

Office of the County Clerk
Journal of Proceedings for the Smith County Commissioners
December 23, 2024

The County Commissioners met in a special session on December 23, 2024, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Dale Pickel and Jim Gwennap. Also, present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Assistant Road Supervisor, Brady Peterson, Commissioner elect and Annie Stepp.

At 8:30 a.m. Pickel called the regular meeting to order and Gwennap opened with prayer.

A motion was made by Pickel and seconded by Gwennap to approve the 12/16/2024 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve the 12/23/2024 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved voucher #14013-voucher #14078 and wires for the following accounts:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| General | \$ 16,940.95 |
| Road & Bridge | \$ 19,281.61 |
| Noxious Weed | \$ 382.55 |
| Health | \$ 2,766.62 |
| Appraiser | \$ 1,096.04 |
| Patterson Family | \$ 957.77 |
| Solid Waste | \$ 2,559.17 |
| EMS | \$ 890.79 |
| Employee Benefits | \$ 27,160.92 |
| Special Alcohol | \$ 6,194.67 |
| Health Care Sales Tax | \$ 22,330.90 |
| Payroll Clearing | \$ 43,989.99 |
| Next Gen. E911 | \$ 210.38 |
| TOTAL | \$144,762.36 |

Stepp discussed the 2024 tax statements. Stepp stated there is a parcel of land that her name was placed in a separate place than the other parcels. Stepp also noted that Ralph's name was placed as an owner on a parcel that he doesn't have any ownership interest in. Stepp would like to see the changes be made to reflect the correct ownership. Gwennap asked Stepp for some time to look into the issues.

Tiffany Wiseman joined the meeting.
Stepp left the meeting.

The commissioners and Story discussed the following:

1. Gwennap discussed 70 Rd between DD Rd and EE Rd. Gwennap discussed the need to utilize this location as a learning tool. The East half of the roadway is closed and the bridge has been condemned. Story stated that the blade man is new to this district and did not realize the road was closed. Also the new blade man is attempting to widen several roads that are too narrow, allowing only 1 vehicle through.

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2. Gwennap asked about the 300 Rd project. Story stated they are still working on the project. Story also stated the road department had to rent a vibrating roller due to theirs going down.
3. Gwennap discussed 170 Rd between Z Rd and EE Rd. Story stated that work was done by a blade man that was put on his own too early. Story stated they had a discussion about this issue this morning and this blade man will be working with others.
4. Gwennap discussed X Rd, South of Hwy 36. Gwennap stated that in the area there are some terraces draining in the dirt road.
5. Gwennap discussed the use of county owned vehicles.
6. Story stated the new mulcher will be ready this week. They will pick it up from Concordia.
7. Story stated the wiring has been run for the generator. Gwennap suggested testing it.
8. Peterson and Gwennap discussed 30 Rd between U Rd and V Rd.
9. Story shared an application with the commissioners.

Story left the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve the fuel purchase from Bob's Inc for \$80,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve the land lease with Steve Kugler for 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners reviewed the solid waste abatement requests.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve 1 solid waste abatement request and deny 1 solid waste abatement request. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners reviewed the lawn care services from Minden Lawn & Sprinkler.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to accept the complete prepaid program for \$2,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Jones joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Jones stated the materials are in stock for the roof. Jones stated they are the next project on the list.
2. Jones discussed the KDOT contract. His current rate is \$100.00/hour. Jones asked the board to consider an increase of \$10.00/hour. The commissioners are in favor of the increase.
3. Gwennap asked if he had his new computer. Jones stated it hasn't been set up yet.
4. Gwennap asked Jones if there are any equipment needs here at the end of the day.
5. Jones stated he has been treating trees.

Jones left the meeting.

Keith DeWolf joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. DeWolf discussed 2 credit card purchases. The commissioners denied the payment of such items. The commissioners explained the purchases are not for the benefit of the

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county and similar purchases have been documented in the audit previously. DeWolf stated the one purchase had been cancelled and the other will be paid for by the employees. DeWolf stated that the sheriff's department has agreed to pay for the expenditures. Again, the commissioners explained the reason for denial.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to deny payment of the retirement party expenditures for the retirees. Motion carried unanimously.

2. DeWolf stated he is still working on the performance evaluations for his employees. DeWolf left the meeting.

The commissioners discussed the equipment repairs needed at the landfill. Foley Equipment submitted a bid for the 953C Dozer repairs for \$25,935.17. Bobcat submitted a bid for the Track Loader repairs for \$2,944.27. The commissioners tabled the Foley Equipment bid.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to accept the bid from Bobcat less the track disposal fee for \$2,794.27. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to accept the resignation of Larry Pennington as the Banner Township Treasurer and appoint Nancy Ceder as Banner Township Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to appoint AJ Wilson as the Dor Township Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners signed 9 abatements, 2 name changes and 13 added taxes.

Dana Peterson and Joan Nech joined the meeting and discussed the Choose Smith County campaign that has been through economic development with Eberle Studios. The cost estimate to continue the campaign with Eberle Studios is approximately \$2,000.00/month.

Nech and Peterson explained some of the details of the program. The committee is requesting \$15,000.00 of the ROZ Grant funding to continue the project.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve giving \$15,000.00 of ROZ grant funding to the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Nech and Dana Peterson left the meeting.

Travis Conaway joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to convene in executive session at 11:10 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Also in the session was Travis Conaway, Ashley Maxwell and Brady Peterson. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

Conaway left the meeting.

Debbie Hays joined the meeting and shared that she has the 2025 contract drafted the same as

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2024. Hays will continue to be the emergency manager for Phillips and Smith Counties during 2025. Hays suggested in the future possibly hiring a part-time individual who has intentions of becoming a full time emergency manager.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve the 2025 contract with Debbie Hays and Phillips County for emergency management. Motion carried unanimously.

Hays left the meeting.

The commissioners reviewed an NRP extension request from Dana Peterson.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve the NRP extension for Dana Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Tiffany Wiseman joined the meeting.

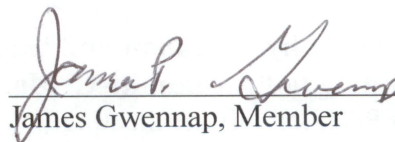
A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to convene in executive session at 11:40 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Tiffany Wiseman. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 11:51 a.m.

Wiseman left the meeting.

Maxwell rejoined the meeting.


At 11:54 a.m. a motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to adjourn as there was no further business. Motion carried unanimously.

Kurt Ifland, Chairman




James Gwennap, Member

Attest:



Ashley Maxwell, Clerk



Dale E. Pickel, Member

These minutes are not official until signed by the county commissioners and attested to by the County Clerk.

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