

COMMISSION MINUTES, October 20, 2014

The Board of County Commission (BOCC) for Washington County met in regular session on Monday, October 20th, 2014 in the Commission room at the Washington County Courthouse. Members present: Alison Mueller, 1st District Commissioner, Chairman; Roger Otott, Vice Chairman, 2nd District Commissioner; and Gary Ouellette, 3rd District Commissioner. Denae Jueneman, County Clerk, was present to record meeting minutes.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 27th, 2014 at 8:30 A.M.

Chairman Mueller called the meeting to order.

Justin Dragastin, Dragastin Insurance, stated he received the Request for Proposal for insurance bids due in December. The date on the RFP states insurance to be effective January 1st but the current policy runs through January 21st. Dragastin asked for clarification as to whether the date would change because additional paperwork would be required for a date change. The Board confirmed the effective policy date on the RFP should have been January 21st.

Lou Kern, Washington County Hospital Board Member, phoned in to say there is a Statement of Substantial Completion that needs to be signed by the Public Building Commission and asked if they wanted to sign today or wait until next weeks meeting. The Board will wait until next week when the PBC will meet at 11:30 in regular session.

At last Monday nights special meeting, the Commissioners were asked why they were meeting without the Clerk present. Jueneman presented information on Open Records and the duties of the County Clerk to serve as the Clerk to the Commissioners. Chairman Mueller said she believes that it not required to have the Clerk present at all times. Jueneman later placed a call to the County Attorney to get clarification. The County Attorney will research the statues and present information next week.

The Board discussed whether or not to hire an architect for the Health Department project. The Board feels one is probably necessary for the bid process so that all bidders will have the same specifications for bids but they will discuss it further with the County Attorney.

Duane Bruna, Environmental Science Director, informed the Board that Fall Free Days at the landfill went well. Bruna would like to pour concrete in front of the recycling center next year. Bruna and four employees will be attending a free training in Riley this week. There will be no cost to the County except mileage and a meal is provided.

Janet Hieger, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Group Consultant, presented Washington County's health insurance renewal. Claims submitted by employees over the last year increased 45% which resulted in a 24% increase in rates for 2015. Hieger presented options to assist the County in keeping premium rates down. Options include increasing deductibles, having employees pay a portion of the premium, or offering a lesser plan and having employees pay for anything above that plan if they choose to richer plan. The Board did not renew the policy at this time. They will wait to hear about other bids which will be reviewed in next weeks meeting.

Rhonda Fernandez, Professional Insurance Consultants, was asked to get insurance quotes from other companies and also to look at options for the County to go back to a self-funded plan rather than a fully-insuranced plan. Commissioner Ouellette said he would like to keep the current benefits and give employees the full benefit without charging employees a part of the premium. He further stated that health insurance was a large benefit to working for the County since the County doesn't pay very high wages. Fernandez said that since the County doesn't get detailed information on employees' health, they may need all employees to complete a health statement to get a true picture in order to shop around for other insurance options. She will get more information on the health statement and return next week with the information. Fernandez reiterated that the IRS will require the County to track payroll hours in 2015. Jueneman said the current software the County uses does not provide for the IRS forms. Fernandez asked the Board if they wanted to see the software and time clocks. The Board told her to set a demonstration for Jueneman who could report back to the Board.

David Willbrant, Public Works Administrator, presented weekly work report and an anonymous letter he received regarding mowing and the rumble strips on Hwy. 36. Chairman Mueller reported there was a complaint that no rock or gravel had been laid on Highland Township roads all year. Willbrant agreed that if

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there was it was very little but he has it scheduled. Willbrant brought in samples of the onyx seal that was recently applied to Eagle Rd. north of Clifton. Willbrant stated that when compared to asphalt, onyx is more stable and federal studies show onyx has more traction than asphalt. Commissioner Ouellette received a call from Norm Rippe, Linn, stating that asphalt on the road has buckled and causes cars to drag when entering his service station. Willbrant said he would inspect the asphalt problem.

Elizabeth Hiltgen, County Attorney, presented information on fence viewing to the Board. The Board had a scheduled fence viewing in Lincoln Township at the end of regular session. Hiltgen asked the Board to gather information and bring it back during next weeks session for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

BOARD OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

(SEAL)

Alison Mueller, Chairman, 1st District Commissioner

Roger Otott, Vice Chairman, 2nd District Commissioner

Attest:

Dena Jueneman, County Clerk

Gary Ouellette, 3rd District Commissioner