

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

April 8, 2024

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Monday, April 8, 2024. 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: Dustin Florence, Felicia Strahm, Rhonda Wright, Brandon Cochran, Dale Hlad, Daniel Muchow, Roberta Turner, Kelly Gourley, and Carol Torkelson (via telephone).
- Correspondence: Correspondence: a bill for Lincoln Park Manor; information from Sylvan Lawn Care regarding trees on the courthouse grounds; and a text message concern from a resident regarding disposing of CD materials on Saturdays.
- Courthouse Renovation Project: The board discussed the design plan for drainage improvements that will carry water from the courthouse to the city's drainage system. Commissioner Ray will contact TreanorHL regarding questions.
- Minutes Approved: Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Law Enforcement: Sheriff Dustin Florence answered the board's questions about deputies taking the EMT class. Florence provided information on replacing the department's generator. Surplus firearms will be auctioned on April 20.
- Executive Session: Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing employees in the appraiser's office, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the commission, County Appraiser Rhonda Wright, and HR Felicia Strahm, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Time in: 9:15 a.m. Time out: 9:25 a.m.
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:25 a.m. County Appraiser Rhonda Wright announced her upcoming retirement. The board requested that Strahm advertise the appraiser position.
- Ambulance Service: Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran provided an update on remitting patient payments and direct deposit information to the County Treasurer for ambulance claims. Cochran has forwarded the Medicare renewal information to Delisa's Medical Billing for assistance. The group discussed department overtime being paid and employee scheduling.
- Highway Department: Director of Highway Department Dale Hlad provided cost information on a roller. No decision was made on this date. Hlad provided an update on department activities, including the purchase of a broom, and presented a gravel agreement for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to enter into a gravel removal agreement with Liseth Shaw, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for five minutes for the purpose of discussing highway department employees, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the commission, Highway Director Dale Hlad, and HR Felicia Strahm, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 9:56 Time out: 10:01 a.m.

- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:01 a.m. with no action taken.
- Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested approval to hire Jordan Nimz. Debora Smith moved to hire Jordan Nimz as an equipment operator effective April 15, 2024, at Grade 14 Step 12, \$16.27 per hour, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing a short-term disability claim, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the commission and HR Felicia Strahm, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 10:10 a.m. Time out 10:20 a.m.
- Executive Session:
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:20 a.m. with no action taken.
- Landfill/Transfer Station: Landfill/Transfer Station Operator Daniel Muchow discussed the request to hire an additional part-time employee at the landfill/transfer station. Muchow requested approval to change who the department sells scrap iron to, as the current company is not very responsive or timely in picking up the roll-offs. The board asked Muchow to obtain pricing from other companies for future consideration. Debora Smith moved to hire Eric Ahlquist as a part-time landfill operator, Grade 13, Step 5, \$14.04 per hour, effective April 8, 2024, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried.
- Transportation Bus: Transportation Bus Director Roberta Turner reported that she has completed and emailed the form needed by the state to provide the lien release for the red van. Turner provided an update on department activities, noting that employees will attend a training on Tuesday. The board discussed the expired vouchers from the Council on Aging bus ride program. Turner related that she was told she would be paid for vouchers that were expired.
- Economic Development: Economic Development Director Kelly Gourley and Carol Torkelson, NCRPC (via telephone), related that Lincoln Park Manor has expressed interest in applying for the CDBG-CVR grant. Due to the potential conflict, it is suggested that the County complete a conflict of interest disclosure, which requires a public hearing and a legal opinion from the County Attorney. The board agreed to hold the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on April 30.
- Executive Session: Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing a short-term disability claim, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the commission, Denae Smith, and HR Felicia Strahm, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 11:16 a.m. Time out: 11:26 a.m.
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:26 a.m. with no action taken.
- Noxious Weed: Commissioner Ray will speak with the Noxious Weed Director concerning the bid provided to them for the spray rig for the new truck.
- General: The group discussed pending legislation. Clerk Harlow related that it was recommended that the commission not complete the canvass for the upcoming Primary and General Elections on the Monday following the election and requested that the board decide if they would like to complete the canvass on a non-meeting day or move to the following Monday. No decision was made on this date.
- Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. Monday, April 15, 2024.