

August 14, 2023

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 14, 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 August 7, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication Director Becky Snook was present with department updates. Snook began with the conference schedule that is ahead for her and her employees. The money used for conferences comes from the Mitchell County 911 fund. Mitchell County receives the minimum, \$60,000, every year which can only be used for limited expenses. The money not spent will accrue and can be used for equipment update. The commissioners asked to be informed of all conferences or trainings and some expenses may need to be approved.

Tony Perez, Mitchell County Sheriff, was present and requested a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318 with the three commissioners. The session was granted on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session started at 9:10 a.m. and ended at 9:15 a.m. with no decisions being made in executive session. In open session Tom Claussen moved to give two of Perez's employees a raise of \$1 each which took effect August 1st. The motion was seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote.

The commissioners questioned Perez about the cost of transferring inmates. He said that if a warrant is issued, they are required to go get them. There is a transport service out of Larned that is used a lot.

EMS Director Missy McGinnis was present and brought a new employee, Melissa Mahin, to introduce to the commissioners. Commissioner Marshall asked how often the Cawker City station was open. McGinnis said it is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for sure.

McGinnis then requested permission to begin to spec an ambulance from Osage Ambulance. There is money in capital outlay and it is 2-3 years out before receiving one. Ambulances would be rotated around with the newest being located at Beloit office. The request to start looking for a new ambulance was granted on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

McGinnis requested a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318 with the three commissioners and County Clerk Heather Weston. The session was granted on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. The session started at 9:38 a.m. and ended at 9:48 a.m. with no decisions being made in executive session.

Cortney Murrow, County Health Director, was present with a security quote from TW Securities for HHS services and HIPPA compliant support services for their electronic records. The base amount is \$12,400 and then \$275 per hour for extended support services as needed. The workforce development grant will pay for the services. The contract is contingent on receiving the grant proceeds. On motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper the contract was approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Murrow said the tentative dates for the Health Fair is October 9th-13th.

Commissioner Claussen announced that Dawn Harlow, Lincoln County Clerk, is the newest member of the KCAMP board. All in attendance thought it was a good idea to have a local person was on the board.

GIS Director Clint Offutt was present and requested a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel per KSA 75-4318 with the three commissioners and Weston. The session was granted on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Session started at 10:19 a.m. and ended at 10:29 a.m. with no decisions being made in executive session.

Phillip Murrow, District Sanitarian, was present to discuss some difficulties he has encountered performing his job. Mitchell County is a part of the LEPG (Local Environmental Protection Group) which is a group of 7 counties (Mitchell, Jewell, Osborne, Smith, Phillips, Rooks, and Republic) that share a sanitarian. Murrow came across an illegal well that had been drilled in Republic County and did not get the response he felt he should have from the Republic County Commissioners. After discussion the commissioners decided they would invite Phillips, Rooks, and Republic as well as the regular counties to the Multi-County Meeting which will be held in Beloit September 18th at the Mitchell County Museum. The LEPG is an agenda item for the meeting.

Public Works Director Marty Hernandez was present to discuss the possibility of a new dump truck, the current one needs a new engine. The commissioners told Hernandez to check into a remanned engine for the truck which on estimate would cost about \$25,000, with a 1-year warranty. He is also going to begin looking for a new semi. Overlaying is close to completion and they will begin mowing ditches after Labor Day. They will be working on a bridge and replacing a culvert by Tipton. The Causeway Project will be let out for bid next August. The commissioners then questioned if some of the extra expenses for the new shop should have been caught in the design phase. The commissioners will talk to Schwab Eaton next time they are at a meeting and notify them they are not happy with the results for the amount of money the county pays them.

David Dohe, Emergency Management Director, was present to notify the commissioners that Riley Hembre was appointed to the district 3 Commissioner seat in Lincoln County. He will be taking over for the late Darrell Oetting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 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