

**August 21, 2023**

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 21, 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 14, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

County Attorney Mark Noah, Maintenance Director Brian Streit, and EMS Director Missy McGinnis, along with EMS employees Andrew Allen, Hope Brown, and Justin Doub were present. The land deal for the property north of the current EMS station is at a standstill. Uptown Management Company sent a deed with the wrong description and no title insurance over a year ago to the county. Noah drew up a new contract that gives the owner the opportunity to quiet the title. It will be sent to the owners in an attempt to close the land deal. McGinnis said she spoke with one of the owners and he was upset with the lengthy process.

Missy McGinnis and Brian Streit requested a 15-minute executive session for trade secrets of the corporation per KSA 75-4318 with the three commissioners, three EMS employees and County Clerk Heather Weston. The session was granted on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The session started at 8:52 a.m. and ended at 9:07 a.m. with no decisions being made in executive session. In open session Commissioner Claussen moved to approve a bid from M.S.C Ceiling of Salina for \$23,692 to remove the old ceiling, grid and panels, and install new insulation and ceiling. The motion was seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote. New duct work will be installed during this process.

Jason Brown with Invenergy was present with the Road Use Agreement for the Grain Belt Express project. The agreement includes a bond for repairs to county roads. The towers are built on site, the heaviest trucks on the road will be the concrete trucks. The project is expected to start in the third or fourth quarter of 2024 and will have a pre and post inspection of the roads. The county will receive a \$220,000 one-time payment along with a rate per acre. The landowners will receive \$18,000 per structure and a rate per acre. The sum is dependent on the number of structures and voluntarily acres. The commissioners said they will have the county attorney and road & bridge supervisor look over the agreement. Township roads were at question and they will be addressed before the agreement is signed. The KCC did grant Invenergy the power of eminent domain for the Grain Belt Express Project, which is a 7-billion-dollar project across four states.

Mason Fast and Kindra White were present from Globe Life, Liberty National Division to address the commissioners about supplemental insurance. Lynne Imboden HR Supervisor joined the discussion and said that the supplemental insurance the county currently has are Washington National and Aflac. The commissioners said employees may be interested, but it is a busy time. They were asked to come back in January.

Mitchell County Appraiser Melinda Latham was present to notify the commissioners that she will be leaving for a conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Latham is currently the president of KCAA and the trip is being paid for by the association.

On motion by Tom Claussen the Interlocal Service Contract for the LEPC was signed along with a ballot stating Mitchell County's participation for the current year. The motion was seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote.

Weston informed the commission that she and Lynne Imboden, HR, will be attending Certified Election Officials Training in Hays. The Secretary of State's office will be leading the training.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m. on motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Jim Marshall, Chairman

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ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk