

ELK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved Minutes

June 10, 2024

If you would like to attend the meeting via zoom, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744791667?pwd=VFf4sbqy5lKjTpLHezxdV9BAfLBPD8.1>

select join meeting and enter meeting ID: 817 4479 1667 Password: 360199

Regularly Scheduled Meeting

1:00 p.m. - Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer

Minutes Approval – May 28, 2024 & June 3, 2024

1:05 p.m. – Public Forum

1:10 p.m. – Department Reports

Ambulance	Rural Fire
Appraiser	Sheriff
Emergency Management	Treasurer
Health	County Counselor
Public Works	County Clerk
Register of Deeds	County Attorney
Community Development	

Old Business:

Real Estate @ 1285 Evergreen, Moline

Property on Dove Road, Moline

New Business

2:00 p.m. – Storm Ready- EM

2:15 p.m. – Roads -

2:30 p.m. – Road 27 and Limestone- Juli Young

2:45 p.m. – Executive Session Non-Elected - EMS

3:00 p.m. - Bids for 1285 Evergreen Project

3:15 p.m. –

3:30 p.m. – Commission Discussion

Abatements:

Presentation of Claims

Other

Adjournment

Future Events:

Commissioners Present:

Perry Russell, District I

Doug Hendricks, District II

Jake Liebau, District III

Deputy County Clerk: Stefni Hebb

County Counselor: Paul Dean

Others:

John Walker, Sheriff

Erica Cordell, EM

Stephanie Ollenborger

Kandy Dowell, Health

Christina Miller, Appraiser

Tina Blackburn

Julie Young

Vanessa Pearce, Nat. Weather Svc.

Gillian Beaumont

Ken Mitchell, EMS

Jenifer Clatt, EMS

Don Sanders, Public Works

Malarie Chamberlain, Payroll Clerk

Kristina Kraft, Deputy Treasurer

Mueller

Abigail Bowman

John Beaumont

Call to Order

Chairman Liebau called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners Hendricks and Russell were all present as well as Deputy County Clerk Stefni Hebb.

Minutes Approval

Commissioner Hendricks moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to approve the May 28, 2024 regular meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Forum

Stephanie Ollenborger for the Elk County Drug Coalition has supplies and need somewhere to store them between public events. Would like to use the old road office if possible. Commission and Don Sanders gave verbal ok.

EMS

Ken Mitchell handed out May's monthly report. Ken talked to Countryside Funeral Home about coroner duties, and they are willing to take them on. He will get them into contact with Dr. Barner to see what all they need to do to be appointed. They are already coroners in Wilson County.

Ken does have an EMT coming from Oklahoma on Thursday to talk to them and is hoping the new EMS Director is appointed today so they may attend.

Emergency Management

Erica Cordell had a report the Elk Falls siren failed on the siren test last week. It was checked out and retested today with no issues.

Radio tower moving project, there was some miscommunication on when that was scheduled to be done. It will be next week.

Erica attended the Summer Safety Program on May 29th with a booth.

Last week Erica was in Topeka for the Emergency Management Institute's Emergency Management Academy, this is a FEMA program. She will be attending the one in July as well.

Health

Kandy Dowell attended the Summer Safety Program with the Elk County Drug Coalition. Kandy is asking for an executive session sometime during the meeting.

The Health Dept. Gas Generator will be kept on the Health Dept. annual inventory, but will have a note on where it is located in the county.

Public Works

Don Sanders talked about the locations on what and where his department has been doing repairs and replacements of tubes, with maps handed to the Commission.

Don talked with the state and filed with FEMA damage that was done to the Green Ranch Bridge. The state and Don were worried if they did not file, FEMA may think that we do not need the extra help with the Green Ranch Project.

Weed

Aaron Kokesch started today for the Noxious Weed Dept. he will be in the mower and brush cutter.

Recycling

E Waste and Hazardous pickup was Saturday, there was more chemical, paint, and oil than before. The E Waste was double from previous years and less household trash.

Register of Deeds

Gave Commission the monthly report of May.

Sheriff

Sheriff Walker stated that the Sheriff's Office lost internet last week for most of a day. This was due to a late payment, because of the county's warrant processes and the speed of mail. The sheriff's office paid the late payment by credit card and it was reconnected. AT&T also had the Sheriff's Office classified as residential instead of a 911 center. Sheriff Walker talked to Commission about paying the bill by credit card every month. Paul Dean suggested to have AT&T email the internet bill, so it would give the county more time to pay before the due date. Sheriff Walker will look into this more.

Sheriff Walker would like to hire a second parttime jailer, for days when the other jailer is off work. This would help the dispatch not to have to have contact with the inmates or miss calls when they would be doing duties in the jail. The verbal exchange with one of the inmates caused a dispatcher to resign. The jailer in charge of all duties in the jail and take inmates to local court hearings as well as be available for anyone who comes in for Zoom Court. This also frees up deputies to patrol and not have to stay near the jail for court.

Sheriff Walker has the Charger back, it was not fixed, and would like to strip it down to sell on Purple Wave as well as the three vehicles that are still in the impound lot. The new SO Truck was taken to get equipped and will be available around Friday to pick up.

County Counselor

Paul Dean selected the Pawnee County CDL Agreement to revamp and add some items to. Paul Dean will email this to the Commission to review, it does not need to be approved today.

Paul also asked for an Executive Session to discuss legal matters when possible, during the meeting.

