

**April 5, 2021**

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Monday, April 5, 2021 with Chairman Tom Claussen and members Mike Cooper and Jim Marshall in attendance. Also in attendance was Terry Bailey, KSVV Radio.

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

The minutes of the March 29, 2021 meeting were approved as written on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cortney Murrow, County Health Administrator, visited with the commission regarding the Legislature's override of the Governor's bill (SB 40) and its effect on Mitchell County. Mrs. Murrow stated that the bill allows local jurisdictions to decide about mask mandates, large social gatherings, etc. After considerable discussion the commission decided to follow the guidelines from the State of Kansas citing SB 40 and leave mask mandate decisions up to local schools, both public and private, and businesses. The 50% limitation of facility capacity was also lifted.

Stuart Porter, Schwab-Eaton, met with the commission along with Public Works Director Dale Housh and next in line Marty Hernandez. A KDOT cost-share program was discussed to replace the remaining guard rails and posts on the Cawker City Causeway Rd (130 Rd). A letter requesting consideration from the State for the project was approved on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The commission also agreed to a \$340,000 match amount for the project on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The shop building at Public Works was discussed. Mr. Porter felt that for a building of this scale there should be a structural engineer, plumber and electrician recommendation for the building. The project will not be let for bids but will be sent to four local contractors for consideration. These include: Treb Construction, Senger Construction, B&M Construction and Wise Construction. There will be a bond required for any vendor submitting a bid. Mr. Porter estimated the cost of the architectural/engineering portion of the project to be around \$50,000 – 100,000. Mr. Housh informed the commission that the State of Kansas will hold a tour and meet with a commissioner to discuss the most hazardous spots on Mitchell County Roads sometime in May.

County Attorney Mark Noah and Sheriff Tony Perez met with the commission to take action on a new "Red Lights and Sirens" Resolution and application for those wanting these signals. There was a Resolution passed in 1992 but laws have been changed and statute dictated the change on these items. Following discussion, the commission passed Resolution 21-3 Red Lights and Sirens on motion by Jim Marshall and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The Resolution is effective dated today, April 5, 2021.

Ben Letourneau and Valerie Walter, representing St. John's/Tipton Catholic Schools met with the commission to discuss the mask mandate for those institutions. Based on decisions made earlier in the meeting the commission informed them that the mask mandate was now in the hands of the school(s) and they can make the decision to opt out of the mask requirements. Mike Cooper made motion to allow both public

and private schools in Mitchell County determine whether masks will be required. Motion was seconded by Jim Marshall and carried by unanimous vote.

Eric Hamel, EMS Director, requested, and was granted a 10-minute executive session on motion by Jim Marshall for non-elected personnel citing KSA 75-4318. Seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote. Session began at 10:12 and ended at 10:22 with no decisions made in executive session.

A letter from the Port Library requesting donations for their summer reading program was received and read. The commission stated that they could not spend tax dollars for this meaningful activity but encouraged individuals to contribute.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Tom Claussen, Chairman

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ATTEST: Chris Treaster, Mitchell Co Clerk