

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Shapland and the County Clerk present. Commissioner McGaughey joined the meeting via Zoom video conferencing. Ulysses News Reporter, Tammie Hensley was in attendance. Commissioner Shapland led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Jeremiah Mykytiuk provided prayer.

John Crosby, Fire Chief, requested permission to hire another Firefighter. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the hire.

James Biddle, Sheriff, relayed several of the employees' wages were too low when comparing them on the pay plan schedule. Discussion was held on adjusting the pay plan schedule, after reviewing it was noted the employees were not close to the final maximum wage. The Sheriff stated he could make wage adjustments and still stay within budget. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the Sheriff to raise employee wages following the pay plan schedule if his budget could withstand the expense. Mr. Biddle will prepare the adjustment requests and return at a later meeting for approval.

Paul Fort, EMS Director, requested hiring five new employees. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the hires.

Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor, Rick Klein, Shop Foreman, and Eric Friesen, Representative for Foley Equipment, presented a technical communicator program to help diagnose problems with heavy equipment via unlimited service calls to a virtual consultant at a cost of \$499.00 per year. This will eliminate the need to call out a technician for repairs and allow county employees to make most repairs. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the Road Department to purchase the service. Next, software at the Transfer Station is getting old and the Public Works Supervisor said there were worries about losing support. He proposed purchasing an upgrade for the existing software. Janet Stewart made the motion to allow the purchase of a software update for the Transfer Station from Waste Works at a cost not to exceed \$3,980.00, and for this expense to be paid from the Road Department fund. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Janet Stewart made the motion to approve minutes for the May 4, 2021 meeting along with claims against the various funds of the County: payroll total \$142,978.82 dated May 5, 2021, and accounts payable voucher numbers ending 164321 totaling \$129,529.10. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to accept the resignation of Andrew Brown and appoint Steve Rice to finish the vacated term on the Fair Board. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve the wage of a fire fighter. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mark McGaughey made the motion to approve the wage increase as submitted by the supervisor for an Operator II at the Road Department. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioners discussed a letter from the Kansas Association of Counties encouraging commissioners to become a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo). Mark McGaughey made the motion to become a member of the NACo at a cost of \$450.00 per year. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

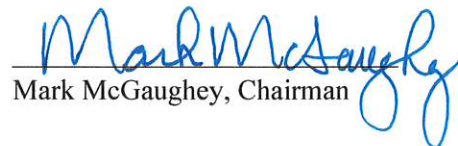
Roger Flummerfelt, American Legion Member, shared the Legion is in the process of replacing highway signs and requested permission to place a sign on county property located on Highway 25. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the sign to be placed on county property.

Marty Long, 124th District House Representative, met to discuss Senate Bill 13 and House Bill 2104. He conveyed there was confusion regarding Senate Bill 13, which did away with a county and city tax lid and mandated a tax rate hearing if a taxing entity intended to exceed the revenue neutral rate. House Bill 2104 cleared up dates and resolved to include all taxing entities. Summarizing the bills Representative Long stated, if you want to raise more taxes you do not have to send it to electors; now you must have a hearing and sell your idea to the taxpayers.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 11:20 a.m., to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Mark McGaughey, Chairman