

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

November 18, 2024

- Call to Order: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, November 18, 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: John Paul Ellis, Shawn Esterl, Brandon Cochran, Felicia Strahm, Truette McQueen, Dustin Florence, Gene Kramer, Dale Hlad, Brett Wilkinson, and Forrest Rhodes.
- Correspondence: Correspondence: A letter from Champlin Tire Recycling; bills for Lincoln Park Manor; a resolution; a letter of support; midmonth accounts payable; and WEB fund recommendations.
- Correspondence Action: Dennis Ray moved to approve Resolution 2024-27, rescinding the burn ban, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve four WEB fund grants to Colorado Township \$6,000; Lincoln County Health Department \$2,700; Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce \$13,500; and Vesper Community Club Inc. \$1,956.73, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Dennis Ray moved to approve a letter of support on behalf of Twin Valley to the BEAD grant application, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve midmonth accounts payable in the amount of \$38,476.40, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- LEPP Grant Opportunity & Update: Saline County Sanitarian Shawn Esterl notified the board that the State plans to do another round of grants that can be used to repair or replace failing on-site wastewater systems and conduct private water well testing. Esterl inquired if the board would like to apply for the grant as the application deadline is approaching. The board approved to apply for \$30,000 to repair or replace failing on-site wastewater systems. The current grant can fund an additional two systems. Residents with failing systems who need financial assistance should contact Esterl or County Clerk Harlow for more information.
- Request: Courthouse Custodian/Maintenance John Paul Ellis requested approval to use PTO time in 2025. The board approved the request.
- Ambulance Service: Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran reported that Dale Detmer and Damon Vonada are retiring. Cochran updated the board on department activities. The board approved removing Cochran from probation and the weekly meeting requirement.
- Minutes Approved: Dennis Ray moved to approve ten minutes for the purpose of discussing employee benefits in the appraiser's office, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, with the commission, County Appraiser Truette McQueen, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 9:28 a.m. Time out: 9:38 a.m.
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:38 a.m. with no action taken.

- Law Enforcement: Sheriff Dustin Florence provided a draft copy of a request for proposals for professional Architectural and Engineering Services to design a new sheriff's department and jail for the board to review. Florence will make the required changes and return to the meeting for final approval. Florence discussed department activities and provided pricing to upgrade the copier.
- Minutes Approved: Debora Smith moved to approve the November 4 and November 13 minutes, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm discussed the status of filling open positions in the highway department. Strahm related that the starting wage approved for a new hire did not match the starting wage listed in the offer letter and requested that the board correct the motion. Debora Smith moved to correct the starting waging for Mark Eckhart to Grade 14, Step 16, effective at the date of hire, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. The group identified deadlines for completing evaluations and discussed changes that might need to be made with third-party benefits providers. The board approved providing Chamber Bucks to active county employees for Christmas. Strahm requested an executive session. Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing FMLA, 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, HR Felicia Strahm, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow, seconded by Debora Smith. Motion carried. Time in: 10:28 a.m. Time out: 10:43 a.m.
- Executive Session: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:43 a.m. with no action taken.
- Reconvene: Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing FMLA, 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, HR Felicia Strahm, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow, seconded by Dennis Ray. Motion carried. Time in: 10:54 a.m. Time out: 11:04 a.m.
- Executive Session: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:04 a.m. Debora Smith moved to Shared Leave Approved: approve the shared leave application, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.
- Painting Donated: Gene Kramer presented a painting of the courthouse to the board, which was painted by his sister, using his chosen picture taken during the application process for a 1993 Heritage Trust Fund Grant.
- Law Enforcement: Sheriff Florence provided the updated RFP for the board's approval. The board approved signing the request for proposal (RFP).
- Public Works: Public Works Director Dale Hlad provided an update on department activities. The group discussed the requirements for receiving funding from the State of Kansas for the illegal dump. Hlad will provide the sample resolution received to the county attorney for assistance. Commissioner Hembry forwarded a road maintenance request. Brett Wilkinson, Kirkham Michael related that the county would receive an award for the N 60th Rd pavement project at the annual KAC meeting on December 4. Hlad will attend the award presentation. Wilkinson provided cost estimates for designing two additional construction/demolition cells at the landfill and presented an agreement to design and prepare permitting documents for the cells. Dennis Ray moved to enter into an agreement with Kirkham Michael for engineering services for two

new CD cells, with the fees to be drawn from the WEB fund, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing FMLA, 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, HR Felicia Strahm, County Clerk Dawn Harlow, and Attorney Forrest Rhodes via telephone, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 11:34 a.m. Time out: 11:49 a.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:49 a.m. with no action taken.

Executive Session: Dennis Ray moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing FMLA, 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, HR Felicia Strahm, County Clerk Dawn Harlow, and Attorney Forrest Rhodes via telephone, seconded by Ryley Hembry. Motion carried. Time in: 11:49 a.m. Time out: 11:59 a.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:59 a.m. with no action taken.

Adjourn: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, November 25, 2024.