

January 16, 2024

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The county was closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Chairman Tom Claussen and members Mike Cooper and Jim Marshall were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting were approved as written on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Marty Hernandez, Public Works Director, was present for approval to purchase a used state dump truck pending inspection. The purchase, not to exceed \$50,000, was approved on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

On motion, Tom Claussen requested a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318 with the three commissioners, Michelle Langham, and Yvonne Melton. The motion was seconded by Jim Marshall and carried by unanimous vote. The session started at 8:44 a.m. and ended at 8:54 a.m. when it was extended on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session started at 8:54 a.m. and ended at 8:59 a.m. with no decisions being made in executive session.

Steven Melnick with Colonial Life was present with supplemental insurance. On motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall it was approved for his company to solicit county employees. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Tom Claussen read an email from the Cloud County Clerk about a possible meeting with other local commissions. The consensus was they would be interested. Jim Marshall was appointed to the LEPC board and will attend the meeting January 24th in Smith Center. Jim Marshall moved to sign a letter of support for Cunningham Communications to file for the ADOPT grant. The motion was seconded by Mike Claussen and carried by unanimous vote. The Pipeline Safety & Coordinated Response Exercise will be held February 13th in Mankato at Buffalo Roam Steakhouse at 5:30 p.m. The NCK Juvenile Detention meeting is January 17th in Junction City from 10 p.m. to 12 p.m.

Jim Marshall moved to go into executive session for an hour for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318 with the three commissioners, Tony Perez, and County Clerk Heather Weston. The motion was seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote. The session started at 10:00 a.m. and ended at 11:00 a.m. when it was extended for 20 minutes on motion by Jim Marshall. The motion was seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote. The session started at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 11:20 a.m. with no decisions being made in executive session.

In open session, Tom Claussen made a motion to give all county employees a 50 cent per hour raise except 13 employees who were addressed individually. The motion was seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Tom Claussen, Chairman

ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk