

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 Pastor Larry Borthwick provided prayer.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Terri Trotman, County Treasurer, Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor; Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator; Ludivina Gonzales, Senior Center Director; John Crosby, Fire Chief; Paul Fort, EMS Director; and Mari Honstead, Civic Center Manager.

Paul Fort, Emergency Medical Service Director, met with commissioners. Discussion was held on EMS employees not signing their timesheets, some going back to the first of the year. After discussion, Commissioner McGaughey directed the EMS Director to get this issue resolved within his department. Next, discussion was held on complaints from citizens on adjoining county ambulance transfers for COVID. The other ambulance service, Critical Care Transfer, does not transfer COVID patients and two people had to be moved by private vehicle to Lakin because Grant County Ambulance refused to transport. After discussion on what is an emergency, no direction was given.

Commissioners accepted the resignation from Sherrie Olson as Board on Aging Member. Commissioner McGaughey asked for the replacement to be tabled for two weeks and ask the Senior Center Director to offer the opportunity out to seniors active in the center.

Commissioner Stewart relayed she was contacted by a citizen seeking housing for a new medical transport bus. Commissioners agreed all County property is full of County owned vehicles at this time.

Mark McGaughey made the motion to approve the new hire wage for a deputy clerk as presented by the County Clerk. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Janet Stewart made the motion to approve minutes for the October 19, 2021, meeting along with claims against the various funds of the County: payroll total \$135,765.57 dated October 20, 2021, and voucher numbers ending 165499 totaling \$524,616.49. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Janet Stewart made the motion to accept the new Pastureland Lease Agreement with Don Litton formally leased by Susan Francis. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

A conference call was held with Scot Loyd, John Albrecht and Carlotta Sunderland, Accountants with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk, and Loyd Firm, to discuss American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) funds. At 10:30 a.m. Commissioner McGaughey left the meeting. The list of allowability questions were addressed and Commissioner Shapland relayed HVAC for the Civic Center and Jail

were top on the priority list. Mr. Albrecht informed commissioners there was a bill introduced that will help ease some of the restrictions on funding. It was decided to wait on funding any projects until the outcome of the ARPA bill is known.

Jim Lohmeyer and Aaron Trejo, Blue Cross Blue Shield Agents, and Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims Management met with commissioners to conduct an insurance review and present 2022 rates for BCBS insurance. Discussion was held on air flight insurance and Ms. Yarmer offered a \$65.00 rate per family to enroll employees in the plan. The approval of rates was tabled until next meeting.

Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor, explained one of the unit heaters in the County Shop went out and presented bids for its replacement. Ross of Ulysses \$3,911.56 with stainless steel heat exchanger; Air Comfort Consultants \$6,125.00 with aluminized heat exchanger or \$7,155.00 with stainless steel heat exchanger. Kevin Shapland made the motion to accept the low bid from Ross of Ulysses, and for this expense to come from the County Building fund. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The County Clerk presented the sole bid for cleaning of the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center buildings. The bid package was advertised in the Ulysses News for four weeks. Southwest Janitorial Service bid \$750.00 Courthouse and \$200.00 Law Enforcement. Janet Stewart made the motion to approve the contract from Southwest Janitorial Service at a cost of \$950.00 a week to clean the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center, and for this contract to be renewed annually. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed an email from Jovita Partida, Health Department Administrative Assistant, requesting permission to purchase an IPAD Pro and printer with labels. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the purchase from COVID grant funding.


Discussion was held on the email from Chandra Burks with Coffman Associates, concerning additional aviation easement needs to protect Airport Runway 17's runway protection zone. It was the consensus of commissioners to get landowner information and table until next meeting.

Janet Stewart made the motion to recess into executive session with the County Clerk for 15 minutes to discuss and employee request under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 15 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken.

Commissioners adjourned at 12:15 p.m., to meet again in special session as board of canvassers at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 8, 2021.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Mark McGaughey, Chairman