

Office of the County Clerk
Journal of Proceedings for the Smith County Commissioners
April 8, 2024

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on April 8, 2024, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Dale Pickel and Jim Gwennap. Also, present was Joell Wagenblast, Deputy Clerk, and Travis Story, Assistant Road Supervisor.

Jeremy and Amber Hendrich joined the meeting.

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

The commissioners signed daily statement envelopes.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve the 4/1/2024 minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Ifland to approve the 04/08/2024 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved voucher #12748-#12818 and wires for the following accounts:

General	\$ 16,977.67
Road & Bridge	\$ 39,258.29
Noxious Weed	\$ 503.56
Health	\$ 1,670.74
Appraiser	\$ 741.42
Solid Waste	\$ 1,080.01
EMS	\$ 6,262.41
Employee Benefits	\$ 38,252.43
Drug and Alcohol	\$ 2048.90
Health Care Sales Tax	\$ 3,180.45
Payroll Clearing	\$ 34,070.31
Next Gen. E911	\$ 165.00
CVB	\$ 320.00
TOTAL	\$144,531.19

The commissioners approved payroll #8 for \$136,446.10.

The commissioners, Story discussed the following:

1. Jerney Hendrich asked about the barricades on 300 and U Road and voiced his concerns about commercial trucks driving on some of the bridges. Story stated that some of the bridges Hendrich is talking about are not rated for commercial use. Story went on to state that he talked to Sheriff Lehman, and they decided to put up barricades to try to stop out of county traffic and commercial truck traffic. Gwennap stated they are looking to get signage that says local traffic only and no commercial trucks. Ifland stated the road department is watching the barricades to make sure that no one is moving them. Hendrich left the meeting.
2. Ifland stated he was approached about the need for a tube North of T Rd and 60 Road intersection. Ifland and Gwennap discussed the possibility of just putting in a driveway instead of a tube. Story will have the crew go look at it.

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3. Ifland stated he has received more calls about H Road since they have been reading about it in the minutes. Ifland stated he has been informing the callers they plan on pulling the shoulders. He feels like the overall preference from the calls he has received is that they would like to see gravel put back on the road.
4. Ifland asked Story about the tube on 210 Road between H Rd and I Rd. Ifland stated that he thought Mitch Fritz was going to do a drainage study at this location. Story stated they have done quite a few drainages studies lately, but he would have to check to see if this is one of the locations.
5. Gwennap informed Story there is a hole in the bridge East of O Road and 80 Rd that needs to be taken care of.
6. Gwennap informed Story of a missing stop sign at the intersection of 250 Rd and U Rd. Story stated this isn't the first time it has gone missing, but they will get it replaced.
7. Gwennap asked Story if there was an update on the road work needed at 120 Rd between H Rd and I Rd. Story stated that Fritz talked about having a blade man go up there and work on it, but he wasn't sure if it is completed.
8. Gwennap asked Story if he knew who did some road work at 90 Rd and EE Rd. Story wasn't sure if the county did it or an individual had done it. He will have the blade man check and do the necessary work while they are there. Gwennap asked them to check to see if there is a tube to the North of this location, if there isn't one there, it would be wise to start looking at putting one in.
9. Gwennap informed Story that they had started to view roads. One location they went to was 120 Rd and DD Road. There is a new tube on the South side of the road. Gwennap stated he feels that this is halfway done job. Gwennap went on to say the South side of the ditch wasn't dug out, so now the water is running down on the new tube. At the intersection to the North would be a great place to have the ditches dug out. Shawn Craig did a lot of work on 30 Rd, and he did a wonderful job. The commissioners said short of some material being added, it is exactly what they are looking for.
10. Gwennap asked Story if there is any plan to narrow P Rd. Story stated he didn't know of any plan. Gwennap went on to explain that they would like that done a month before they lay base one. Gwennap thought this would be a good project for newer employees to work with seasoned employees.
11. Gwennap asked about the tube on N Rd, South of 110 Rd. Gwennap stated the tube is fairly new, but already halfway plugged up because the water is running down the road. The ditches need to be cleaned out so the water can run down them and not the road.
12. Gwennap asked about the work that was done on O Rd and 140 Rd along with the piles of dirt left on the North side of the 140 Rd. Story stated Kevin Marcum had been pulling material out of the ditch, and when he was doing this, he decided that the tube needed to be replaced. As for the dirt piles, he was instructed to leave it on the side of the road and the blade man would come out and smooth it out to build up the road. Gwennap stated that the tube is only 4 to 6 inches under the road. Story stated they are supposed to be 12 inches below the road. Gwennap and Ifland both stated that common sense is needed when doing projects.

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13. Ifland stated there has been a lot of time wasted out there pulling shoulders, but the jobs still aren't being completed. The crews need to focus on fully completing the jobs and doing them correctly the first time.
14. Story informed the commissioners there are a lot of blow outs on Q Rd and U Rd, and they are running the water truck today. Ifland asked where they are getting the water, Story stated it is coming from the river.
15. Story informed the commissioners that it seems like the traffic has slowed down on the county detour route since the sign was taken down.
16. Story is looking into whether they still have a mining permit for the rock pit at Q Rd and 90 Rd.
17. Story informed the commissioners they are pulling a blade man out of the blade and he will be the new loader operator once they get the rock pits going again.
18. Ifland stated they have received the bill from B&B Ready Mix for the water truck repairs.
19. Commissioners and Story discussed counterweight on the new excavator. Story stated they are waiting to hear from Caterpillar.
20. Gwennap went over where the budget status for the Road Department is for this quarter of the calendar year.

A motion was made by Pickel and seconded by Gwennap to convene in executive session at 9:25 a.m. for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Wagenblast left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 9:40 a.m.

