

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Long, Commissioner Higgs and the County Clerk present. Commissioner McHenry was out of town. Pastor Larry Borthwick provided prayer and Commissioner Long led the Pledge of Allegiance. Media representatives were: Laci McCarter, Ulysses News; and Kellie Euliss, KULY Radio.

Carl Higgs made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 4 and the June 11, 2013 meetings along with the claims against the various funds of the county, payroll total \$138,845.38 dates June 12; voucher numbers ending 141448 totaling \$200,753.61. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Tom Fuhrmann, County Appraiser; Terry Lawhon and Greg Wellbrock, Landmark Appraisal, met with commissioners. Mr. Fuhrmann reported, without including state assessed, the County valuation is down 10 to 12% from last year. They are seeing a decrease in valuation in all the counties in this area. Mr. Lawhon reviewed the Landmark Appraisal Contract and informed commissioners they were asking for a slight increase. The commissioners will approve the contract at a later date. Mr. Fuhrmann requested an executive session. Marty Long made the motion to recess into executive session with Tom Fuhrmann, Terry Lawhon and Greg Wellbrock for 10 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued, no action was taken as a result of the executive session. Later in the day Tom Fuhrmann, Terry Lawhon and Greg Wellbrock returned to present Resolution 13-04. Marty Long made the motion to adopt Resolution 13-04, a Resolution appointing Greg E. Wellbrock as County Appraiser for a four year term starting July 1, 2013. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented a performance grant application which was reviewed and approved. Mr. Button reported Grant County had \$9,000.00 in wages and equipment expense for the mutual aid to Stevens County during the hay bale fire. The expenses have been sent to Abengoa Bioenergy to file with their insurance company.

Bob Dale Passini, Economic Development Director, met with commissioners to discuss the community need for additional housing. Economic Development has been approached by two different companies needing rental housing for their workers. Mr. Passini continues to look for a person to fill the Economic Development Board vacancy.

Lorine Myers, Grant County Conservation District Manager; and Steve Johnson, Board Member, presented a request for a \$25,000.00 appropriation in 2014, which is the same as last year. Ms. Myers reported in 2013 the Grant County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service will bring \$999,555.00 to Grant County in program grants.

Lori Deyoe, Bit and Spur Club Member; Randy McCauley, Road Department Administrator; Loren Wright, County Surveyor; JD Neufeld, Civic Center Manager; Richard Baner, City/County Inspector; and Anita Wendt, Pioneer Electric H.U.G.S Team Leader, met with commissioners to review plans for the proposed concession/restroom building at the rodeo arena. Discussion was held on the bathroom dispensers, having mirrors in restrooms, the lighting for restrooms, and the need for deadbolt locks. Ms. Wendt spoke briefly on

future needs and expansion. It was the consensus of the group the plans were ready to be finalized and put out for bids. Mr. McCauley will work with Rob Kreutzer on a plumbing plan for the facility.

Randy McCauley, Road Department Administrator, presented the Road Department 2014 budget request of \$3,134,550.00, an increase of \$214,550.00 from last year. The commissioners reviewed and approved road crossing permits.

Jerry Jo Deckert, EMS Director, explained the need for an EMT basic class. Ms. Deckert presented a proposal to pay Julie Talbert \$10,500.00 for coordinating and teaching the 2013 EMT course. The commissioners reviewed and approved the contract. Next, Ms. Deckert requested permission to seek quotes for a new copier. It was the consensus of the commissioners the Ambulance Department should get quotes for a new copier. In other business, the Ambulance Department bad debt write-offs were reviewed. Marty Long made the motion to allow the bad debt write-offs totaling \$12,832.12. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jessica Akers, County Attorney, met with commissioners to respond to their request for additional information associated with the sale or lease of a county owned hospital. Art Frable, Hospital Administrator; Jeff Porter, Hospital Board Trustee; and Rita Gee, County Treasurer, attended this portion of the meeting. The County Attorney learned there were no callable revisions until October 2017, and if the County sells the hospital they could have tax consequences. Several more questions arose from this information; Commissioner Long will call the bond attorney before the next meeting.

Jennifer Hittle, Communities in Schools Director, and Sandy Duran, Youth Friends Volunteer Coordinator, presented their request for a \$14,000.00 appropriation in 2014, the same as last year.

Jessica Akers, County Attorney, requested an executive session. Marty Long made the motion to recess into executive session with the County Attorney for 10 minutes for consultation which is deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 10 minutes the executive session was extended for another 15 minutes and the County Clerk was requested into the executive session. After 25 minutes the meeting continued, no action being taken as a result of the executive session.


Commissioner Long and Commissioner Higgs adjourned to attend a grant opening luncheon for Linn Energy's new office and control room building. The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

David Graber, Transfer Station Manager, presented a proposal for trench no. 3 construction. Carl Higgs made the motion to enter into a contract with Terracon to construct trench no. 3 at a cost of \$39,000.00; the engineering services include bidding, contractor procurement, construction management, and construction quality assurance services. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

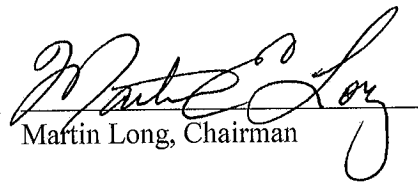
Lance Babcock, Sheriff, informed commissioners the concealed carry law would go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup> unless the commissioners wanted to exempt any buildings and develop a plan for security. It was the consensus of the commissioners Grant County would take no action and let the law take effect. Sheriff Babcock will work with the Civic Center on the County Facility Rental Contract to make necessary changes.

Carol Meyer and Aaron Cannon, Regional Project Managers for the Kansas Department of Commerce, welcomed Grant County into the Rural Opportunity Zone Program. The program provides an income tax exemption for up to five years to individuals who relocate to Grant County from out of state. The program also authorizes Grant County to participate in a state-matching program to repay student loans for students who graduate from an accredited post-secondary institution and move to Grant County. Marty Long made the motion to adopt Resolution 13-05, a Resolution of Grant County's intention to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone Loan Repayment Program, and designate an allocation of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of matching payments to qualified resident individuals. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The commissioners adjourned for the day at 2:20 p.m., to meet again in regular session on July 2, 2013.

  
Sheila Brown, County Clerk



  
Martin Long, Chairman