

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
June 12, 2023

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher, Trish Giordano, and Alex Tyson (absent)

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

Chairman Ascher called the County Commission meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commission review and update:

- Commissioner Giordano attended an aTa meeting, she is concerned about the requested increase to their budget for 2024. Commissioner Giordano thinks Grandview Plaza and Junction City should be contributing more. Geary County gave more funds than the City of Manhattan last year.
- Commissioner Giordano attended a MAC meeting. She said the new Director, Israel, is doing a good job getting the soldiers involved in the community.
- Commissioner Giordano said the childcare coalition has applied for a couple grants.
- Commissioner Giordano attended the Water District #4 meeting. It was a special meeting to change the by-laws. There are some problems that developed as of the meeting. They need more storage space and more water. This needs to be worked on for economic development in that area. They will need to get water from another source but can't agree on how to do it.
- Commissioner Giordano would like to see the Public Comment session on the agenda at the same time every week, so the citizens know the time. She also wants the Department Head meeting held at the end of the day. Deputy Clerk Hoff will make the changes to the commission agenda.
- Discussed an email from the City Manager about an E911 loan.
- Chairman Ascher attended the EDC meeting. Discussed a meeting about the Taylor Road interchange coming up. Commissioner Giordano said she hopes they are being pro-active about this project.

Crystal Malchose, HR Director, gave the weekly report:

- Discussed issues with the phone system and the internet. Nex-Tech and Twin Valley are working on it.
- Discussed the Health Director applicants. Interviews will be conducted on Friday, June 23, 2023.
- Discussed purchasing a new copier. She contacted Central Office Service & Supply, which other county offices deal with, and they can do a 48-month fair market lease, Total price is \$8448.00 \$2500.00 less than Consolidated Printing bid, at the end of the lease, you can trade it in on another machine, or purchase the machine. The financial director and Ms. Malchose agreed it is the best option to go with Central Office Service and Supply. She will contact them and get the machine ordered.

Tami Robison, Finance Director, gave the weekly report:

- Discussed the financials and the need for CIC to give more training to get things straightened out.
- Discussed an email from Allen Dinkel, Junction City Manager, about a loan for the E911 board. He is concerned with the interest rate. The county commission has no control over that fund, it is just for the E911 board to govern, according to the agreement.
- Discussed she worked with the sheriff on Friday for numbers on his budget. To get better numbers, she would like to have him present his budget next Monday. The commission agreed

to this.

- Discussed the EDC, MAC, and Chamber of Commerce budgets. There are resolutions governing the amount of tax given by the county. It is half a mill for the EDC as per the resolution.
- Presented CIP requests. \$888.12 for firefighters to pull insulation in the emergency management building. \$24,800.00 roof replacement on the beef barn, with \$14,925.00 will be coming from the fair for reimbursement.
- Discussed county credit card charges that had very expensive charges for meals. She gave examples of the county paying high prices for meals. Commissioner Giordano asked if the department heads have been contacted, Ms. Robison said she is informing the commission of these charges, before we work on the credit card meal policy. Commissioner Giordano said she thinks it starts from the department heads, it is not their money, it is the county's money, and the employees need to act as if they are using their own money. Commissioner Giordano asked if the commission could vote today to limit the price spent on meals, and if they spent over the limit, they must pay the difference. Ms. Robison said the new policy is being worked on, and all meal prices need to be looked at with the new policy, not just dinner. The commissioner directed Ms. Robison to send an email out to department heads to remind them to tell employees to watch the expense of meals.

Donna Price, CVB Director presented the monthly report:

- Presented financial reports. The transient guest tax numbers are up 6% for 2023.
- Presented the director's report. As a member of the Kansas I-70 Association, the Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau won the Midwest Travel Network's Destination Partner of the year award.
- Stated the Float your Boat event is probably not going to happen next year, there were only three boats this year.
- Stated social media is growing.
- Presented the Blue Jay figures that will be placed around town for visitors to find and receive a gift.
- Discussed Sports KS events.
- Discussed the Run for the Wall event. The after party was not well attended.
- Commissioner Giordano appreciates the work the CVB has done by working together with other entities-Main Street, and Freedom Fest.

The Commissioners and the County Counselor approved the vouchers.

Lisa Eickholt, citizen arrived at the meeting.

Ginger Kopfer, Extension Office arrived at the meeting and gave the b-monthly report:

- Discussed Geary County has two interns this summer through a grant provided by the Kansas Department of Education to Kansas 4-H.
- Discussed 4-H families, community members, volunteers, and staff are looking forward to the 2023 Geary County Free Fair. The fair will be held July 23-27, 2023, with pre-fair events occurring the week before.
- Thanked the county for the county's continuing assistance and support of the 4-H/Senior Citizens Center. The Public Works team has been a great partner in ensuring that all entities that use the grounds can use the facilities to their best benefit.

At 11:30 a.m.; Commissioner Giordano moved to go into executive session to discuss legal matters for 10 minutes to include Ms. Kopfer and Counselor Edwards, to end at 11:40 a.m.; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye. The meeting reconvened at 11:40 a.m., with no action taken. Ms. Kopfer left the meeting.

Public Comment was held. Lisa Eickholt, representative for the steering committee for the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library gave an update:

- Discussed the site of the old high school building the school district is going to sell to the city. This will be where the new library would be built. She discussed the lower level of the site, and the plan is to make a walk out basement, and a hardened storm shelter. She also discussed there could be the EOC location. There will be a large meeting room in the building, which the community really needs. She has spoken with Mr. Berges, and he agreed this would be a good space for training and meeting space, and in an emergency, use it as the EOC in a declared emergency. Fort Riley is also looking for family assistance centers when they need to get families off post. Commissioner Giordano asked if there is a back-up plan if the Defense Grant is not received, Ms. Eickholt said there will still be more fund raising, and more grants to apply for. Chairman Ascher asked about the ownership of the library. Ms. Eickholt said the city owns the building, and they fall in the city budget, but they are their own taxing authority. They have a library board that controls everything about how the library operates. The employees are paid by the city and are under the city benefits. They will be submitting the grant by June 22, 2023, and they hope to hear if they received it in August 2023. Ms. Eickholt left the meeting.

Troy Livingston, GIS/Zoning Director arrived at the meeting.

At 11:56 a.m.; Commissioner Giordano moved to go into executive session to discuss legal matters for 10 minutes, to include Troy Livingston, GIS/Zoning Director and Counselor Edwards, to end at 12:06 p.m.; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye. The meeting reconvened at 12:07 p.m.

Deputy Clerk Hoff presented commission minutes for approval. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the minutes from May 22, 2023; Chairman Ascher seconded, and both voted aye.**

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The budget work session started at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Ascher and Commissioner Giordano were present, along with Counselor Edwards and Finance Director Tami Robison.

At 2:00 p.m.; Jerod Tremblay, Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization requested \$2,508.68 for 2024.

At 2:15 p.m.; Jerry Lonergan, Executive Director, Flint Hills Regional Council requested \$10,531.80 for 2024.

At 2:25 p.m.; Donna Price, CVB Director discussed the 2024 budget. It is not funded by ad valorem tax dollars, it is funded by transient guest tax. The amount of the budget is \$888,331.00.

At 2:30 p.m.; Garry Berges, Emergency Management Director/Rural Fire Chief and Curt Janke, Assistant Emergency Management Director/Assistant Fire Chief requested \$469,274.00 for 2024 Fire District #1. Mr. Berges requested \$287,756.00 for Emergency Management for 2024.

At 2:40 p.m.; Deb Andres, Kyler Langvardt, Angela Beavers, Verl Amthauer, Ginger Kopfer, Extension Office requested \$353,268.00 for the 2024 budget.

Ms. Andres requested \$19,750.00 for the 2024 4H budget.

At 2:52 p.m.; Anne Smith, Executive Director ATA Bus requested \$135,000.00 for the 2024 budget.

The budget work session ended at 3:15 p.m.

Keith Ascher

CHAIRMAN-COUNTY COMMISSION
KEITH ASCHER

Therese Hoff
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK *Deputy*
THERESE HOFF

6-26-2023

DATE