

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

January 29, 2024

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, January 29, 2024. Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Debora Smith present and Member Ryley Hembry absent. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Norman Mannel, Jesse Knight, Tyler Garner, Felicia Strahm, Ben Crooks, and Veronica Padilla.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a notification from the Kansas Supreme Court that the county appointee for the non-lawyer member to the Judicial Nominating Commission is expiring; and tax abatements.
- Tax Abatements: Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatements 2023-15 through 2023-28 in the amount of \$4,148.49, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.
- Solid Waste: County Clerk Harlow provided an invoice for the board's approval to convert solid waste business billing between software companies and create reoccurring invoicing. Clerk Harlow discussed the new platform and the pricing for alternative services. The board approved the invoice.
- Flood Plain: Emergency Manager Jesse Knight discussed building and floodplain permits and fees. Knight discussed inquiries and applications received to build in the floodplain. The group discussed whether the county has completed the steps necessary to require residents to obtain building permits. The board requested that Knight contact the county attorney regarding the building permits.
- Landfill Backhoe: Commissioner Ray provided an estimate to service and repair the landfill backhoe.
- Highway Department: Highway Department Office Manager Tyler Garner reported that Double Check could not get the equipment previously quoted and provided an estimate for a different dispenser. Debora Smith moved to approve the bid from Double Check Company in the amount of \$37,586 to replace the pumps, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Dennis Ray moved to rescind the motion from January 22 for the purchase from Double Check Company in the amount of \$36,879, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried.
- Commients: Norman Mannel inquired about who has access to the keys for the display case on the main floor of the courthouse. Mannel discussed APAC and water rights.
- Economic Development: Economic Development Director Kelly Gourley provided an update on activities occurring for the Big Kansas Road Trip that will happen the first weekend of May. The group discussed the announcement that the Bike Across Kansas will be stopping in Lincoln in June.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the January 22, 2024 minutes, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.

- Jail Feasibility Study: Ben Crooks and Veronica Padilla, JSS, LLC, presented the Jail Needs Assessment final report. The report used historical crime and incarceration data to forecast future beds needed to meet the demand. It evaluated the current facility along with four additional sites that were previously identified to determine the best option moving forward. Crooks recommended the county perform minimum upgrades to address shortcomings regarding life safety issues at the sheriff's department until a new facility can be constructed. Crooks recommended that site #1, the parking lot north of the courthouse, be considered first as a site for a new jail. Crooks provided information on modular jail cells.
- Transportation Bus: The board discussed the red bus and their intent to sell the vehicle. Chairman Ray will notify Bus Director Roberta Turner that they intend to sell the vehicle and stop utilizing it as a bus.
- Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm presented the annual resolution with pay increases approved by the board and department heads. Dennis Ray moved to approve Resolution 2024-06, where the Board of County Commissioners, Lincoln County, hereby set the following salaries for County Officials and employees effective December 26, 2023, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to grant Jesse Knight a two-step increase to \$22.73 per hour for completion of his emergency management certification, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Dennis Ray moved to approve a step increase for Cody Flinn at the amount of \$14.95, as he was inadvertently missed last year, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried.
- Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024.