

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
April 17, 2023

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher, Trish Giordano (vacation), and Alex Tyson (left at 12:30 p.m.)

Others present: Therese Hoff, Deputy County Clerk and Betsy Edwards, County Counselor, Tami Robison, Financial Director

Chairman Ascher called the County Commission meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The commission held their review and update:

- Commissioner Tyson toured the new Courthouse security building with Mr. Trumpp, Public Works Director. He thought it looked good. They also did a walk around the courthouse, and discussed things that need to be done in the future. The stone needs to be tuckpointed and sand blasted.
- Chairman Ascher reported he was disappointed in Commissioner Giordano's comments last week about the meeting he had regarding the transfer of patients at Geary Community Hospital. He didn't think her comments were appropriate. Commissioner Tyson said he thinks everybody needs to be on the same page about things at the hospital, and he wants everyone to work together. Commissioner Tyson wants the health care in the community to be the best and will work on it to get that accomplished.
- Chairman Ascher had two meetings with Congressman Jake La Turner last week, and both went well. Mr. Ascher said they discussed the importance of Fort Riley, and Mr. La Turner has two military bases in his district now, also having Fort Leavenworth. Commissioner Tyson said at the AUSA trip, they talked about the importance of Fort Riley to the area in his office. The Congressman will be contacting Commissioners Tyson and Giordano to meet separately.
- Chairman Ascher had an EDC meeting last week, but the EDC Director will be coming a little later to give the report.

Deputy Clerk Hoff presented Commission Change Orders for approval. **Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the change orders. 2022-317 through 2022-320. Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**

- Presented information from Fred Reid, VFW Post 8773, inviting the county commission to the first unveiling of the Black History Trail site.

Tami Robison, Financial Officer presented the weekly report:

- Reported she was contacted by the Attorney General's office regarding the funds from the opioid settlement. The first two payments were paper checks. Ms. Robison would like to have the money deposited by ACH, instead of paper checks. **Commissioner Tyson moved to go paperless to receive reimbursements from the state; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**
- Reported she is working with the auditor to retrieve information needed for the audit. There will need to be a single audit this year since the county received \$822,000.00 in federal money. The threshold for the year is to receive over \$750,000.00, to have a single audit done.
- Reported she is working with the Community Corrections Director to get her quarterly reports completed. There are payroll reports that need completed for Ms. Phipps to get her reports done.
- Reported she got the personnel reports out to the departments last week. She did not give one to the sheriff's department since The Arnold Group is doing the pay study, she will wait to see what ends up after that study is done.
- Reported she has been working on the appointments for the appropriation people to give their budget request presentation's to the commission.

- Discussed manual payroll reporting is still being done since CIC training, and there are a few things that have come up, but will be discussed when all three commissioners are in attendance.
- Reported CIC has pulled the financial data to be ready for the total conversion to CIC.
- Reported she will be doing journal entries to get things cleaned up after the CIC conversion.
- Chairman Ascher asked about the W2's for 2022. Ms. Robison said everything has been balanced and taken care of.
- Got the ARPA report submitted.

The commission and Counselor Edwards reviewed and approved the vouchers.

Nikki Davenport, District Court Administrator, and Brent Graham, IT Director for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District arrived at the meeting.

Jason Britt, Noxious Weed Director, arrived at the meeting.

Corey Trumpp, Public Works Administrator, Jeremie Meyers, Assistant Administrator arrived at the meeting.

- Ms. Davenport requested funding for security cameras for the new Courthouse Security Building. She got bids from ADS, which already handles the current security equipment. A quick band aid to get by, with 4 cameras at a cost of \$8,569.41, or to do the whole project with 8 cameras at a cost of \$14,128.29. Chairman Ascher asked Ms. Robison and she discussed the PBC funds moved to CIP. She would recommend the cost of the security cameras be taken out of the CIP fund. Commissioner Tyson asked if the cameras would work with all other cameras in the Pennell Building. Ms. Robison asked if they want to approve the 8 cameras, and Ms. Davenport said it would be great to have all 8 cameras, to make sure to be able to see everything. **Commissioner Tyson moved to pay for the 8 cameras from the CIP, for \$14,128.29; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**
- Reported there was a mathematical error on the County Engineer's/Road Supervisor's annual report he presented on April 3, 2023.
- Discussed the Noxious Weed chemical bid recommendation. The bids were opened the bids on April 3, and there was a mathematical error on the bid, the total should have been \$43,253.80 from Van Deist. **Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the chemical bid from Van Deist; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**
- Discussed the sewer service line in the old annex building. On March 30, 2023, building maintenance was called for a toilet that was backed up. They tried using their own drain snake, but they couldn't get it. Sunset Plumbing was called, and they got the line opened. After further discussion with Sunset and viewing a video provided by Sunset of the sewer line, they determined there is an issue with the city sewer main and no issues exist with the service main from the Annex building to the city main. Due to the sewer back up in the United Way office restrooms, the carpet was removed, and new LVP flooring was installed by building maintenance staff. Mr. Trumpp informed the commission that the United Way and Soil Conservation offices are in need of new flooring.
- Discussed the 4-H Senior Citizens Center interior painting project bid recommendation. After reviewing the bids received, Mr. Trumpp recommends Howard Painting at a cost of \$3,470.00, using the facilities fund. He is waiting to see if any funding will come from the building committee and the Senior Citizen's board. If any funding becomes available, the facilities fund will be reimbursed.
- Reported there were only 13 loads of brush were taken to the landfill on Saturday, April 15. The next free Saturday will be May 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Reported the 4-H beef barn “metal” roofing replacement sealed bids are to be opened on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.
- Discussed the C-5164-01 Lyons Creek bridge project. The property acquisition letters were sent out and he has received acceptance letters from Mr. Kind and Mr. Boland. Mr. Kind’s total was \$920.00 for a temporary construction easement and right of way for a permanent drainage easement. Mr. Boland’s total was \$500.00 for a temporary construction easement. These amounts will be paid out of Special Bridge.
- Discussed Ebert Construction is needing to utilize Hillside Drive to access Hillside Lane for the KS 2367-05 US-77 project. Hillside lane will be barriered off for them placing asphalt. The proposed start would be the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> and work should be completed in a 2–3-week time frame. They will keep Hillside Drive damp by using a water buffalo to keep the dust down.
- Reported the abutment wing walls on Conroe Bridge C 4953-01 project were moving. Kaw Valley has submitted a plan to KDOT to correct this issue. KDOT is waiting on contractors cost to repair.
- Reported the electrical components for the lift station at the Sewer #4 lagoon project is supposed to be in tomorrow. Nowak Construction will plan on installing this week. The generator was set last week.
- Reported the 4-H/Girls Softball/rodeo-saddle club well is bad. Building maintenance went to turn on the water to the concession stand & outdoor hydrants and discovered this. C&K provided an rfp to disconnect the well and hook up all that to Rural Water District #1 water supply. C & K could tie into the existing water service line and get everything plumbed the way it should be at a cost of \$4,872.00. Mr. Trumpp would recommend expediting this as soon as possible, bypassing the purchase policy to get water hooked up out there. **Commissioner Tyson moved to approve this repair, to be paid out of the Facilities Fund; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**
- Reported the opening of the sealed bids for the Geary County Health Dept. steps will be opened May 15, 2023, at 11:15 a.m.
- Reported the Public Works crews completed the installation of the county office building bollards on April 11, 2023.
- Discussed Hartford Insurance did not accept Interstate Glass’s proposal for the door replacement on the Geary County Office Building. Mr. Trumpp has to get with another company to get a price for the doors.
- Discussed a meeting was held at the KDOT District #2 office on April 13, 2023, to discuss the upcoming I-70 project & phases that will be taking place in the area. The west bound ramp at Exit 301 will be closed at some point but exact dates are unknown at this time. Cannon View Drive will experience high traffic volumes during a few different phases due to the ramp closure. KDOT will be sending out local agreements soon, he will keep the commission updated as more information comes.
- Reported he is still waiting on Wildcat Construction regarding the haul routes due to the K177 construction work. Ms. Davenport, Mr. Graham, Mr. Trumpp and Mr. Meyers left the meeting.

