

## January 18, 2022

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 with Chairman Tom Claussen and members Mike Cooper and Jim Marshall in attendance. Also in attendance were Emily Benedick, Community Development Director, and Terry Bailey, KSVV Radio.

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

The minutes of the January 10, 2022 meeting were approved as written on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Stuart Porter, Schwab-Eaton Engineers, discussed his recommendation to the commission after reviewing the bids for the Road and Bridge Building. He recommended Senger Construction for the project. Senger Construction was approved as the contractor for the project at the bid amount of \$2,299,252 with completion in 510 days on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Works Director Marty Hernandez met with the commission and requested he be allowed to hire an additional employee to work at both Road & Bridge and the Transfer Station so he can have someone trained for the Transfer Station if someone leaves. He can utilize the person at Road & Bridge as well. The commission agreed to the request by consensus.

The commission discussed a new hire for the Appraiser's Office and the possible starting wage with Melinda Latham. The commission made the comment that the wages should be at or around \$15.00 per hour for a qualified person.

Brian Streit, Maintenance, requested a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318 which was granted on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 9:10 and ended at 9:25 with no decisions made in executive session.

Eric Hamel, EMS Director, presented his regular monthly report to the commission. He also requested, per KSA 75-4318, a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel which was granted on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 9:38 and ended at 9:43 with no decisions made in executive session.

The commission reappointed Dwight Daniels as the Non-Lawyer member of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Nominating Committee on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cortney Murrow, County Health Administrator, requested permission to purchase new office equipment with grant money and a small amount of her Capital Outlay. Mike Cooper made motion to allow the purchase and Jim Marshall seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Mrs. Murrow also discussed the Regional Preparedness position that has been provided at the North Central Regional Planning Commission. They have been unable to find a replacement for Lacey Miller and Mrs. Murrow would like the Mitchell County Medical Foundation to take over the position. Mrs. Murrow was going to talk to KDHE about transferring this position to see if it would be allowed. New COVID guidelines were released from KDHE and they were approved for

Mitchell County on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote. There are currently over 100 reported cases of COVID in Mitchell County.

Keegan Bailey, Grant Administrator for NCRPC, informed the commission that the final rules for the ARPA Grant have been released. The document is over 400 pages long. There will be an online meeting tomorrow that Mrs. Bailey will attend to gather more streamlined information. Mrs. Bailey also informed those in attendance of the importance of testing for radon in homes in the area. She stated that they can help to remediate any homes with high levels that are detected.

Tom Claussen proposed that for 2022 Chair of the Commission go to Mike Cooper, Vice-Chair to Jim Marshall and Chair at-large himself. Motion was made as such by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Mike Cooper, Chairman

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ATTEST: Chris Treaster, Mitchell County Clerk