

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
April 10, 2023

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher (did not attend meeting), Trish Giordano and Alex Tyson

Others present: Therese Hoff, Deputy Clerk and Betsy Edwards, County Counselor

Vice-Chair Tyson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The commission held their review and update:

- Commissioner Tyson attended the CVB meeting last week with discussions of upcoming events- Float Your Boat, a strategic plan for the future, Atomic Annie cannon-trying to get different organizations to help clean it up-had to remove the closed sign, but there are caution signs up. Commissioner Tyson said there is interest in Milford Lake hosting the NCAA fishing tournament.
- Commissioner Tyson attended the ribbon cutting of D'z Lounge.
- Commissioner Giordano stated the aTa Bus meeting was cancelled this month.
- Commissioner Giordano said she will not be attending the commission meeting next week, and Chairman Ascher stated he will attend the Juvenile Detention Center meeting.
- Commissioner Giordano received a plaque from the AUSA for the county being a member for 11 years.
- Commissioner Giordano went out Wednesday morning and welcomed the road engineers at their meeting at Acorns Resort.
- Commissioner Giordano attended a meet and greet legislative meeting with the staffers from Senators Marshall, Moran and LaTurner's offices.
- Commissioner Giordano attended the Geary County Health Ranking Seminar. The county's ranking is 86 out of 105 counties, she thinks the county can do better.
- Commissioner Giordano attended D'z Lounge grand opening.
- Commissioner Giordano discussed Chairman Ascher is having a meeting with the Fire Department, Stormont Vail, the City Manager and other two commissioners didn't know about it. She thinks the county commission needs to discuss it before having a meeting. Commissioner Tyson said he gets a lot of questions at the hospital about transferring patients, which he directs to Peter Rombold, Betsy Edwards. Commissioner Giordano thinks Mr. Dinkel needs to be involved, and Commissioner Tyson said the commission needs to discuss this before a meeting is held.

Crystal Malchose, Human Resources Director, presented the weekly report:

- Presented department head leave requests for approval. Ms. Malchose left the meeting.

Peter Rombold, Atty, legal counsel, arrived at the meeting.

Tami Robison, Finance Officer, presented the weekly report:

- Reported the auditor was just here and picked up financial information, he will still need information from the clerk's and treasurer's office.
- She will be out May 18 through June 2, and will have personnel budgets out to the departments this week.
- Commissioner Giordano discussed different entities that are requesting funds for donation or sponsorship, after the budget is adopted, the commission should not do that, it needs to be run through the financial office. Ms. Robison said one request may not impact the budget, but if there are multiple requests, it can impact the budget. She said maybe the economic development fund could have some funds transferred into it for some of the community requests. Ms. Robison said she received a letter requesting chamber membership, and now the commission has requests from

the Chamber, the MAC and the EDC. Commissioner Giordano said they talked to Fresh Start, and all those requests need to be run by the Financial Officer. Ms. Robison said she reviewed the meeting when the commission talked to Fresh Start, and there was not a formal motion made for funding. Ms. Robison said the commission might need to wait until the end of the year to see if there are any funds left to be able to give the outside entities funds. Ms. Robison left the meeting.

Donna Price, CVB Director, presented the monthly report:

- Commissioner Tyson said there was a request that went directly to the county commission, and not through the CVB board, and he apologized for doing that, it needs to go through the board first.
- Reported on economics report on how CVB is doing. Geary County is doing very well for 2021, 99 million dollars in direct spending in Geary County from tourism, there were 1175 total jobs created, and state and local taxes which were generated was \$10.4 million, which is a gain from 2021 of 13%, of that 29% from food and beverage, 27% from transportation, 17% from lodging, retail was 15% and 12% from recreation. Lodging had 17% in sales, they are seeing good numbers.
- Reviewed the Directors Report, the visitors guide is complete.
- Discussed the Black History Trail group, she said they work so good together, and are getting things done.
- Reported they will be supplying 1 roll of duct tape to all entries in Float Your Boat, and it looks to be a great event at Acorns Resort.
- Reported she met with a blogger to promote the area.
- Reported they are going to have a Blue Jay promotion for out-of-town visitors and locals.
- **At 11:00 a.m.; Commissioner Giordano moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, to include Counselor Edwards, Ms. Price and the HR Director to end at 11:10 a.m.; Commissioner Tyson seconded, and both voted aye.** The meeting reconvened at 11:10 a.m. with no action taken. Mrs. Price left the meeting.
- **At 11:11 a.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, to include Troy Livingston, Zoning Director, Crystal Malchose, HR Director and Counselor Edwards to end at 11:21 a.m.; Commissioner Giordano seconded, and both voted aye.** The meeting reconvened at 11:21 a.m. with no action taken.

The commission and Ms. Edwards reviewed and approved the vouchers.

Rebecca Nordyke, County Clerk, presented the Change Orders:

- Presented Commission Change Orders for approval. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve Change Orders 2022-312 through 2022-316. Commissioner Tyson seconded and all voted aye.**
- Presented a letter of support from Big Lakes for the commission to sign in support of their request for \$200,000.00 from the Department of Commerce in Community Service Tax Credits. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the letter of support; Commissioner Tyson seconded, and both voted aye.** Ms. Nordyke left the meeting.

Ginger Kopfer and Kyler Langvardt, Extension Office, presented the bi-monthly report:

- Discussed Walk Kansas 2023 program, nearly twice as many teams as 2022.
- Stated the drought issues are persisting.
- Discussed regional 4-H Club Day was held in Clay Center on March 25.
- Discussed the Fort Riley School age and teen services were trained on 4-H basics and curriculum on March 9. Ginger Kopfer and Tyler Langvardt of the Extension office left the meeting.

Ms. Robison arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Giordano explained about the meeting that Chairman Ascher was setting up, but the City Manager and other commissioners didn't know anything about it. She thinks Mr. Rombold and Counselor Edwards need to be involved in the meeting.

Commissioner Giordano asked about the Empower voucher, which had outstanding deposits on it. Ms. Robison explained there were old deposits that didn't get to the FSA account, to get it cleaned up, we are moving that money into the FSA account. The funds do not belong to the county, they need to be put into the agency fund. When she was looking for information for the auditors, she discovered the outstanding deposits. Ms. Robison asked Tiffany (Havener), payroll clerk to get the funds moved to the correct account.

Representatives of Stormont Vail Health-Flint Hills Campus arrived at the meeting and gave the quarterly report: Deb Yokem, interim CEO, Tim Bergeron, regional director of operations and hospital administrator, and Tracy Duran, Regional Director of nursing.

Ms. Yokem discussed the following:

- The timeline when Stormont Vail took over.
- The things that have been accomplished and are now being provided: Stormont has taken over the emergency services, they are not contracted any more, a hospitalist will be full time on site, ophthalmology surgery, they spent \$300,00.00 on equipment to be able to do surgery here for cataracts, gastroenterology, orthopedics, and general surgery.
- Average admissions per day- March dropped down a little bit.
- Emergency department admissions to hospital has increased, instead of transporting them somewhere else.
- Discussed the surgical care is coming back to the community.
- Discussed the rural health clinic visits volume is increasing.
- Stated 34% of Flint Hills Campus patients are currently utilizing MyChart-a patient portal through EPIC, the electronic medical record now utilized at the Flint Hills campus. It links the patient to providers in the Stormont vail system.
- Discussed the Flint Hills Campus is doing things to connect with Community: supporting the Chamber, outreach to various community organizations, sponsorships of community health related/quality of life events, conducted community feedback sessions to learn about perspectives, experiences and desires for health care.
- Discussed the projected population growth by 2040, and the health care needs of them.
- Discussed the need to stabilize and retain the team of 250 employees, recruiting providers to support current or provide additional services in: behavioral health, pain management, ob/gyn and pediatrics or family medicine. The financials-work to reduce monthly loss in operations at the hospital and rural health clinic. Growing patient volumes in all service areas by providing high quality and excellent health care.
- Commissioner Tyson said the atmosphere at the hospital is changing for the positive, the employees are happier, and the work is getting done better. Commissioner Giordano thanked the group for all the hard work they have been doing to get the Flint Hills Campus going. Commissioner Giordano said there needs to be an open meeting between the county commission, Stormont Vail, and the Fire Department, and the City about the transfer of patients. Commissioner Tyson doesn't want this issue to be stopping things from moving on at the hospital. Commissioner Giordano said there needs to be a solution to the transfer issue. Commissioner Tyson asked if Wednesday, April 19 at 3:30 at the hospital to discuss patients transfers, and it should be an open meeting. Mr. Rombold, Counselor Edwards and Ms. Robison will be there.

- Mr. Rombold presented a memorandum of understanding between the commissioners and Stormont Vail Health, Flint Hills, LLC. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the MOU to participate in the 340B program; which the hospital commits to provide healthcare services to low-income individuals who are neither entitled to benefits under Medicare of the Social Security Act nor eligible for assistance under Medicaid; Commissioner Tyson seconded, and both voted aye.** The group left the meeting.

Desree Petra, a citizen, arrived at the meeting.

Fair Board Representatives arrived at the meeting and presented the annual report:

- Ginger Kopfer, Kyler Langvardt and Amy Blockcolsky. Reviewed the 2022 4-H fair and stated there was an increase in participants. The board will be purchasing a large ceiling fan and have it installed in the livestock arena. The livestock barn needs roof repairs. They reminded the commissioners they want on city water/sewer. Mr. Langvardt said the fair will be July 23-27, and the rodeo will be held the week before the fair. Ms. Petra asked about the livestock program in the 4H-Geary County, she said Riley County wasn't very nice to her grandkids when they went over there, and she wondered if they could get kids from there to participate in Geary County. The group left the meeting.

The public comment session was held from 12:15pm-12:45pm. Ms. Petra asked about the slaughterhouse, is there anything positive? Commissioner Giordano said she has not seen anything in writing about what they want to do with a slaughterhouse, and the amount of money to be spent was a million dollars and then she heard it was going to be 10 times that amount. Ms. Petra asked the commissioners what they thought the Taylor Road interchange would bring to the county. Both commissioners said it is in bad shape, needs repair, and it would be a good thing for the growth of the county. Commissioner Tyson said he still needs information on the slaughterhouse before he makes a final decision. He talked about the number of employees needed and the infrastructure needs. Ms. Petra said the people have attended the city commission meetings and said they don't want it, and she thinks the public needs to be listened to. Commissioner Tyson said he is used to city living, not rural, but he doesn't want something that smells bad in his neighborhood. Commissioner Giordano said she doesn't want something that will make the area look or smell bad. Ms. Petra asked about the interlocal agreement for the zoning board and how the members were appointed. She asked if the zoning board members appointed by the county represent the county commission opinion, and the city appointees represent the city's. Commissioner Giordano said the county just appoints their members, and the final decision will come back to the county, if it is in the county, but the members vote their own way. Ms. Petra discussed the water usage for the slaughterhouse, and how the water limits will be pushed with it. She said there is a report online outlining water usage and waste management. Ms. Petra left the meeting.

Commissioner Giordano will not be at next week's meeting, but she said she just wants what is best for the community.

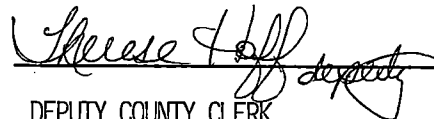
The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



CHAIRMAN-COUNTY COMMISSION
KEITH ASCHER

4-24-23

DATE



DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
THERESE HOFF