

March 6, 2023

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Monday, March 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 February 27, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Becky Snook, Communications Director, met with the commissioners for department updates. Her employees are currently working on recertifications. Tom Claussen requested a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the three commissioners, Becky Snook and Mitchell County Clerk Heather Weston per KSA 75-4318. The session was granted on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 8:35 and ended at 8:45 when it was extended for another 3 minutes on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 8:55 and ended at 8:48 with no decisions being made in executive session.

Noxious Weed Director Jason Vetter and Cindy McCullough presented the Annual Noxious Weed Progress Report for 2022 and the 2023 Management Plan. Both were signed on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Vetter spoke with Simpson Farm Enterprises about purchasing a spray boom attachment for his truck. He said the price would be the same no matter how it was ordered. On motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen it was approved to purchase the boom for \$12,587.77 plus incidentals. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Vetter requested that Bull Thistle be added back to the county option noxious weed list for Mitchell County. It was approved on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote. They will submit the proposal to the Secretary of Agriculture and provide a control plan.

Cortney Murrow, County Health Director, and Jesse Benedick from Schwab Eaton met with the commissioners to discuss two parking lot concepts that are ADA compliant for county health. There is six thousand dollars difference between the two concepts and the preference is to go with option 2 that has the ADA parking on the east of the building. Murrow would also like to replace the existing parking lot to the east all the way to the trees. There is a grant to pay for part of the expenses and money in a capital outlay fund to pay for the rest of the project. The commissioners agreed to proceed with concept 2 and concrete all the way to the east. Jesse Benedick is going to get the plans ready for bid.

The commissioners signed years of service certificates for February and March. Murrow then asked the commissioners to sign grant pages for KDHE Aid to Local Grants. On motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen it was approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote. County Health is applying for \$88,365.01 in grants and is hoping to receive around \$50,000. The grants will be used for updates; turning an open office into an ADA compliant room, adding a new exam chair, installing 8 new windows, and adding 2 new air filtration systems. Murrow will use memorial money to replace some kitchen appliances and paint an interactive mural on the wall for kids. Since they are down some staff members, they may have to close over some lunch hours while others are attending training.

Emergency Management Director David Dohe presented commissioners Claussen and Marshall with their certificates and new credentials for completing training. Dohe asked for approval to purchase a sit/stand desk for \$1,700. The commissioners approved the purchase and the money will come out of a capital outlay fund. He then requested a 5-minute executive session with the three commissioners 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 9:50 and ended at 9:55 with no decisions being made in executive session.

Marty Hernandez, Public Works Director, notified the commissioners that the grader sold to Asherville Township has been delivered and Leon Engelbert is operating the grader in Eureka Township since the county has taken over.

A Neighborhood Revitalization for Carter Wessling for a residential remodel in the amount of \$147,000 was approved on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

NCK CASA Annual Wear Blue Day is April 7th. The Annual KCCA Spring Conference is April 25th – 27th in Hays. The NCK Highway Association meeting will be held on April 5th & 6th at Acorn Resort at Milford Lake.

The commissioners approved the purchase of a laptop for \$1,500 for Mike Cooper to use for county duties.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14am on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

_____ Jim Marshall, Chairman

_____ ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk