

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS**

The Board of Miami County Commissioners met in regular session, in the Commission Chambers, Miami County Administration Building, Paola, Kansas, on May 17, 2023. Those present were:

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tyler Vaughan, Chairman       | Shane Krull, County Administrator    |
| George Pretz, Pro-Tem         | Sheila Schultz, County Counselor     |
| Rob Roberts, Commissioner     | Janet White, County Clerk            |
| W. Jene Vickrey, Commissioner | Shannon Gaboni, Operation Specialist |

**Absent:** Keith Diediker, Commissioner

**Visitors:** Jeff Oliver, Dan Creason, Susan Hain, Darren Hain, Buster Brady

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Vaughan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Darren Hain, 23424 Yankee Bit Lane, would like to comment on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application and process. He is 1000 ft from a CUP that has since been withdrawn so he felt this is a good time to share his thoughts. Mr. Hain has done a lot of research and read through 3 years of Commission minutes. He feels the application process is divisive and pit good people against good people while also causing unnecessary turmoil. There should be better defined criteria to prevent CUP applicants from getting to far ahead of themselves; purchasing land or putting together an application that is not well suited for the area. If you are a neighbor within a 1000 ft of one of these applicants you have 20 days' notice to research the topic, the applicant, understand the process, write letters, prepare for a public hearing, and retain counsel if necessary. The applicant on the other hand has months to work on their plan all while working with the Planning Department. From his experience the applicant can also change the application, submit it, and withdraw it as many times as they would like until it is approved through the Commission. This places a lot of stress on surrounding landowners as they must go through with their process over again as well. Mr. Hain's is not sure what the solution is, but something needs to be done.

Buster Brady, 3076 Lafayette, Lewisville, AR who works for Townes Telecommunications are looking at the LINC (Lasting Infrastructure and Network Connectivity) Program which is a new round of grants available for Broadband services. The project area would be focused east of Bucyrus and Wea, with approximately 760 locations. The project is projected to cost \$4,800,000 and are asking the state for \$3,800,000 and MoKan would contribute \$1,000,000 of their funds. Mr. Brady is asking the Commission for Letters of Support. Commissioner Roberts agrees that the Commission should support the effort and provide the Letters of Support.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the county commission meeting on May 10, 2023
- Approval of AP payment vouchers
- Add-On: Letter of Support for a proposed Osawatomie Childcare

Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

**PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS AND PROCLAMATION**

Proclamation – EMS Week May 21-27, 2023 “Where Emergency Care Begins”. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Presentation – Yana Ross with KCAMP presented the Risk Management Award check for \$12,703.04 which is 3.5% of the contributions that Miami County made to the KCAMP pool in 2022. Ms. Ross would like to

commend Holly Ray, HR Director on leading risk management and the rest of her staff on their effort and communication on the requirements. Ms. Ross says one of the things MICO does amazing is their training of employees. She presented a letter which highlights the great things MICO has done, along with a few recommendations. Chairman Vaughan stated it is great news to be getting a return and wanted to know how the pool for KCAMP looks on performance and projections for years to come. Ms. Ross said the pool perfect is doing great and once the June data is analyzed she will make the proposed rates available to the Commission by July. Commissioner Roberts wanted to say that this would not have happened without the passion and sincere desire from Ms. Ray to help MICO employees to be the safest possible. Chairman Vaughan wanted to know if there are areas for improvement and to increase efficiency. Ms. Ross said inspections of all county facilities and a jail assessment would be beneficial. The rest of the requirements were fully or partially met. Ms. Ray said that they will be getting a self-assessment out to department heads to identify anything in their department. Herself and Jim Starling, Building and Grounds Director will assess any corrections not currently met in common areas.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Lucas Mellinger, Financial Director, requested the Commissioners to consider approving the Bucyrus Wastewater Treatment Plant 2023 Spring Maintenance purchase order for pumps. There are 4 pumps at \$2700 a piece and includes installation per an existing agreement (A22-11-062). Commissioner Roberts wanted to recognize that the funding will come out of the County General Fund. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the recommendation; Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Mark Hays, Road and Bridge Department, requested the Commissioners to approve the change order for the price increase of \$4505 on the Tandem axle truck. Road and Bridge was informed of the increase due to surcharges and materials cost increase on May 4, 2023. The turnaround time from approval of the change order to deliver is 2-3 weeks. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Roberts seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Janet McRae, Economic Development Director, requested the Commissioners to provide Letters of Support and authorization for contribution for the Broadband Grant Application. Ms. McRae said the LINC round of broadband grants is open and both People's and MoKan have expressed a desire to submit applications for the grant. The City of Fontana has also pledged Letters of Support as well as a contribution. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve as presented with the addition of a \$10,000 pledge per grant approval, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Roberts had some feedback from the CUP public comments made. Mr. Roberts thinks it would be beneficial to bring in Mr. Koup to give an overview and in-depth conversation about how CUPs operate and the legal framework on the County's requirements. This meeting would be open to the citizen's of MICO. In his opinion MICO has always followed the letter of the law and it may benefit citizens and the newer members of the Planning Commission those processes.

Commissioner Pretz wanted to mention a few instances where 2 or more Commissioners would be present: the Quarterly City/County meeting in Paola, at the Fire Station on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am, the County wide Republican meeting next week on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>, time, and location unknown at this time.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, wanted to share that this Friday morning, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am, the Sheriff's Department in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies in MICO is doing the memorialization for Police Week.

Commissioner Pretz wanted to revisit how the County wants to proceed with either wind or solar energy and wanted to know when that issue is slated to be addressed. Shane Krull, County Administrator, said it has not been set on the calendar but will as soon as all 5 Commissioner are available and time permits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

A blue ink signature, appearing to read "Tyler Vaughan", is written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Vaughan, Chairman

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature, appearing to read "Janet White", is written over a horizontal line.

Janet White, County Clerk