

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 am with all members and the County Clerk present. JD Neufeld provided prayer and Linda McHenry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Kristy Frazee, Health Department Administrator; Randy McCauley, Road Department Administrator; Rita Gee, Treasurer; JD Neufeld, Civic Center Manager; Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator; Jerry Jo Deckert, EMS Director; DeDe Lane, Purchasing Agent; Mary K. Sullivan, Register of Deeds; Lance Babcock, Sheriff; and Richard Banes, City/County Inspector.

Carl Higgs made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2011 meeting along with the claims against the various funds of the county. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Gary Hathaway sent a letter to commissioners concerning the Rural Opportunity Zone Program funded by the State of Kansas. He would like to take whatever effort necessary to make this qualification come forth for Grant, Stevens, and Haskell County. It was the consensus of the commissioners to support Mr. Hathaway in pursuing this program for Grant County.

John Crosby, Fire Chief and Jeff Baier, Fire Fighter, presented three quotes for 16 - PSS 7000 high pressure self-contained breathing apparatuses. The quotes were: Weis Fire and Safety Equipment Co, Inc. for \$91,662; NAFECO Inc. for \$102,653; and Draeger Safety Inc. for \$103,461.86. Carl Higgs made the motion to accept the quote of \$91,662 from Weis Fire and Safety Equipment for 16 air packs. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Fire Chief informed the commissioners his department will need to convert their air compressor to high pressure. It was the consensus of the commissioners to allow the Fire Chief to update the air compressor.

The commissioners made plans to have a work day meeting on January 24th starting at 9 am at the Corporate East Hotel in the Conference Room.

Mandy Fox met with commissioners to introduce herself and ask to be considered for an Economic Development Board Member appointment.

Some of the Grant County Offices closed for one day due to the snow storm and one of the county departments asked for the commissioners to compensate the employees more than seven hours for the snow day. Commissioners discussed the weekly hours worked by this department and made the decision not to change the hours paid.

The commissioners recessed for lunch at Park View Assisted Living with the Hospital Board Trustees. Those attending from the hospital were: Administrator, Art Frable; Director of Finance, Robert Jacobi; and Board Members, Jeff Porter, David Higgs, Dr. Mark Gerstberger, and Mary Moyer. General discussion was held.

A conference call with Steve Spade, Salesman for A-Lert Roofing, was held immediately following lunch. A-Lert Roofing put a new roof on the Museum earlier in the year and commissioners were seeking options to fix or replace the roof. The roof has numerous leaks and the leaks have caused massive damage to ceilings, floors, lighting and walls in the front portion of the Museum. For the front portion of the Museum, Commissioner Long requested A-Lert Roofing look at options for a redesign, and the design should not have internal guttering. Mr. Spade will get with the company engineer concerning the request.

A conference call was also made with Brice Barton, Development Manager for Trade Wind Energy. Mr. Barton requested a time on the commissioners' agenda to review the Buffalo Dunes PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) Program. K.S.A. 79-201 exempts wind energy and other renewable resource facilities from ad valorem taxation. The agreement would provide voluntary PILOT payments to the County from Buffalo Dunes Wind Project, LLC.

The commissioner adjourned to meet again in regular session on January 17, 2012 at 9:00 am.

Sheila Brown
Sheila Brown, County Clerk



Linda McHenry
Linda McHenry, Chairman