

## COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

November 20, 2023

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, November 20, 2023. Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Debora Smith and Member Ryley Hembry present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Kelly Gourley, Roberta Turner, Sidney Ammon, Darren Ammon, Diane Walters, and Felicia Strahm.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a flyer from Midwest Land Group; a letter from FEMA concerning the deadline to adopt a floodplain ordinance; and midmonth accounts payable.
- Update: Commissioner Hembry updated the board on a nursing home heater issue.
- Correspondence Action: Clerk Harlow requested permission to pay the required 50% down on the Glassman bill to schedule the work at the same time the county issues APAC's final payment for the N 60<sup>th</sup> Rd reclamation project. The board approved. The board set the start time for the November 30 end-of-month meeting at 8:30 a.m. Debora Smith moved to approve midmonth accounts payable in the amount of \$60,553.71, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Economic Development: Economic Development Director Kelly Gourley reported that the county was awarded a \$141,642 CDBG-CVR grant. This grant will be turned into mini-grants for local businesses to improve resiliency. Gourley highlighted requirements that businesses must meet to qualify for the grant. Economic Development has requested that businesses submit a survey by November 30 and attend a meeting on December 6. Bri Beck, grant administrator, will be at the meeting to answer business owners' questions.
- Transportation Bus: Transportation Bus Director Roberta Turner presented two letters needing approval to submit with the grant application. Dennis Ray moved to approve the two letters between Lincoln County and the State of Kansas for the 2025 grant application, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Recess:  
Reconvene Canvass: The chairman recessed the meeting at 9:30 a.m. The chairman reconvened the Board of Canvassers at 9:30 a.m. to finalize the results of the November 7, 2023, City/School Election. Pursuant to K.S.A. 25-3108(b), the Board of Canvassers broke the tie votes by coin toss for the City of Sylvan Grove City Council Position 3 and Position 5. The Position 3 winner was announced as Darren Ammon, and the Position 5 winner was announced as Stephanie Lloyd. The board finalized and certified the abstracts of votes cast in Lincoln County, Kansas, in the November 7, 2023, General Election. The chairman adjourned the canvass at 9:38 a.m.
- Adjourn Canvass:
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:38 a.m.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the minutes of November 13 as presented, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Health Department: The board discussed the email from Health Nurse Administrator Elizabeth Sheldon regarding the sinkhole discovered in the health department parking lot during the drainage repair. Board

members agreed that a special meeting was not warranted and that Sheldon could decide to authorize the repair.

**ARPA Funding Request:** Commissioner Ray inquired whether the board had considered the City of Barnard's request for additional ARPA funding. The board discussed that the remaining funds had already been committed to the courthouse drainage project, and if additional funds were granted would that open the door for all of the other projects to request additional funds. Commissioner Ray indicated that the City of Barnard was also applying for grant funds to complete the project. The board took no action on this date.

**Nursing Home:** Nursing Home Administrator Diane Walters provided an update on nursing home repairs and activities. The group discussed the bids received to replace the washer. Dennis Ray moved to approve the purchase of the Wascomat model number WGD745 in the amount of \$16,793.63, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Commissioner Hembry inquired about whether Uhl Construction had provided a bid to replace the missing pieces of flashing. Walters related that she has not received a bid. The board requested that Walters contact additional contractors for a bid.

**Human Resources:** Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm notified the board that BeneBlock has provided pricing from Reliance Matrix to offer short-term disability insurance plans equal to the plan currently provided for the same rates. Debora Smith moved to accept the proposal from Reliance Matrix for short-term disability coverage for the Lincoln County employee group, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Strahm provided the required HSA contribution rates for the 2024 year; currently, the county is paying \$100 per HDHP plan. The new rates would reduce the county's contribution to the single plan. Dennis Ray moved to set the rates for 2024 for HSA accounts for the singles at \$83.33 and for the dependent plans at \$166.67, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Strahm inquired whether the board would honor wellness discounts for employees who earned their wellness points in 2023 for the 2024 year, as the State will not provide a discount to those employees as they did not complete the State's wellness program. The board approved allowing the discount for all employees who completed the wellness program. Strahm related that all part-time employees who work over 1,000 hours per year qualify for health insurance beginning January 1. The State Health Plan allows participants to charge a higher employee rate for eligible employees and requested that the board set the rates for part-time employees. Debora Smith moved for any part-time employees that are eligible for health insurance that their rates would be that as dictated by the State, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Commissioner Hembry inquired whether Strahm had received pricing for biometric features to the timeclock, and Commissioner Ray asked whether the process had started on replacing the retiring EMS employee.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Hembry clarified and discussed a situation that occurred following the November 13 commission meeting.

**Adjourn:** The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m. The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. Monday, November 27, 2023, in the courthouse commission meeting room.

**Clerk's Note:** Beginning January 1, 2024, the Lincoln County Clerk will not be responsible for live streaming and video recording the commission meetings. Comments, suggestions, or volunteers should go directly to the Board by contacting your commissioner or attending a commission meeting.