

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

December 27, 2021

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room Monday, December 27, 2021. Chairman Randy Lohmann called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Dennis Ray and Member Darrell Oetting present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Norman Mannel, Dale Hlad, Roberta Turner, Kerry Jackson, and Brandon Cochran.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: Christmas cards from PIC Benefit Services, NCK CASA, and NCRPC; a letter and invoice from the Kansas Association of Counties for the 2022 annual membership dues as well as a flyer for upcoming 2022 legislative events; and the Hospital Board of Trustees monthly meeting packet.
- Correspondence Action: Randy Lohmann moved to approve paying the Kansas Association of Counties invoice in the amount of \$1,442.04, seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.
- Commission Old Business: Commissioner Ray inquired whether any sealed bids were received to purchase the two properties acquired on the tax sale. Clerk Harlow related that no bids were received and that she had attempted to contact the individual who had expressed an interest in the N 5<sup>th</sup> St property. The board discussed whether Kansas Guttering Systems' response addressed each member's concerns. Commissioner Oetting related that an individual in Beloit might be interested in providing a bid for the guttering project. The board tabled a decision to give the individual an opportunity to bid.
- Pay Adjustments: Clerk Harlow provided a spreadsheet of wages for county employees at 100% compression of the pay scale, and the ending wages after a fifty-cent cost of living increase is approved. The board requested Clerk Harlow contact Phil Hayes, The Arnold Group, to ask whether longevity and differential pay were included when completing the pay scale and whether employees can be reviewed and rewarded for performance after six months of employment.
- Highway Department: Director of Highway Department Dale Hlad provided an update on completed and in-progress projects. Hlad thanked the board for the chamber bucks Christmas gift. Hlad requested approval to employ Joe Pescador as a full-time equipment operator at \$13.11 per hour. Randy Lohmann moved to approve the hire of Joe Pescador at \$13.11 per hour as a (full-time) equipment operator (effective upon successful completion of pre-employment testing), seconded by Darrell Oetting. Motion carried.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting, as corrected, seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried.
- Transportation Bus: Transportation Bus Director Roberta Turner reported an issue with the red van's transmission and requested permission to take the van to Tracy Meyer. The board approved. Turner noted that the FY 2023 grant was submitted, and all follow-up information has been provided to the State. Turner reported that the State had extended the mask requirement to March. Turner requested the board's opinion on how to handle an issue with an individual who has scheduled

multiple transports asking to go to the emergency room, but when they get to their home, they are not there. The board agreed that the transportation bus should not be taking clients to the emergency room and that in the future, the resident should be told to hang up and call 911 for assistance.

**Landfill/Transfer Station:** Landfill/Transfer Station Operator Kerry Jackson reported that part-time employee James Porter is interested in getting a CDL and inquired if the board would pay for the class. The commission agreed to reimburse Porter for his expenses after completing and passing his exam.

**Budget Amendment:** Chairman Lohmann convened the scheduled budget hearing at 10:00 a.m. to hear and answer objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of budgeted funds. The chairman adjourned the budget hearing at 10:13 a.m. and convened the meeting to regular session. Dennis Ray moved to approve the budget amendment (for 2021) as presented by the County Clerk (amending the following Lincoln County Budgets: General Fund in the amount of \$135,000; the Road & Bridge Fund in the amount of \$174,000; Employee Benefits in the amount of \$52,200; County Health Fund in the amount of \$14,000; Ambulance Fund in the amount of \$7,165 and the First Rural Fire District Operating Fund in the amount of \$9,500), seconded by Randy Lohmann. Motion carried.

**Ambulance Service:** EMS Director Brandon Cochran discussed the following topics: a potential employee is completing pre-employment testing; repairs on the newest ambulance; and call volume for the year. Employees asked him to forward their thanks for the chamber bucks Christmas gift. Cochran presented a proposal to purchase the BC Diesel Building using ARPA funds to house the EMS department. The board declined to take action on the proposal.

**Agenda Item:** The board requested that Clerk Harlow schedule Frank Lamb on the agenda for thirty minutes beginning at 9:30 a.m. Monday, January 3, to complete his six-month evaluation.

**Inquiry:** Norman Mannel inquired about who will be responsible for the expense to repair the bridge that failed with a fully loaded grain cart, whether an employee was disciplined for their behavior at the previous weeks meeting, commissioners thoughts on the officer who selected the wrong weapon in Minnesota, and an article about the Salina police department.

**Adjourn:** The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 30, 2021.