JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 31, 2021

March 31, 2021 at 10:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Randy Talkington-Vice Chairman, Matthew Miller-member and Connie Pretzer-County Clerk assembled in the Chase County Commission Chambers. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Motion to approve 03/31/2021 Warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 02/25/21 to 03/24/21 Payroll*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.*** Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Minutes of March 15, 2021*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.***  Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Minutes of Special Meeting on March 23, 2021*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Miller reported that he had checked on the progress of repairs to the Extension Office. Commissioners has previously approved the purchase of a new back door for the building. Maintenance director John Haglund was to replace the door and threshold seal. The door was not replaced. Hazelton will call Haglund and direct him to replace the door.

Patron Charles Magathan gave a short presentation on Executive Order 1408 signed by President Biden on January 27, 2021 titled “Tackling the Climate Crisis Home and Abroad” . Magathan presented the Commission with a resolution that would protect private ownership of our land from different government agencies from acquiring 30 percent of the land and waters mass of the United States. Commissioners thanked Magathan and will have the County Attorney review the Resolution.

***Motion by Hazelton at 10:15 for 5 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel with County Treasurer Dow Wilson was 2nd by Talkington.*** Meeting resumed at 10:20 with no action taken.

Senior Center Director Deb Haglund reported to the Board to explain the awards letter she received from a KDOT grant written last October. Due to COVID last year, KDOT paid 100% of transportation operating expense including partial salaries. Beginning July 1st, they will pay 80% of administration salary but will continue to pay 100% for transportation until the Cares Act funding runs out then will return to the normal 70%. Haglund also reported around 20 seniors returning to the center after reopening.

County Sheriff Rich Dorneker met with the Board to say he was happy with wages for his department. Dorneker is looking for a part time deputy to alleviate overtime. Wages will then be discussed further at that time.

County Attorney Bill Halvorsen had a discussion with the Board regarding County roads. Commissioner Miller had previously shared a document relating to payment offset use of roads by KDOT. Halvorsen explained the policy as being voluntary by KDOT. Private businesses will probably not want to pay to use county roads. Halvorsen then gave history on weight limits on county roads. In 2017 a weight limit of 54 thousand pounds of gross registered weight was placed on the State Lake Road by Resolution of the Commission. The reason for this, in part, was simplicity of enforcement as the Sheriff doesn’t have the ability to readily weigh trucks on bridges. Middle Creek Road was then discussed and the same enforcement mechanism was placed by Resolution. The SEMA truck routes in the Eastern part of the County were then reviewed and became very controversial resulting in rescinding the Resolution restricting vehicles with a declared weight of over 54,000 pounds on Middle Creek Road. Policy of the Commission at that time was to have open roads/bridges with no weight limits, and this policy remains today. Miller said he felt it is important to protect these hard surfaced roads and weight restricted bridges and reiterated that he would not be in favor of any hard surface roads being torn up unless there was a plan to resurface within the next 18 months or so. Halvorsen told the Board their main leverage with the rock companies and semi drivers was the weight restriction on bridges. Talkington voiced concern with some areas not having an alternate route when trying to avoid a weight restricted bridge. The authorized purchase of the traffic counter will give a better idea on road classification and alternate routes. Halvorsen reminded the Board that there could be opposition from some in the community regarding restrictions and alternate routes and if the Commission wasn’t willing to take a stand; then don’t begin the process. Miller replied that sometimes having a constructive conversation can help us get to the best answer. The Board will review previously drafted documents from the Attorney and take bridge weight limit enforcements into consideration.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thom Kirk showed the Board a 20 hour report from the traffic counter. The report shows length of vehicle and count. Kirk will continue to learn the machine and move to other locations. Road & Bridge crew will begin summer hours of 7am to 3:30pm on April 12th. Kirk asked for Board opinion on working 4 ten hour days as opposed to 5 eight hour days. Commission asked Kirk to prepare a report with pros and cons from his department personnel. Discussion on the condition of YY Road; some of the better areas could be resurfaced. No decisions made. Miller inquired about companies other than APAC that could do asphalt work. Kirk with check with other companies.

***Motion at 12:00 for 10 minutes of executive session for confidential data relating to financial affairs*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 12:10 with no action taken.

***Motion by Hazelton to recess the regular meeting at 12:15 to tour the Fire Station in Strong City***was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 12:23 at the fire station along with County Fire Chief Steve Fillmore and Strong City Fire Chief Greg Davis where the following was noted: several holes and leaks in the roof and walls, drainage problems, water standing inside the building and more importantly, black mold on the ceiling and walls. Fillmore will get estimates to have the building stripped down to the iron frame; raise the frame approximately 2 feet and also estimates for an entirely new building. Commissioners also discussed the practicality of putting money into a building that the County does not own as the fire station is leased from the City of Strong City. The Board directed Clerk to contact the City and have Commissioner Miller and Chief Davis added to the agenda of their next council meeting on April 13th .

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 on a motion from Hazelton; 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Next scheduled meeting is April 12th at 10:00 am.

ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

STATE OF KANSAS

COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 12th day of April, 2021 as shown in the Minutes of this date’s meeting, the above Minutes are hereby ADOPTED as the official record of the proceedings, business and actions of the Board of Chase County Commissioners during the session above described.

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Anthony Hazelton, Chairman

SEAL

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Randy Talkington, Vice Chairman

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Matt Miller, Member

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk