

February 6, 2023

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Monday, February 6, 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 30, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

EMS Director Eric Hamel requested a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318. The session was granted on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 9:36 and ended at 9:51 when it was extended for 10 minutes on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 8:51 and ended at 9:01 when it was extended for 5 additional minutes on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 9:01 and ended at 9:06 with no decisions made in executive session. Hamel asked the commission if they had made a decision on the new pay scale for EMS. The new pay scale was approved on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The new wages will go into effect for the February pay period.

David Dohe, Emergency Management Director, met with the commissioners to present them with the LEPC bylaws and told them that the last meeting went well. On motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper the bylaws for LEPC were signed. Motion carried by unanimous vote. There were no changes from the prior bylaws. Tom Claussen made a motion to approve an application for a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant which was seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Dohe asked that the commissioners appoint Philip Murrow to the LEPC to fulfill the local environmental group requirement. He is currently the Mitchell County sanitation officer. Murrow was appointed on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. TIER II reporting was then discussed. Any agency where hazardous chemicals are used, produced, or stored is required to submit a TIER II form to KDHE if quantities exceed certain thresholds. If a single individual has over 1,428.50 gallons of diesel or 1,597 gallons of gas at one time it would be a reportable quantity. These reports are given to local emergency personnel in case of an incident. This information will be pushed out to the local paper.

Housing Director Keegan Bailey presented the commissioners with a request to use APRA funds to purchase an AED machine for the Solomon Valley Hospice office. It was approved on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper to purchase the machine for \$2,003. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Solomon Valley Hospice feels that this will be an easy step in emergency preparedness to assist within the county. The commission then mentioned to Bailey that during the Tourism Committee meeting held on February 6th they said the county would help if there was a budget shortage because of the Transient Guest Tax increase not starting January 1, 2023.

Appraiser Melinda Latham met with the commissioners about her new employee. Leia Heiman was hired to be the personal property clerk. Heiman will start full time in the appraiser's office in two weeks at her current wage. Latham said Change of Value Notices will be mailed on February 16th. She stated that values overall have gone up and residents will notice the increase. As far as ag land, dry crop and irrigation have gone down and pasture has gone up. Ag land values are set by the state. Market values are set by the appraiser and she is required to stay in compliance with Kansas Department of Revenue when appraising values in the county.

Brian Streit, Maintenance, requested a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318. It was approved on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Executive session began at 9:53 and ended at 10:03 with no decisions being made in executive session.

A proclamation making February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month was signed on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cortney Murrow, County Health Director, presented a letter of support for the I Am Healthy Parents First Program. It is a collaboration between USD 273 and the Beloit Medical Center encouraging healthy lifestyles in families. On a motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper the letter was signed. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Stephanie Chancellor at First Bank of Beloit is going to work with the County Health Department to make the transition to their new ACH account smoother.

Tom Claussen talked more about the Tourism Committee meeting that he and Jim Marshall attended along with Mark Noah, County Attorney. He said the committee cannot get a list of those who are already paying the guest tax and questions how many entities in the county should be paying that aren't. 234,000 people visited the lake in 2022 and 9,776 people visited the Isle of Lights, 29 different counties represented. Tom Claussen and Jim Marshall will be attending the NIMS emergency management training in Lincoln on Tuesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22am on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

_____ Jim Marshall, Chairman

_____ ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk