

September 5, 2023

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 as county employees observed Labor Day on Monday. 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 28, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The commissioners took a moment at the beginning of the meeting to express their condolences to the family of Doug Daugherty. Daugherty was a long-time employee of the county serving as Mitchell County Sheriff. He is gone but not forgotten.

Barb Wise and Kathy Webster were present representing Pawnee Mental Health with a proclamation for National Recovery Month. On motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen September is proclaimed National Recovery Month in Mitchell County. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Webster highlighted many ways in which Pawnee is helping the community. Upcoming events are the 5th Annual Driving the Dream Online Auction October 1st-13th and October 12th is a dinner and live auction in Manhattan.

David Dohe, Emergency Management Director, was present with a Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, for fuel with CVA in case of a disaster. On motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen it was approved to sign the MOU. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cortney Murrow, Health Department Director, was present with years of service for county employees. Recipients were Donna Schmidt – 35 Years, Gary Sporleder – 25 Years, Tami Eck – 20 Years, Cindy Smith – 15 Years, and William Lorenz – 10 Years. Murrow also mentioned she was purchasing beds for the specialty clinic with grant money that has been approved.

Jesse Benedick, Schwab Eaton, joined the meeting for the public opening of the bids for the county health parking lot. One bid was opened from J. Brummer Construction of Beloit, Kansas. The bid was \$88,106.83 base bid which is the ADA area east of the awning. The addon bid was \$193,843.97 which is the whole parking lot. The bid listed a completion date of 240 days. The engineering estimate was opened which was \$68,870.00 base bid and \$151,575.00 for the whole project. The commissioners asked Benedick to review the bid for errors or omissions and return next week.

The commissioners expressed their concerns about the cost overages with the new county shop building. They do not feel they have gotten the service paid for from Schwab Eaton or Agora Architecture, LLC of Winfield, Kansas. There were many oversights in the project stated commissioner Marshall. Benedick was not prepared for the discussion and stated that if the contractor missed items in the spec book, that was on the contractor. Senger Construction was the contractor hired for the project. Schwab Eaton was hired for part time inspection and Stuart Porter was the contact. Marty Hernandez, Public Works Director, joined and said employees caught some of the issues and they were resolved before the building was finished. Benedick apologized that the county felt they received bad service from Schwab Eaton.

Allen Eilert and Garry Clark, Fire District #3, were present to inform the commissioners of the purchase of a fire truck for \$40,000. A grant from Dane Hansen will pay for \$20,000 of the cost and the rest will be paid for by a lease purchase loan through Guaranty State Bank of Beloit. Tom Claussen moved to sign the lease purchase agreement for the truck. The motion was seconded by Mike Cooper and carried by unanimous vote.

Melinda Latham, County Appraiser, was present to discuss the PVD Compliance Report sent out by the state. Latham stated that her residential sales were within range, but her commercial sales were way under. The next step is for PVD to meet with Latham and data collect 1% of the commercial properties in Mitchell County to make sure the data collection is correct. This is a new process the state has instituted. She handed the commissioners a letter with the highlights from her conference she attended in Utah.

On motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Mike Cooper the Road Use Agreement for the Grain Belt Express Project was approved and signed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Marty Hernandez told the commissioners that his department has started mowing and will soon be replacing posts on the causeway. The Causeway Project is still possibly two years out. The county has been awarded the grant for the fracture critical bridge by Jim Kadel's and Hernandez is applying for a grant to replace Tanquary Bridge which will be fully funded.

On motion by Mike Cooper and seconded by Tom Claussen the updated Mitchell County Handbook was approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Yvonne Melton, Treasurer, was present to answer questions about issues in the county audit.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m. on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

_____ Jim Marshall, Chairman

_____ ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk