

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
May 22, 2023

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher, Trish Giordano, and Alex Tyson

Others present: Therese Hoff, Deputy County Clerk, Courtney Gilbert, County Clerk

Chairman Ascher called the County Commission meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The commission held their review and update:

- Commissioner Tyson attended the Commanding General's golf tournament, good turnout, good conversation.
- Commissioner Tyson attended Business After Hours at DH Construction and Homeland Insurance, well attended.
- Commissioner Giordano talked about last week's meeting, she said she lost her temper, she will do better in the future. She will not allow citizens to interrogate county department heads though. She said Kathy Tremont talks to other people and causes negativity in the County. She said the Republican Central Committee causes trouble and are toxic to the community. It is the commission's responsibility to control the taxpayer's money in the community, and that is what they are doing. By moving payroll and a/p over to the finance department the commission will have more oversight of the finances than they had. Commissioner Giordano said she is sorry that Ms. Tremont doesn't agree with the things the current commission is doing such as: gave one million dollars back to the taxpayers, saved the hospital without a tax increase, located 23 improper outlying accounts which the treasurer knew of-but commission did not, and one belonged to the County Treasurer, created a 3-5 year capital improvement plan, change the county's insurance to fully funded for more security, upgrading much needed software to provide more transparency. Commissioner Giordano just wants what is best for the taxpayers of Geary County. It had nothing to do with the new County Clerk coming in.
- Commissioner Giordano attended the Flint Hills Regional Council meeting. The sustainability plan was accepted.
- Commissioner Giordano attended an I-70 meeting, about the Taylor Road interchange. There are 4 separate options-one did not have the interchange at all. KDOT has received numerous letters from people against the interchange because of the slaughterhouse project. KDOT made it perfectly clear the interchange has nothing to do with the slaughterhouse coming or not coming. This project will provide economic development for the community and if the community wants to continue to grow, the interchange needs to go in. There will be a public hearing, and she said the commissioners need to support it to KDOT.
- Chairman Ascher attended the MPO meeting last week, and he said the Taylor Road interchange is outside of the MPO boundaries, but they support it. He said it was a good meeting, and the 2nd payment for dues will be less than originally anticipated, but next year, it will be a little more. KDOT is pushing for electric vehicle charging stations. The City of Junction City has applied for an \$800,000.00 grant for the charging stations. In 2022, the total electric vehicles sold in the state was 6000, .3% of all vehicles in the state. Nationwide in 2022, there was 756,534. China was the world's largest user of electric vehicles with 6% of vehicles sold being electric in 2022. In 2025, they are hoping to have ½ of the vehicles be electric that are sold. The charging stations can't be in Manhattan, they need to be close to I-70. Exit 313 could possibly be a location, but there must be 24-hour restrooms and water available.
- Discussed the agenda for the joint City/County/USD 475 meeting tonight.

- Commissioner Tyson discussed the public comment session of the commission meeting, how it needs to be kept to 5 minutes per person.
- Commissioner Giordano said there was a legitimate question asked during the public comment last week about HR. She said HR is not losing any duties, in fact, she is getting more, she is still the HR Director, so she doesn't feel there should be no change in pay. Commissioner Tyson agreed with Giordano.

Corey Trumpp, Public Works Director, Jeremie Myers, Assistant Director came to the meeting.

Mr. Trumpp discussed the need for a new oil distributor. Parts cannot be bought to replace the old ones on this machine. He is making a CIP request for \$144,500.00. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the CIP request of funds, for the used oil distributor, pending Mr. Myers going to look at it; Commissioner Tyson seconded, and all voted aye.** Mr. Trumpp stated the public works summer hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. will start on May 30, 2023. The normal schedule will start back up the day after Labor Day. Mr. Trumpp talked about speed limit signs on the gravel roads Old Highway 13 due to the 177 construction. Mr. Trumpp said they wouldn't hold up in court, without an engineering study.

PBC members arriving at the meeting: Ryan Garrison, Ken Mortenson, Mike Rhodes, John Moyer, Rod Glessner and Keith Ascher.

John Moyer asked about township and cemetery budgets being done by the county. Clerk Gilbert said the Finance Director had spoken to her about it, and that she (Clerk) doesn't feel comfortable doing those budgets at this time. The Finance Director said maybe she or Jayme could do them.

Peter Rombold, legal counsel arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Mortenson called the PBC meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Tyson stated he talked to the Maintenance Department at the hospital, and PBC member, Rod Glessner said he went on a tour of the hospital and talked about the boiler installation. Commissioner Giordano has a meeting with the hospital board of trustees on Thursday and asked the commission what they want her to find out. How long do we want to keep trying to collect accounts payable, and does the PBC still want to have a joint meeting with the hospital? Commissioner Giordano said she invited Mr. Rombold, legal counsel to the meeting. There are Medicare billing issues. In 2022 there were not enough coders, and the billing submitted to Medicare was not done correctly. Medicare said they want \$526,000.00 back. Commissioner Giordano said Stormont Vail was running the hospital during this time, and why didn't they hire coders? She (Giordano) asked why Stormont couldn't have their current coders do this job now? Mr. Rombold explained how they look at the cost of care and compare it to what you should have been doing, explain why the cost for the services made, which changes the reimbursement amount, and the notice was sent about the cost and services rendered. Mr. Mortenson asked what time frame these errors were made. Mr. Rombold said it was from 2022. Mr. Garrison asked why the Trustees aren't at the meeting? Commissioner Giordano said she didn't think they needed to come. Mr. Moyer said it would be helpful to have them at a meeting. Mr. Rombold is going to talk to the Medicare auditors to see if things can be re-coded and resubmitted, or the amount could be negotiated. Mr. Garrison said the PBC doesn't have any more money, and the trustees needs to realize that. Mr. Rombold stated this is mainly the reimbursement rate for the rural health clinic. Mr. Glessner talked about improvements at the hospital, boilers and chillers. The bills were presented for payment with no questions. Commissioner asked if the PBC wanted the Trustees to come to the joint meeting, they said yes. She (Giordano) will talk to the Trustees at the meeting she will attend on Thursday. Mr. Rombold expressed his appreciation to the PBC and the county commission for their work on the hospital project. Mr. Mortenson adjourned the PBC meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Corey Trumpp arrived at the meeting.

Chrysann Phipps, Community Corrections Director arrived at the meeting to discuss paint options in her office space:

- Commissioner Giordano stated she went to the community corrections office and said the walls are bad. Giordano stated she had talked to Mr. Trumpp (Public Works Director) and he said there was a resolution adopted a few years ago to have all county offices use simple white keep things uniform and building maintenance wouldn't have to go through the decision of all departments having different colors in their offices. Commissioner Giordano said she can see both sides, but with the Community Corrections having the dark floors, the simple white would be quite a contrast. Giordano said the painting needs to be done by a professional, not probation people as before. Chairman Ascher said they should stay with the decision to use simple white. Ms. Phipps thinks the simple white is not very inviting, and Commissioner Giordano said it looks antiseptic with everything being white, it won't match the new flooring, if Ms. Phipps can't get a new color, she would rather stay with the old color. Building Maintenance has already worked on the bottom part of the wall with simple white. Clerk Gilbert asked if there could be two options, the simple white, and a neutral color. Commissioner Giordano said the paint cost will be the same, and she feels there should be two colors to choose from for departments to choose. Commissioner Tyson said he thinks there should be two colors to choose from, simple white or a neutral color. Mr. Trumpp will develop a written policy to offer the two colors for county offices. Ms. Phipps invited the commissioners to Drug Court, she is very proud of it.

