

January 17, 2017

The Harper County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, with Chairman Brian Waldschmidt calling the meeting to order to Commissioners Lee Adams and Carla Pence. Also in attendance was Melinda McCurley, Recording Secretary.

Commissioner Adams motioned to approve the addition and abatements for a negative -\$9,477.36; approved unanimously.

Martha Hadsall and Jim Chromik, Joint Hospital Board, gave an update on the merging of the Harper Hospital District with the Anthony Hospital District. They are nearing the end of the petition drive with approximately 92% of the needed signatures. Budget and accounting reports were conducted that shows the project being feasible with funding from the benefactor and USDA loans. The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$30 million dollars. Of that 30 million, 17.3 million is for the building. The remaining funds will be used to equip the facility, parking, utilities, IT etc. There was discussion about who pays for the existing debt if the merger is approved and options for utilizing the existing building. The benefactor amount has not been determined. Jim stated there needs to be funds to "repurpose" the existing buildings. The desire is to not raise taxes. If the merger is successful, the hospitals will operate under the Anthony Board by-laws. Details of the boards merging are not known but the member at large will be voted on at the annual Board meeting in May.

Chris Hoskinson and Teresa Mandevill – NRCS – were present to discuss the needed maintenance on Wildcat Dam. A meeting will be scheduled with Road and Bridge staff to coordinate the work. Per the maintenance agreement from 1967, the County is responsible for equipment necessary for the repairs and NRCS is responsible for mowing etc.

John McClure, Road and Bridge, reported we had minimal damage with the latest ice storm. Crews will take a week or so to get roads back in shape after the heavy rain.

Todd Pettegrew, EM and Dispatch, reported on ice storm over the weekend with very minimal disruption. There will be an installation meeting next week for the new NIXEL emergency/community notification system. There is an upcoming storm spotter meeting hosted by the National Weather Service on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Adams motioned to appoint Todd as the South Central Homeland Security Representative; approved unanimously.

At 10:25 a.m. Commissioner Pence motioned to enter into executive session with Todd Pettegrew for non-elected personnel to protect the privacy of the individual and to reconvene the meeting in this room at 10:30 a.m.; approved unanimously. The meeting returned to open session at 10:30 a.m. with no binding action taken.

Commissioner Pence motioned to approve the minutes of January 9, 2017; approved unanimously.

There was discussion about the Road and Bridge weekly report maps not showing any activity with the mowers after they were to be started back up on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Adams will get a report from John on the status of the mowers and about getting GPS reports on the graders to show the frequency of how often the roads are graded.

Mildred Metzger and Andrea Reneau, Treasurer, gave a department update. Andrea passed around the idle funds report ending December 30, 2016. The amount shown is misleading due to showing all money collected for the different taxing entities. The amount will drop considerably after the 1<sup>st</sup> tax distribution for the 2016 tax year which should happen at the end of this week. There was discussion about the tax sale held last week. All property sold that was listed. The next step will be to file appropriate documents in District Court. The newly elected County Attorney isn't willing to file those. The Commissioners will meet with him next week to try to come up with an understanding on getting the documents filed. If not, a private attorney will need to be retained. Mildred asked why the salary for the Treasurer was reduced for 2017. The Board asked what percentage of work done in the office is work for the State of Kansas and not county business. Mildred and Andrea indicated it was approximately 80% and about 65% of that is motor vehicle but fluctuates from day to day. It was the consensus of the Board that the reason behind the decrease is partly related to bringing it back to the 2011 level prior to the administrator raising it to what it was in 2016 and partly because the taxpayers of this County shouldn't be totally responsible for duties pushed onto the County by the State. Mildred asked why she wasn't included in the conversation to set the salary. She wasn't available the day the discussion happened and the salary was set.

Commissioner Pence asked again for a reconciliation of fund 045 and 054 (partial pay account and advance payment account) that was asked for on December 5, 2016.

Lori Reedy, Appraiser, department update, working on processing NRP valuations so that taxes can be distributed. No person having any unpaid taxes on any property will be eligible for a rebate. Kitty mailed out 706 personal property renditions and they have received 18% back so far. Staff has been updating address changes before valuation notices go out in March. A process will be worked on to help ensure all departments get the updated addresses in the different software systems. Final review for 2017 values is approximately 36% done.

The imaging software is being installed today with the first department being the County Commissioner Documents. Lori reported that she will be traveling to Topeka next week for Local Government Day as well as legislative committee meetings.

Sherry Vierthaler, Health Department, department update. Staff will be attending a WIC in-service on January 27<sup>th</sup> and the next Advisory Board meeting will be held January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon.

Joanna Kenney, EMS, presented call statistics for the month of January to date. One monitor is having trouble charging in the ambulance. Joanna will research costs of new vs. repair and report back to the Board. Commissioner Pence reminded Joanna to keep the 4<sup>th</sup> ambulance ready for use. Joanna presented employment agreements for 4 of the 5 EMS students. The State Board of EMS will pay for the training if they agree to complete certain hours working for the County. Commissioner Pence motioned to approve the four employment agreements; approved unanimously. The Board reminded Joanna she needs to be on the schedule more often running calls. Discussion was held on recruitment strategies for paramedics.

Ami DeLacreda, HR, presented travel requests for Health, Aging, Commissioner, Clerk, Community Development and Sheriff for signature. Ami then presented an annual evaluation for an employee in the health department for review. There was discussion about the random drug testing policy. Currently only those driving county vehicles are subjected to the policy. It was the consensus of the Board that all employees are subject to the policy. Ami will add everyone to the random list.

Commissioner Pence motioned to void a check in the amount of \$146.62 and reissue; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Adams motioned to approve payroll in the amount of \$102,592.92; approved unanimously.

Ruth Elliott, County Clerk, was in to explain the transfer requests.

No reconciliation reports were provided by the Treasurer by the time of adjournment for fund 045 and fund 054.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 23rd at 9 a.m. in the Courthouse Commissioner Room.

APPROVED



Brian Waldschmidt, Chair

ATTEST:



Melinda McCurley  
Recording Secretary

