

**January 30, 2023**

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Monday, January 30, 2023. Chairman Jim Marshall and members, Tom Claussen, and Mike Cooper were in attendance.

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

The minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

EMS Director Eric Hamel and Missy McGinnis met with the commissioners to have EFT paperwork signed and to discuss the new reports sent by their medical billing company. The commissioners thought one report was good but the second needed improving. Hamel then proposed a new pay scale for his department. It has been 10 years since the current pay scale had been adjusted and the Mitchell County wages are lower than surrounding counties. The new pay scale would start EMTs at \$14.25, AEMTs at \$15.25 and Paramedics at \$17.00. Hamel then requested a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318. The session was granted on a motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 9:05 and ended at 9:20 with no decisions made in executive session.

County Health Director Cortney Murrow and Jenny Lundine met with the commissioners along with Yvonne Melton Treasurer to discuss EFTs and the ACH account. The County Health department needs their own separate account for auditing purposes. Murrow expressed her concern over the amount of work it is going to take if they are required to switch all of their vendors to a different account. Melton also stressed on her end the difficulty it would take to switch the accounts of all other county entities that use the ACH account. After discussion it was decided that Murrow and Lundine would have view only access on the current account until further changes can be made.

Marty Hernandez, Public Works Director, was present to notify the commissioners that there would not be an open house on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The date of the open house for the new road & bridge building is to be determined. His department did purchase the approved dump truck from KDOT for \$32,000. The new motor grader is in Concordia at Foley Equipment getting set up for county use.

A Neighborhood Revitalization was approved in the amount of \$27,500 for Dylan Frasier on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Kathy Webster was re-appointed to a new term on the board of Pawnee Mental Health Services on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The commissioners met with Mitchell County Attorney Mark Noah, on the phone, to discuss questions that have been raised about the Transient Guest Tax. The resolution was signed in November to raise the tax to 4% and Noah did not realize that it had to be published. He reached out to the Clerk's Office to get the resolution published and it will be in the paper this week. Mitchell County Tourism will be able to start collecting at the new tax rate April 1<sup>st</sup>. Noah then stated that no further action has been taken to correct the land description for the property EMS is attempting to purchase north of their current building.

Yvonne Melton, Treasurer, asked the commissioners if they knew how the money was going to be handled for the seed grant. She needs to contact the auditor to get the account set up. They advised Yvonne to speak with Emily Benedick for the details. Melton said that her new filing cabinets would be here Wednesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Jim Marshall, Chairman

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ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk