

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and the County Clerk present. Pastor Janet Hernandez provided prayer, and Commissioner Long led the Pledge of Allegiance. Media representative present: Lydia Kautz, Ulysses News.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor; O'LaVonne Michael, Senior Center Director; Kristy Frazee, Health Department Administrator; Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator; Dana McDaniel, Register of Deeds; Lance Babcock, Sheriff; Richard Banes, City/County Inspector; and Rita Gee, County Treasurer.

Rita Gee, County Treasurer, reported the certificate of deposit for the Oil and Gas Depletion Trust Fund monies has come due and asked if the commissioners had any plans for the money or how long they wanted to invest it. Commissioners agreed they would like the monies in short term investment. Ms. Gee also reported 99% of property taxes were paid with only \$318,000.00 not collected.

Mike Gray, Citizen, requested commissioners not partner with certain hospital entities because of their religious affiliation. Commissioners took no action on the request.

The clerk presented a quote for materials to upgrade the remaining Courthouse ballasts to high efficiency with the Civic Center staff doing the work. Commissioner Long requested the clerk consult with Richard Banes, City/County Inspector, to see if an electrician should be replacing the ballasts. The clerks request was tabled until a later date.

Kyle Spencer, Chief Pilot, and Walter Geiger, Meteorologist, with Western Kansas Ground Water Management District 1, visited with commissioners looking for information and reasoning why Grant County discontinued the Weather Modification Program. Larry Kepley, Citizen, attended this portion of the meeting. Commissioner Long stated that farmers had encouraged them to discontinue the service. Mr. Spencer explained western Kansas is the second most hail prone area in the United States and cloud seeding helps mitigate hail damage. Mr. Geiger stated the program has dropped to three counties, and if the program discontinues entirely it will never start up again due to the cost of equipment. They presented a 2015 appropriation request of \$16,334.68. Mr. Kepley spoke in favor of weather modification and urged commissioners to support the cloud seeding program.

Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor, presented 2015 budget requests for the Road Department in the amount of \$4,052,125.00, and the Noxious Weed Department

in the amount of \$180,450.00. Mr. McCauley also presented wage increase calculations for commissioners' review and consideration. On a separate issue, Randy McCauley returned to offer information on the website media center module and the costs associated with it. The commissioners decided not to pay the fee and asked for the module to be switched off on the website.

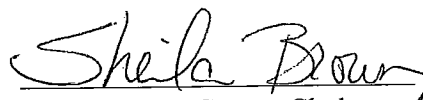
Bob Dale Passini, Economic Development Director, asked if the commissioners would be interested in endorsing a local contractor when he applies for a Moderate Incoming Housing Grant. After discussion, it was the consensus of commissioners to endorse a local contractor when he is ready to apply for a Moderate Incoming Housing Grant.

Linda McHenry made the motion to give the Museum \$400 as requested, to upgrade the computers given to them by the Health Department. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

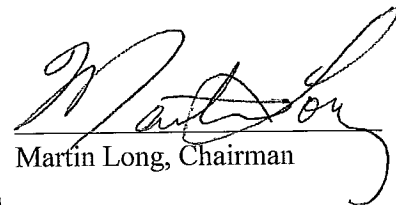
Linda McHenry made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2014 meeting, along with the claims against the various funds of the county, payroll total \$126,273.23 dates May 28; voucher numbers ending 144497 totaling \$273,497.51. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioners directed the clerk to attain a copy of the Board on Aging travel insurance for the senior bus.

Linda McHenry made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 p.m., to meet again in regular session on June 17, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Martin Long, Chairman