

April 16, 2018

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

Paul Southwick, Kenny Hodson Jr & Terry Stark with the City of Anthony, discussed the airport expansion project and the necessity of relocating a county road. It was the consensus of the Board that the Harper County Road and Bridge will construct the new road and then go through the process of vacating the current one.

Paul gave an overview of the EBH cost estimate to construct the water line for the Harper County Industrial Project. The City offered some of the construction labor if they could have the assistance of Rd & Br staff and equipment. Melinda will gather additional flow information from the Engineer to get an updated quote. It is the Board's intent to collaborate with entities on these types of projects in order to save taxpayer funds.

The Board is interested in participating in Kenny Hodson Jr.'s idea of a tax-entity work session to examine how taxes are affecting the growth of the County.

John McClure, Road and Bridge/Noxious Weeds/Solid Waste Supervisor, discussed littering with MBI trucks along route to Plumb Thicket. Regardless of what we were told earlier, the main office for Waste Connections will not agree to stopping MBI hauling during windy conditions. It was the consensus of the Board for John to keep a surplus truck at the Harper shop per Kent's request. The Board wants to ensure that repairs are limited on older equipment. Once repairs exceed the value of the equipment, it needs to be sold. John reminded the Board that a road grader lease will be up this summer and will not be renewed. It was the consensus of the Board for Andale Construction to purchase water for a construction project from the southern-most pond at the County Farm.

Jeremy Courtney, EMS Director, gave a department update. He is meeting next week with Harper Hospital staff regarding transfer policies. There was discussion about the policy on RNs attending to patients during transfers. The Board asked for an updated staff schedule. Commissioner Waldschmidt reminded Jeremy to be conscience of ambulance usage for trips that aren't call related. It was the consensus of the Board to advertise for 2 full-time paramedics to bring the full-time staff level to 8 (not including the director). Ami DeLacerda, HR Director, was present for the discussion.

Sherry Vierthaler, Health Department Supervisor, indicated that SCKADRC (South Central Kansas Aging & Disability Resource Center) funding is available to assist Harper County in-home service clients with eye-glasses, dental work, hearing aids etc. There was discussion about intern/summer positions. Staff assisted with the Health Fair last week at Chaparral. There will be a Community Interpreter meeting tomorrow with partners to develop a local interpreting service.

Ami DeLacerda discussed a summer intern program for high school students. It was the consensus of the Board to work with Britt Hedlund to hire 2 students for the Courthouse to mainly focus on document imaging and 1 for the Health Department for CNA services. These would be temporary summer positions and will involve

normal interview steps, including drug screening, as required for any County position. A program, under the guidance of Ami, will be developed for them.

Michelle Eshelman, current Deputy County Treasurer, was recommended last week by the local Republican Committee to be the County Treasurer. The County Clerk has indicated that this position must also be on this year's ballots for completion of the unexpired term. Commissioner Waldschmidt motioned to authorize Michelle Eshelman to have signatory responsibilities for the MIP fund; approved unanimously. The Board congratulated Michelle on her appointment.

Ami DeLacerda presented vacancy notices for a Motor Vehicle position and Clerk for County Attorney, as well as a new hire for dispatch. A travel request was denied for the Appraiser's Office.

Ami received an offer for the Historic Tax Credits - 91 cents on the dollar. Commissioner Pence motioned to approve the Tax Credit Agreement; approved unanimously. There was a discussion about the IRS Section 125 benefits plan. There was continued discussion about the noxious weed position, with John McClure and the applicant both taking the applicator exam.

At 11:36 a.m. Commissioner Pence motioned to enter executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss employer-employee negotiations, with Ami DeLacerda to remain present, and to reconvene in this room at 11:46 a.m.; approved unanimously. At 11:46 a.m. Commissioner Waldschmidt motioned to extend for 10 minutes; approved unanimously. At 11:56 a.m. Commissioner Pence motioned to extend for 5 minutes; approved unanimously. The meeting returned to open session at 12:01 p.m. with no binding action taken.

Commissioner Waldschmidt motioned to implement a burn ban for 7 days, with it being reviewed during the next regular meeting; approved unanimously.

Chairman Adams opened the only bid received for the county farm cash rent. It was from Adam and Jared Thomas, for \$57.00 per acre; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Waldschmidt motioned to approve benefits withholding and the voided-check listing; approved unanimously. Commissioner Pence motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 9, 2018; approved unanimously.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on **Tuesday - April 24, 2018** at 9 a.m. in the Courthouse Commissioner Room.

APPROVED

Brian Waldschmidt

~~Lee Adams~~, ^{Vice-}Chair
Brian Waldschmidt

ATTEST:

Melinda McCurley
Melinda McCurley
Recording Secretary