissioner Otott made a motion to enter into executive session and to include Schottel and J. Hiltgen. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken upon returning to regular session.

The BOCC received notice from KDHE regarding a permit being reissued for an existing facility located in section 32 of Coleman Township. Comments are due by April 16, 2016. A copy of the notice will be on file in the County Clerk's office for public viewing.

The BOCC received notice from J-Six Enterprises regarding a permit application made for a new site located in section 33 of Sheridan Township.

Jueneman presented the 2016 yearly ambulance report.

Sheila Ouellette, Communications Director, and Mary Herrs, Deputy Communications Director, presented February Dispatch statistics and discussed Next Generation 911. An ambulance service agreement between Washington County and Jefferson County Nebraska was discussed. The BOCC will discuss the agreement with the County Attorney. Chairman Ouellette asked S. Ouellette if they were fully staffed in Dispatch and if it was possible to hire someone to work part-time in Dispatch and part-time in Emergency Management. No decision was made.

Don Alldredge, Custodian, discussed various maintenance activities.

Mary Oelschlager, Interim County Health Administrator, and Stephanie Knoettgen, RN, discussed a mass casualty plan to be presented at the upcoming LEPC meeting. Oelschlager asked to increase the wage of the Health Department Office Clerk. The BOCC said they would discuss wages later in the session and call Oelschlager back before the end of the session. Oelschlager expressed concerns over staffing and because of what she perceives as a shortage in staff, County Health has been turning down potential Home Health clients.

The BOCC discussed developing a neighborhood revitalization program similar to that of Marshall County. Elizabeth Hiltgen, County Attorney, said she would get a copy of Marshall County's plan and report back. The BOCC also asked Hiltgen to review the ambulance agreement with Jefferson County Nebraska.

Justin Novak, Road & Bridge Supervisor, presented an agreement with KDOT for emergency relief federal-aid road construction and a permit agreement with AT&T for use of public right-of-way. Commissioner Mueller made a motion to sign both agreements. Commissioner Otott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mueller made a motion to enter into executive session under the topic of non-elected personnel and to include Novak. Commissioner Otott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken upon returning to regular session. The BOCC approved the purchase of an AED defibrillator for the Road & Bridge Department. Novak indicated he needs to fill a full time position and one or two part-time summer positions.

Patricia Gulager, Director of Home Health Services, Medicalodges, Inc., inquired about purchasing Washington County's home health license and in turn providing home health services to Washington County residents under their agency Central Kansas Home Health. Medicalodges owns the nursing home in Clay Center and recently purchased the Clay County Home Health Agency. They can

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operate within 100 miles of Clay County with the Clay County acquisition and already have a couple of Washington County residents in their care; however, according to Gulager, they prefer to purchase Washington County's license rather than just taking the County's home health business. Gulager said the dollar amount that would be offered to Washington County will depend on several factors but stated Medicalodges paid Clay County around \$50,000 for their license and also rent space in the Clay County Health Department to conduct home health services. Clay County Health Department employees who provided home health services for the County have become employees of Medicalodges and Gulager indicated Medicalodges provides a very competitive benefit package to their employees. Medicalodges also contracts with Clay County Hospital for physical therapy and other needs of their patients. They prefer to keep services local and only operate in rural areas. The BOCC did not make a decision on the acquisition but did consent to allow Medicalodges access to information regarding Washington County Home Health Agency. A confidentiality agreement is forthcoming from Medicalodges.

Commissioner Mueller made a motion to enter into executive session with Tiffany Hayman under the topic of non-elected personnel. Commissioner Otott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Upon returning to regular session, Commissioner Mueller made a motion to hire Hayman as County Health Administrator. Commissioner Otott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Ouellette called Oelschlager regarding earlier discussion on wages for the Health Department office clerk. Ouellette stated wages for the clerk would not be increased because doing so would be unfair to other employees and would undermine the whole purpose of the new wage scale that took effect on January 1st. Additionally, the previous Health Department Administrator raised all health department employees' wages to the highest possible level on the wage scale; therefore, eliminating any upward movement on the scale. Commissioner Mueller agreed to meet with Oelschlager and Deb Swoboda, Emergency Management Director, on Wednesday at 5 p.m. regarding the upcoming LEPC meeting.

Commissioner Mueller made a motion to adjourn at 1:35 p.m. Commissioner Otott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

(SEAL)

Tim Mueller, Vice-Chairman, 1st District Commissioner

Roger Otott, 2nd District Commissioner

Attest:

Dena Jueneman, County Clerk

Gary Ouellette, Chairman, 3rd District Commissioner