A motion was made by Pickel and seconded by Gwennap to convene in executive session at 9:40 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Wagenblast left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Ifland to promote James Bowles to Truck Supervisor with a \$1.00 per hour increase. Motion carried unanimously.

Story informed the commissioners they had an issue with a blade man and a landowner. Story stated at this time he feels like the issue has been resolved.

Ifland asked Story if there was a reason a blade hadn't moved for a couple days. Story informed the commissioners that the rear end went out of the blade man's truck, and he had spent those days helping the shop take out the rear end of the truck. They are in the process of trying to locate a used rear-end from a salvage yard.

Story left the meeting.

Commissioners approved 4 longevity pay increases.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Ifland to accept the bid from Hutch &

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Son's for lawn maintenance for a total of \$13,200.00 to be paid monthly. The contract period is April 2024-April 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Story rejoined the meeting. Story asked about Blake Ifland's Kansas Underground Storage Tank Operator Training Certificate, and if he was still certified even though he isn't an employee of the County. Commissioners asked Story to contact KDHE to see if he is still certified.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to approve the Smith County Communications Advisory Board By-Laws. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded by Pickel to appoint Gwennap as the Commissioner Representative for the Smith County Communications Advisory Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners discussed the concrete work to be done on the Southwest corner of the courthouse.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Pickel to accept the bid from Randy Kline for the concrete pad at the Southwest corner of the Courthouse for \$3,241.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Isom joined the meeting.

Isom asked for all vouchers for the Drug & Alcohol Council from January 17th, 2024, to current. Wagenblast told him she would get them to him this afternoon. Isom left the meeting.

Brittany Overmiller and Alaina Hughes joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Hughes informed the commissioners that the employee on modified duty is working half days and on Saturdays.
2. Overmiller informed the commissioners they have extended an offer for employment to an individual but have not heard back yet.
3. Hughes informed the commissioners that they have all the 2025 grants submitted. They are working on the reports for the grants.
4. Gwennap went over the 1st quarter budget report with the health department.
5. Gwennap asked Hughes and Overmiller to make sure that they bring any concerns they may have about Drug & Alcohol to the Commissioners. Hughes stated one thing that is concerning to her is how vague the motions are for Drug and Alcohol.
6. Overmiller stated that they still haven't heard anything from the sheriff's office about medication setup for the inmates.

Overmiller and Hughes left the meeting.

Phillip Pennington joined the meeting. Pennington asked the commissioners if they are going to Kansas County Highway Association meeting in May. Currently the Commissioners don't have any plans on attending. Pennington asked if they are looking to purchase any equipment, he has a low hour blade that was just traded in. Gwennap stated at this point he feels the road

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department has sufficient equipment.
Pennington left the meeting.

Jennifer Saltsman joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Saltsman went over the quarterly report with the commissioners. Gwennap asked how the membership numbers compare to the previous year. Saltsman stated that she felt the membership numbers are very comparable to the previous year. She felt that there would be a decline in the daily use numbers due to the warmer weather.
2. Gwennap asked Saltsman about county employee membership numbers. Saltsman believes in the past week there was one day that 5 county employees were at the Wellness Center.
3. Saltsman informed the commissioners that the meeting room has been used multiple times by different community groups.
4. Saltsman talked about the Open House the committee is interested in hosting to celebrate the Garnder Wellness Center being open for 20 Years.
5. Saltsman informed the commissioners that the awning blew off this weekend with the high wind. At this time, it is being stored in the old hospital, but hopefully Apple One Media will be here sometime this week to repair it.
6. Saltsman asked the commissioners if it is acceptable for Judy Burgess to write a grant for videos to be utilized in the Memory Care Classes that are hosted at the Wellness Center. Saltsman stated that the videos would be stored at the Wellness Center. Saltsman informed the commissioners that there are quite a few attendees at the Memory Care class that would like to learn how to use the equipment at the Wellness Center. At the last Wellness Center Board meeting a member has volunteered to come to one of the classes and do a demonstration on all the equipment.

Saltsman left the meeting.

Gwennap asked if there was much foot traffic between the Sheriff's office and the Clerk's office. Wagenblast stated in the past someone would be over at least every other day, but lately it might be once a week that someone from the Sheriff's office or Communications department stops in to drop off/pick up.

Mike Isom, Roger Allen, and Kelly Schmidt joined the meeting.

Don Rivera from Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center joined the meeting. Rivera went over the services that the Western Child Advocacy Center provides for in the County. They provide services to 34 counties in Kansas and have 3 mobile units for the interview process. Rivera went over the individual statistics for Smith County. Rivera asked the Commissioners for \$1,500.00 of support from Smith County. Rivera stated he will follow up with a formal letter. Rivera left the meeting.

Mechelle Caprez joined the meeting.

Gwennap discussed with the Drug and Alcohol board some concerns he has at this time with the Drug and Alcohol Council. The commissioners informed the council in attendance that in the

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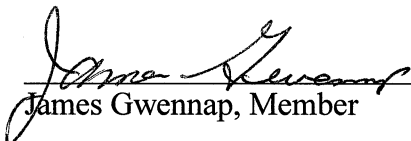
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future, the grant controller should not be a voting member of the council. Gwennap discussed concerns with 60% percent of the grant funds going to the controller directly and he feels that the funds should be going towards the other aspects of the project. Caprez informed the commissioners that the State requires that the controller be paid. Caprez stated her supervisor would be happy to come and talk to the Commissioners in regard to this grant if necessary. At this time, the commissioners wish to move forward, past the issues that were discussed and work as a team.

At 11:59 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:



Joell A. Wagenblast, Deputy 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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