

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and the County Clerk present. Ulysses News Reporter, Tammie Hensley was in attendance. Commissioner McGaughey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Stewart provided prayer.

Coral (Cori) Davidson, citizen, joined the meeting as an observer.

Phillip Wolfe, Bond Attorney, and Greg Vahrenberg, Investment Banker, joined the meeting via conference call to discuss funding of a new county jail. Mr. Wolfe explained as stated in K.S.A. 10-306 and 307, Grant County is subject to a statutory limitation on bond indebtedness of 3% of assessed value of all taxable property within county. This would only allow for a 4-million-dollar general obligation bond. The proposed cost of constructing a new jail is 14 million dollars. Discussion was held on creating a Public Building Commission as allowed in K.S.A. 12-1757. The PBC is allowed to issue revenue bonds and lease with the County until such time the bonds are fully paid. Commissioners tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

Melanie Lara presented commissioners with cupcakes and thanked them for their support of 4-H. Miss Lara won a mixer for her delicious lemon raspberry cupcakes at the County Fair.

Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims Management Inc. (FCMI) Agent, reviewed the first seven months using FCMI and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Health Insurance (BCBS). Grant County has saved \$151,443.20 using FCMI as a third-party administrator. BCBS is reporting a loss ratio of 21% which should reflect in a lower premium next year.

Commissioner Shapland asked Ms. Davidson if she had something she would like to discuss. Ms. Davidson stated she had concerns about a possible mandate for Grant County school children to wear masks again this year. Commissioners encouraged Ms. Davidson to visit with school administration.

Mark McGaughey made the motion to remove Sonya McCauley as a signature on the County bank accounts effective immediately since she was no longer employed by Grant County. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to accept the written resignation from Toni Irvin as Health Department Administrator effective September 7, 2021. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Discussion was held on an interim administrator until a new person could be hired. Mark McGaughey made the motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss options under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 5 minutes the meeting continued in open session, no action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the draft agreement with the City of Ulysses for combined services. After changes were made, the Clerk was directed to give the draft agreement to the County Attorney for review.

The Clerk shared Mary Jo Dimitt gave notice and will retire from cleaning the Courthouse at the end of November. Commissioners reviewed the requirements to clean the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center. It was the consensus of commissioners to put out for bid the custodial services for Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center. The Clerk was directed to advertise each building separately.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve an Operator II wage increase as recommended by the Road Department Supervisor. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the donation request from the Annual Community Mexican Independence Festival Committee. It was the consensus of commissioners to deny the request this year due to budget limitations.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes with the County Clerk to discuss conduct of an employee under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 5 minutes the meeting continued in open session, no action taken.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve minutes for the August 3, 2021, meeting along with claims against the various funds of the County: payroll total \$141,204.94 dated August 11, 2021, and accounts payable voucher numbers ending 164972 totaling \$186,018.37. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 11:25 a.m., to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

  
Sheila Brown, County Clerk



  
Mark McGaughey, Chairman