Jason Lankas, Junction City Fire Chief, Kent Vosburg, Junction City EMS Division Chief, and Ian Strickland, Chief of Operations presented the quarterly report:

- Chief Lankas discussed staffing. He stated there had been a meeting with Chairman Ascher on February 24, 2023, to discuss concerns about transfers at the hospital. They started with staffing for 14, 16 per shift, but 2 is required for leave, which drops the number back down to 14, if somebody calls in sick, they are down to 13. With the collective bargaining unit and with the city, they could get an extra guy per shift. They started in February but should be released in May. The minimum standard for safe operations of fire suppression is 15 people. There was a transfer policy 12 years ago, but they came up with a new transfer policy. After the ICU closed at the hospital, the fire department knew their transfers were going to increase, since a critically ill patient couldn’t be

held at the hospital. The JCFD transfer guidelines; the Junction City fire department will attempt to take transfers when possible, and staffing allows. The transfer of patients that require immediate surgery or medical procedures that are not available at Stormont Vail (Flint Hills campus) will be taken care of, if possible. If they are taking multiple transfers, there is no one left to fight fires. The last meeting with Stormont Vail-Flint Hills Campus was held at the end of March. Non-emergency transfers can/will be denied: between the hours of 10 pm to 8 am. After the ICU closure in 2021, the number of transfers went from 415 to 2022-500. If there is severe weather conditions, including heavy wind projected to be in the path of the crew during or returning

- Commissioner Tyson said the meeting was going to be held because there is different information from his sources. Mr. Dinkel, City Manager said he doesn't know what is going on. Chief Lankas said he spoke with Mr. Dinkel about this issue.
- Chairman Ascher doesn't think the meeting this Wednesday is needed, and Mr. Strickland agrees with that. He said more information needs to be shared with all involved parties. He explained how the transfers take staff away from the fire department, and that is not good for the department. Mr. Strickland said there was nothing from the county talking about transfers increasing at the hospital, Commissioner Tyson said communication is a big problem, because of all the different information being spread around. Mr. Strickland said no one ever came to the Fire Department to talk about the ICU closing, and what effect it will have on the Fire Department. Commissioner Tyson said the county has not turned the ambulance service budget requests down since he has been here. Commissioner Tyson asked how the county can help to provide medical services to the citizens. Chairman Ascher said there has been good communication between the Fire Department and Stormont Vail. Commissioner Tyson said if there is a critical need, it needs to be addressed. Chairman Ascher asked if the meeting this week is needed? Commissioner Tyson said the hospital needs to have their needs addressed also. Mr. Strickland said it is very hard to get staff hired now. Stormont Vail doesn't feel they have been heard. Mr. Lankas, Mr. Vosburg, and Mr. Strickland left the meeting.

**Commissioner Tyson moved to open the meeting as the County Board of Health. Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**

Charles Martinez, Interim Health department Administrator presented the monthly report:

- Reported on the late and weekend clinics.
- Reported the Covid numbers are low.
- Reported the weekend and late clinic continues to pull numbers and be successful. Chairman Ascher asked if they advertised the late or weekend clinics. Mr. Martinez said they don't do anything extra. KDHE said don't post on Facebook, most postings go unseen. Mr. Martinez said it is mostly by word of mouth. Chairman Ascher said maybe use JC Post. Commissioner Tyson said he uses Facebook with good responses. Commissioner Tyson said no one from the Health Department attended the Governor's Conference, but Mr. Martinez said there were patients that needed care. Commissioner Tyson asked about continuing education training for staff, Mr. Martinez said the staff receives training online, and everybody is up to date on their CEU's. Commissioner Tyson asked if he was busy during the conference, and Mr. Martinez said yes, he was, and there was not any staff member to spare during the conference. Commissioner Tyson asked when posts were made about their clinics, he said between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. is the best time to put posts of activities out. Mr. Martinez left the meeting.

**Commissioner Tyson moved to close the meeting as the Board of Health; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**

Mickey Dean, EDC Director arrived at the meeting and gave the quarterly report:

- Presented a flyer about Micheline employees in Junction City receiving free land bank lots to help with recruitment and retention. At first, it didn't amount to many people taking up this opportunity. Since the flyers were sent out, there were 35 hits, and 14 that contacted Lance Custer.
- Discussed the prospect report. She went over how long it takes to get a company to move to Junction City. Ms. Dean left the meeting.

The public comment session was held. No one was in attendance to make public comment.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m., but the work session for security continued.

Krista Blaisdell, County Attorney and Loyce Smith, Chief Court Services Officer arrived at the meeting to discuss:

- Discussed the construction work in the Pennell Building, but security equipment has come up. ADS have always done the security in the building and there needs to be access to the restrooms, and key card access is being recommended at a cost of \$9,286.68, which the County Attorney will pay out of her forfeiture account.

The work session adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

*Keith Ascher*

CHAIRMAN-COUNTY COMMISSION

KEITH ASCHER

4-24-23

DATE

*Therese Hoff*

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

THERESE HOFF