

May 1, 2023

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, May 1, 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 April 24, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Emily Benedick, Community Development Director, was present for grant updates. SVED received the Base Grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce for \$423,000 to remodel the Sperry Building. SVED has received approximately \$600,000 total to put toward this project. The plan for the space is offices, a conference room, and a store front. Benedick had nine daycares apply for money from the SEED Grant. Each daycare will receive \$1,775. The Hunter mural is starting in two weeks and the Glen Elder mural will start in June.

Public Works Director Marty Hernandez was present to discuss the concrete in the new shop. The moisture level is not going down so the epoxy and paint are being delayed. The commissioners told Hernandez to get another opinion and to contact local contractors. A sealer should have been put in the bid from the start but wasn't. The contractor can now put that sealer on for a cost of \$29,450. All parties agreed that they did not want to spend that much more money.

Eric Hamel, EMS Director, was present to give grant updates. Hamel's department received a Kansas Board of EMS grant for \$4,476.40 to put toward a Zoll Autopulse. EMS would pay the difference of \$13,429.20. The purchase was approved in the amount of \$17,905.60 on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Hamel just hired a new employee and has one position still open. One EMS employee passed his test to be a paramedic.

Emergency Management Director David Dohe and Mitchell County Attorney Mark Noah were present to discuss the new floodplain resolution. Vacant structures and monetary fines in the resolution needed to be addressed. The commissioners were not in favor of making any decisions. They advised Dohe that he take the resolution to the Zoning Commission meeting for input and talk to Katie Schroeder about how the city addresses the floodplain.

Brandon Tritsch, KDWP, and Doug Palen then joined the meeting to discuss controlled burning. The current resolution has been in place since 2011 and gives the fire chiefs the power to approve burning in the county. Tritsch showed a burn plan to the commissioners for an example of what criteria needs to be met for approval to burn. Prepping, fire breaks and units available are very important. Lack of knowledge is why many fires get out of hand. He is hoping to have a class for landowners to attend this year. Doug Palen had requested to burn recently and had been told no because of the extremely dry conditions in Mitchell County. Palen said that he had all of the safe guards in place to burn and should have been allowed. He said that maybe the fire chiefs and Dohe need to come up with a list of criteria that the chiefs can go by. If the landowner meets all of the criteria, then the burn would be approved. All agreed that that was a good idea. The current resolution will be redrafted to increase the hourly wage for fire fighters and trucks deployed if a burn gets away from the landowner and criteria for what is prepared.

On motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper a MOU was signed with Ellsworth Correctional Facility for support if needed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Barb Wise and Kathy Webster were present to speak about mental health. Pawnee Mental Health provides services for over 200 people in Mitchell County and mental health is very important. Lance Bergmann, Sheriff's Department, currently completed mental health training to better assist the prisoners at the jail. On motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper a proclamation declaring May Mental Health Month was signed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Dawn Snyder was present for the Fiscal Year 2024 grants from the Kansas Department of Corrections. Four grants were approved on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Those grants are the Adult Comprehensive Plan Grant for \$407,048.89, the Juvenile Comprehensive Plan Grant for \$292,469.94, the Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board Grant for \$118,002.90, and the Juvenile Reinvestment Grant for \$99,122.10.

Mitchell County Clerk Heather Weston presented a bid for an on-demand ballot printer from Knowink. Being able to print on demand will save on the number of ballots wasted. On motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen the purchase for \$7,970 was approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

_____ Jim Marshall, Chairman

_____ ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk