

**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 June 14, 2023. Those present were:

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

Absent: Sheila Schultz, Interim County Counselor

Visitors: Jeff Oliver, Jarad Falk, Jennifer Karr

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of minutes of the county commission meeting on June 7, 2023
- Approval of AP payment vouchers
- Add-On: Spring Hill quarter cent allocation funding

Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Oehlert, Road & Bridge Project Manager, requested the Commissioners to consider approving authorization to solicit bids for construction and solicit price proposals for construction inspection for the replacement of a structure on Lone Star Road north of Eagle Drive, Miami County Project # 20-05-SB (674). Construction bids and CE Price Proposals will let on June 20, 2023, and will be opened on July 11, 2023. The earliest start date of the project would be August 2, 2023, and the latest start date would be November 6, 2023. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the authorization; Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Matt Oehlert, Road & Bridge Project Manager, requested the Commission to authorize the advertisement for construction bids and solicit price proposals for construction inspection for the replacement of Bridge 1-F.2 located on 399th Street 0.12 mile east of Crescent Hill Road, Miami County Project # 21-14-SB (689). Construction bids and CE Price Proposals will let on June 20, 2023, and will be opened on July 11, 2023. The earliest start date of the project would be November 6, 2023, and the latest start date would be December 11, 2023. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the authorization; Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Jarad Falk, Vice President of Government Affairs: Charter Communications dba Spectrum Cable in Kansas requested the Commission to authorize letters of support and a \$10,000 per grant approval contribution for Charter Communications. Mr. Falk will be applying for three broadband grants through the State of Kansas as part of the Lasting Infrastructure and Network Connectivity (LINC) program to expand high speed internet access to northeastern parts of Miami County. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the authorization; Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Shane Krull, County Administrator requested the Commission to authorize directing staff to prepare a sales tax question on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot for the purpose of funding the construction of a courthouse annex and renovation of the historic courthouse. Commissioner Pretz noted three reasons; 1) To save the historic courthouse building 2) To add space for the additional judges being assigned to the 6th

Judicial District and 3) The best way to pay for it is sales tax and not put the burden on property tax. Commissioner Vickrey said he saw that the Presbyterian Church is up for sale for \$750,000 and could be a good option. He does not think that sales tax is the answer to the courthouse issue. Commissioner Roberts said that this is a challenging question; how does Miami County provide the space for new judges? Commissioner Roberts wants to protect the property tax and save the 125-year-old courthouse. The public will vote on an increase in sales tax, but the courthouse issue will be paid for somehow. Commissioner Diediker says that if the quarter cent sales tax is passed Miami County also needs to take into consideration applying for historical grants and tax credit that pay up to 25% back which can help pay for the renovation. He also agrees to let the voters decide. Commissioner Vickrey said that Miami County also has a \$400,000.00 Debt Service coming off in 2024 and would be interested to see if that could be bonded out while also using the historical tax credit to help renovate and purchase a building for the additional space needed. Chairman Vaughan agreed with Commissioner Pretz, Roberts, and Diediker to save the original courthouse and protect property tax. He would also like to avoid binding future Commissions by their decisions made now, which can affect the community 20 years from now. He would also like to heavily put the warning out on the lack of support for the sales tax and the courthouse and trying to support band aid fixes are going to be problems for the community. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the authorization; Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was 4 - yes, 1 - no (Vickrey).

Tyler Vaughan, Chairman, requested the Commission to consider approving an increase to the jail nurse's salary of \$2.50 for the remaining of FY2023 and FY2024 starting June 19, 2023. Sheriff Kelly has requested that this isolated position be considered for the \$2.50 pay increase as she is certified jail staff and because of her duties in the jail that require a unique skill set. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the increase; Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Tyler Vaughan, Chairman, requested the Commission to consider authorizing the Chairman to sign a letter stating the budget increase will increase the KDHE Revolving Loan for the Bucyrus Wastewater Treatment Project. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the increase; Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Tyler Vaughan, Chairman, requested the Commission to approve the distribution of the Spring Hill quarter cent sales tax allocation. Each city is allocated \$500,000.00 for 5 years and Spring Hill is in line for the last half of last years allocation and the first half of this year's allocation totaling \$1,000,000.00. The City of Spring Hill presented to the Commission their intention to create a corridor through Black Hawk Development and through a subdivision which outputs on Victory Road. Commissioner Roberts is concerned that the money will be used for residential maintenance. Commissioner Pretz suggested holding \$250,000.00 back in reserve. Chairman Vaughan said that the last two corridors cost approximately \$800,000.00 to complete and would suggest holding back \$200,000.00 in reserve for deferred maintenance. Chairman Vaughan moved to approve allocating up to \$800,000.00 of the quarter cent sales tax to the City of Spring Hill and communicating to them that \$200,000.00 would be held aside for a future corridor project; Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

APPLICATIONS

Janet White, County Clerk, presented an application for the statutory authority for reimbursement to Miami County from the Louisburg School Board for the USD #416 at large school board primary on August 1, 2023. Ms. White would like the Commission, if in support, to make a motion and vote today so that the school board can be notified and so that the Clerk's office can start tracking the bills that are applicable to be reimbursed. Ms. White did state that this is not something that has been done in the past and at this point she would not be in favor of doing it without the school board knowing it was going to happen. Ms. White also said that she budgets in case there is a primary and the tax money has already been collected. It is ultimately the Commissions decision whether to charge or not. Chairman Vaughan said times are changing and

elections are getting more complicated and expensive. He feels it is reasonable to bill for the additional costs of an odd year election. Commissioner Roberts noted statute KSA 25.2201 states "shall be reimbursed to the county" which makes it not an option and the county should follow the statute. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the statutory authority for reimbursement from the USD #416 school board for the August primary election; Commissioner Diediker seconded; the was 4 – yes, 1 – no (Pretz)

STAFF COMMENTS

Shane Krull, County Administrator, wanted to say Happy Flag Day and to also thank everyone for their patience as he has been absent from a few meetings this year while working through some health issues. Also, non-public safety buildings will be closed Monday June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vickrey looked up the Presbyterian Church and gave details on the listing and thinks it will be a real opportunity to save the taxpayers money.

Commissioner Roberts wanted to say Happy Father's Day and don't forget to honor your father in any way or fashion. He also wanted to state this on the record, so his daughter knows he expects a steak dinner and that he loves his daughter and wants her to know that.

Commissioner Pretz wants to say there may be more than two Commissioners present at the John Brown Jamboree in Osawatomie June 15th – June 17th. Also, July 1st Osawatomie's Light on the Lake takes place.

Chairman Vaughan said a lot of interesting decisions were made today. He commented on Commissioner Vickrey's comment on saving tax dollars for the residents. Spending \$750,000.00 on a building with \$500,000.00 in potential renovations would be an immediate property tax increase of \$1,200,000.00 and would add 4 mills to the budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Roberts moved to have a Security Exception Executive Session to discuss election security for 30 minutes beginning at 2:10 to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, County Clerk and Deputy Clerks. Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. No action was taken at this time. Chairman Vaughan reconvened the regular meeting at 2:40.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

A blue ink signature of Tyler Vaughan, written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Vaughan, Chairman

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Janet White, written over a horizontal line.

Janet White, County Clerk