Department Head Meeting: Charles Martinez, Health Department Director, Garry Berges, Emergency Management/Rural Fire, Sherri Childs-Treasurer, Donna Price-CVB Director, Diane Briestensky-Leonard-Register of Deeds, Travis Lilly, Appraiser, Chrysann Phipps, Community Corrections Director, Corey Trumpp, Public Works Director, Frank Lewis- Bldg. Maintenance Supervisor talked about paint colors.

Courtney Gilbert, County Clerk introduced herself. She talked about cross-training in the office, and she met with HR to get a new person hired. She is hosting a meet and greet with the election board workers, to introduce herself.

Corey Trumpp, Public Works-Discussed the new paint color and he will be drawing up a written policy. He stated the summer hours are 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for the road guys, admin people stay the same. Building Maintenance was there-Frank, and he had samples of the two paint colors.

Treasurer Sherri Childs asked about the doors, Mr. Trumpp said they are still on order, insurance company wanted him to get more bids which slowed down the process.

Garry Berges, Rural Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director discussed the risk management grant for \$2000.00 will help pay for the bollards out front, part of the cost, \$2800.00 will come out of Facilities Fund.

Travis Lilly, Appraiser asked where do jobs get posted now? Mr. Lilly told his employees to check their paychecks because of an error on one of his employees check. Treasurer Childs talked about leave time not calculating correctly on paychecks. Commissioner Tyson wants to talk to HR to see what is wrong with it.

Ms. Phipps is still working out of the office because of new flooring.

Charles Martinez-KDHE inspection- they passed with no problems.


The department head meeting ended.

The public comment session was held. Victoria Wells, a citizen arrived to discuss her husband, who is incarcerated in the county jail. He has been refused medical treatment and has a lot of medical issues. The nurse has checked him over, but will not do anything for him, and Ms. Wells is afraid he is going to die in jail. Commissioner Giordano asked if Ms. Wells had talked to the Jail Administrator-Mark Anderson, and she said she had not. Giordano said to talk to the Sheriff. Ms. Wells also said there is a car salesman around town that is ripping people off. She has talked with the Junction City Police Department, and they said they can't do anything about it. The commission said if it is a JCPD incident, the county can't do anything. Ms. Wells left the meeting.

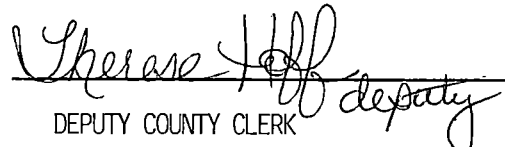
Crystal Malchose, Human Resources Director gave the weekly report:

- Discussed her current copier is over 8 years old. She has looked into leasing or purchasing a new one. She has discussed this with the Finance Director and stated a 3-year lease would be good. The cost would be \$322.58 from Consolidated Printing, which is where the current copier is from. The cost will be split between HR and Finance. The commission asked Ms. Malchose to check with Central Office Service to get another quote. **Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the copier lease; Commissioner Giordano seconded, and all voted aye.**
- Requested a 5-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. **At 12:48 p.m.; Commissioner Giordano moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with the HR Director to end at 12:53 p.m.; Commissioner Tyson seconded, and all voted aye.** The meeting reconvened at 12:53 p.m. with no action taken.
- **At 12:55 p.m.; Commissioner Tyson moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with the HR Director to end at 12:58 p.m.; Commissioner Giordano seconded, and all voted aye.** The meeting reconvened at 12:58 p.m. with no action taken. Ms. Malchose left the meeting.
- **At 1:11 p.m.; Commissioner Tyson moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with the HR Director and Charles Martinez, Interim Health Department Director, to end at 1:16 p.m.; Commissioner Giordano seconded, and all voted aye.** The meeting reconvened at 1:16 p.m. with no action taken.

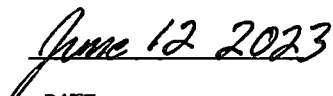
The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



 CHAIRMAN-COUNTY COMMISSION
 KEITH ASCHER



 DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
 THERESE HOFF



 DATE