

The County Commissioners met in regular session on January 19, 2010 in the County Commissioners' Room. Present were Arthur Kuhlmann, Paul McCartney, and Joe Kingsbury, Commissioners. Also present was Clerk, Sharon Wolters.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the agenda.

Commission chairman signed the Treasurer's daily statement envelopes.

Commissioners approved Payroll # 2 for \$78068.29.

Tami Woods met with the commissioners about the revised drug policy. Woods informed the commissioners that each employee who is eligible for random drug testing will be required to sign a statement indicating that they have received notice of the change in policy as a requirement for continuation of employment.

Darrell Shellito joined the meeting.

Bill Overmiller, joined the meeting and discussed the V Road between 70 & 80 Roads. Overmiller indicated that the snow has created a problem for the road. McCartney discussed a water way that should be repaired located on 60 Road off of Highway 81. Overmiller indicated that he knew there was some changes that should be made.

Bob Wagner discussed the drainage problem on J Road between 30 & 40 Roads. Wagner asked Shellito how he felt this drainage problem might be resolved. Shellito suggested a drain pipe under the road and some additional dirt work.

Wagner also discussed the Banister Group, a wind energy promotional group. The Banister Group has accepted the Smith County project. Wagner invited the commissioners to a meeting with The Banister Group on Sunday, February 21, 2010, at the high school. Wagner asked that the commissioners stay involved in the negotiation process. Wagner asked for funds to mail the invitation letters for the meeting. Wagner reported that the Farm Bureau attorney was willing to help with the leases for landowners. Commissioners asked for exact amount of money before committing to the cost of mailing letters. McCartney stated that the commissioners were doing everything they could to stay informed including meeting with the economic development director from Graham County. McCartney expressed that the commissioners were not in opposition to wind farms, but they wished to be cautious when making long term decisions.

Gaines discussed the following:

1. Gaines discussed drainage at the landfill.
2. Gaines discussed quotes for a tractor to be used at the landfill. Gaines had two quotes and reported that he has asked for an additional two quotes, but has not received them at this time. The lowest price at this time was from John Deere for a 95 hp Challenger tractor for \$44,610. Gaines reported that the road department tractor has a number of parts that will have to be replaced and he did not feel that \$36,000.00 for the AGCO tractor would be a good investment for the landfill when a new tractor is not much higher and has a warranty.

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3. Gaines reported that he and Robert Pennington are now both certified in Household Hazardous Waste.

Patrick Eastes reported that they have started the annual vehicle inspections for EMS.

Commissioners discussed the landfill tractor quotes.

Commissioners reviewed a solid waste removal request. The commissioners denied the request because the units still have accessible plumbing and electric capability.

Chris Jones joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Jones presented the commissioners with a contract from The State of Kansas for weed maintenance along the highway. The commissioners signed the agreement.
2. Jones reviewed the annual approval from the Kansas Department of Agriculture stating that Chris Jones has met the requirements of the State for Plant Protection and Weed Control.

Amy Hanchett discussed the job ad that she has placed in the newspaper.

Commissioners discussed the road maintenance policy. Commissioners prepared a letter to be sent to the City of Smith Center concerning the county road maintenance policy.

Commissioners viewed a statement left with the clerk from Kyle Schamp.

Shellito and Woods joined the meeting.

Junior Hagman requested that the commissioners rock A Road 5/8 mile south of 220 Road. Hagman asked the commissioners about using rock from a rock pit that he owns. Shellito discussed the licensing process that must be done in order for the county to use a rock pit. Hagman decided to reconsider the rock request after reviewing the new road rocking policy.

Commissioners agreed to wait till next week to decide about the landfill tractor.

Amy Hanchett visited with the commissioners about insulin maintenance for the county. Commissioners contacted Lynne Hill per telephone to ask if the sheriff can bring a prisoner to the county health department to have a blood sugar test. Hill indicated that would be fine. The prisoner will be treated like any other customer of the county health department.

Kirk Schweitzer, Graham County Economic Development Director, visited with the commissioners about the wind farm located in Graham County. Schweitzer discussed the Graham County wind farm development experience. Schweitzer reported that the Graham County ED office is funded by a .25% sales tax. Schweitzer reported that the following steps were taken in the process of developing wind farms in Graham County and he would recommend that similar steps be taken in Smith County:

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1. Find a representative to provide information to answer, "Are we really a candidate for wind farms?" Graham County hired WECC (Wind Energy Contract Construction & Consultants) February- March of 2009 WECC completed a review of Graham County. Schweitzer indicated that Graham County was the first county-wide study. The report indicated that Graham County was an excellent development area for wind energy production.
2. Size and evaluate the transmission lines available in the county. Graham County had power lines that did not show on the KCC transmission line maps.
3. Educate the public. Graham County asked 5 companies to present at public meetings. The attendance was poor.
4. After the viable project has been documented, find an effective way to notify energy development companies of the viable project. The factors that were identified were wind speed, wind direction, humidity change from 80 meters to ground level and peak hours of need in coordination with the wind patterns.
5. Contacted national developers. Develop a long term plan that brings more than short term development and can be completed in phases. Graham County did a national search to find a developer that would consider a multi-year development project to bring more permanent residents to the area. Tom Steele, T Steele Construction, met with ED and indicated what his requirements would be in order to develop the project.
6. An additional public meeting was held with Mr. Steele. After that meeting, Mr. Steel and the ED representatives met individually and completed a collective bargaining lease that met the needs of the farmers. Graham County requested individual land leases to allow for land impact leases. The owner received whatever benefit his property provided. This took till September 2009 to complete.
7. Requested complete information points plotted from the Southern Power Pool.
8. Formed a corporate group of energy users who would work as an energy group to buy and sell energy.
9. Graham County ED purchased their own tower and completed micro-siting (a locator on the individual properties).
10. Graham County pursued an agreement that must complete their payment in lieu of taxes that would be simultaneous with the purchase agreements. Graham County presented their position in light of the fact that the commissioners could impose a form of county zoning by resolution at any time and would be willing to accept terms which included funds for the hospital and the schools in Graham County. Graham County had to set up a foundation that benefits the school in order to keep state funding in tact for the schools. Graham County visited with other counties. They found the road maintenance was costly. Graham County allowed their contractor to take control over the roads and prepare them according to the county standards. Graham County also requested a deposit for future maintenance. They are also evaluating the expanded services for law enforcement and emergency response. They are currently considering on site rescue and emergency response provided by the developer.
11. Schwietzer reported that they have contact ITC. ITC is interested in lines that attach if they can prove profit. The cost for Graham County ED project is approximately \$20,000,000.00 to hook up to ITC.

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Schwietzer recommended using credible companies to gather accurate information.

Kingsbury requested information on wind data collection and information. Schwietzer gave the commissioners a contact from WECC for additional information. The commissioners visited with the contractor who agreed to come and do a presentation on February 1, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. for the commissioners.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Board of County Commissioners

Paul McCartney, Chairman

Arthur Kuhlmann, Member

Attest:

Sharon Wolters, Clerk

Joe Kingsbury, Member