Community Development

Shari Kaminska talked to the Office of Broadband Development in Cowley County about expanding internet in Elk County. The lady said the grant cycle is getting ready to open. Some grants have been awarded but there is \$451 million from the Federal Government allocated to this, so there is a lot more money to be awarded. Shari stated that 50% of Elk County is underserved with high speed internet. About 47% of the West Elk School district and 52% of Elk Valley School district boundaries are underserved. Shari talked to Twin Valley, they are planning on applying for some of the grant funding and stated that it will be important to have letters of support from the county, local businesses, schools, and county citizens that wish to be served by broadband. Shari explained on where in the county has the best and best served areas and providers that come into the county.

Starting Wednesday, Shari has several teens and adults coming to remove the carpet in the Moline Methodist Church, and hopefully will be done within two days.

Shari is still waiting on figures from Mark Freese's electrician.

Lemonade Day will be held in July throughout the county.

Department of Commerce came last week with two representatives. They chose 20 rural communities to get feedback from. There were nine people who came. Discussion was on community needs, what grants they would like to see in the future, having smaller dollar grants, lower match dollar grants, smaller communities do not always know how to fill out the grant paperwork due to the complexity. It was a good discussion by all.

1285 Evergreen

Paul Dean and Commission had discussion on when a good date to open the sealed bids for the house. Paul Dean stressed that he thought it was very important that all of the Commission and the County Counselor be present for the meeting. They decided to have a special meeting, but have not set a date yet.

Road 27 and Limestone

Juli Young addressed the Commission about a letter from Paul Dean in April. Juli tried to talk to Paul Dean, but her calls were not returned until this morning. The fence in question has been in the same location since her family purchased the land in the 1980's. In March the Young's replaced the fence and put it back in the same location as the previous fence. The family stated that there had been an agreement with past commission to keep the fence where it was to help with weed control and corner visibility. The section of land that is being discussed does not show that it is county property in plat maps or on the online appraiser map. Juli Young would like to purchase this 0.37 acres of land at a reasonable price from the county if they are not planning on using it. Discussion was had by Commission on selling the land and why the letter was sent. Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Hendricks seconded to allow Jontra's Property Knob LLC to purchase the said property at Road 27 and Limestone in the amount of \$1.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Executive Session 1:39 p.m.

Commissioner Hendricks moved and Commissioner Russell seconded to recess into executive session for 5 to 10 mins to discuss non-elected personnel with Kandy Dowell and County Counselor Paul Dean. Not to return until 1:49 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 1:43 p.m.

No action taken.

Went back into Executive Session for remainder of time to discuss Legal matters with County Counselor Paul Dean.

Back in session 1:51 p.m.

No action taken.

Recess

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Hendricks seconded to take a recess until 2 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 1:58 p.m.

Storm Ready

Vanessa Pearce from the National Weather Service in Wichita wants to formally recognize Elk County as a Storm Ready county thanks to our Emergency Manager Erica Cordell. With all of the work she has done to adjust the plans for the county as well as the communication with the National Weather Service so they can get information up, and having booths up and local events in the county. The National

Weather Service presented a sign and certificate of support. Discussion was had by Commission on ideas to where the sign should be placed.

Bids for 1285 Evergreen Project

There was one bid for cleanup at 1285 Evergreen. There was brief discussion about extending time for more bids. Shari Kaminska stated that it was well advertised on Facebook and in the newspaper that the county had been accepting bids and did not want to drag this out for another two weeks, the Commission agreed. Bid was read out loud with discussion following, with a reminder that this will be paid from the grant money. Commissioner Hendricks moved and Commissioner Russell seconded to accept the estimate from Midwest Land Management to clear the property at 1285 Evergreen in the amount of \$9,300. Motion carried 3-0.

Executive Session 2:24 p.m.

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Hendricks seconded to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss EMS Director with County Counselor Paul Dean and Gillian Beaumont not to return until 2:34 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 2:34 p.m.

Action: Commissioner Hendricks moved and Commissioner Russell seconded to hire Gillian Beaumont as the new Director of EMS effective immediately, to work with ken Mitchell until his retirement in the amount of \$57,000 annually.

Commission Discussion

Sheriff Walker asked if he could get approved to purchase a tag for the new patrol truck, with a possible cost of \$54.00. Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Hendricks seconded to approve Sheriff Walker to purchase a tag for the new sheriff truck. Motion carried 3-0.

The Commission discussed the Courthouse HVAC, Windows, and Electric with Don Sanders. It was decided to look into more options, contractors, and plans. The Commission is not ready to proceed yet, but would like something started before winter starts. Will revisit the topic in future meetings.

Paul Dean recited the Fence View Order between SK Ag Land LLC and John Cannon until he is able to print it off. Commissioner Hendricks moved and Commissioner Russell seconded to approve the recited fence order by Mr. Dean. Motion carried 3-0. Paul Dean was finally was able to print the fence order off for commission to sign.

After some discussion Commissioner Liebau said he would reach out to all EMS Director applicants and thank them for submitting their application.

Ken talked to Commission on forming a letter to appoint Gillian as the EMS Director to notify the Board of EMS. Ken will get one ready and have Jake Liebau sign once he finds out how many days before the Board will need to be notified.

Warrants

Commissioner Hendricks moved and Commissioner Russell seconded to approve the regular warrants in the amount of \$98,594.72. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll

Commissioner Hendricks moved and Commissioner Russell seconded to approve May payroll in the amount of \$277,147.30. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjournment

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Hendricks seconded to adjourn at 3:25 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST:

Stefni J. Hebb
Elk County Deputy Clerk

Perry Russell, District I

Doug Hendricks, District II

Jake Liebau, District III (Chairman)