

**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 July 12, 2023. Those present were:

Tyler Vaughan, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
George Pretz, Pro-Tem	Sheila Schultz, Interim County Counselor
Keith Diediker, Commissioner	Stacey Weaver, Deputy County Clerk
Rob Roberts, Commissioner	Shannon Gaboni, Operation Specialist
W. Jene Vickrey, Commissioner	

Visitors: Garrett Nordstrom, Mark Wolfe, Darrin Bader, Stacie Gamerl, Mike Gamerl, Tiffany Ellison, Rick Stone

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Stone, 9280 W. 319th Street, was informed his property is zoned Countryside (CS) instead of Agriculture (AG) and is trying to bring his CUP up to date. He thought it had been zoned as AG land since 1998. Mr. Stone has built \$10,000.00 worth of fence and has now been asked to move it back 100 ft from the easement by the County. He has also scheduled an auction to take place in October. He is wondering why his property was switched from AG to CS and how to get it zoned to AG. Shane Krull, County Administrator said that some of the land is zoned for CS and some for AG and the auction falls on the CS portion of the land. Chairman Vaughan said it will be best to work with Kenneth Cook, Planning Director, to work out the zoning issues. Mr. Vaughan also said that himself and Commissioner Diediker would sit down and talk with Mr. Cook as well to see how the issue can be fixed.

Mark Wolfe, 16340 W. 311th Street, built a house 2 years ago and the taxes have gone up 3 times since then. He wanted to know how the mill levy was calculated. Commissioner Pretz gave the formula to come up with your tax rate based on the mill levy which is \$100,000.00 x 11.5%. Mr. Wolfe said he just needs to know how much he will have to sell off to pay those taxes. Commissioner Roberts said that Mr. Wolfe will get a mailer in 30-40 days with all the values from all the taxing entities so he can see where his tax dollars go. He also wanted to know if there is an overall entity in control of the levy, to which the answer was no, they are all separate.

Stacie Gamerl, 32774 W 243rd Street, wanted to address the Commission regarding an issue she is having with her neighbor since 2021. Her neighbor shoots off Tannerite off his back porch which disturbs her and the neighbors, one of which is a young girl who is fearful to go outside because of it. She has asked her neighbor if he could refrain from doing it at all hours of the day and be mindful of the neighbors and has gotten no reply. Ms. Gamerl has called the ATF and local law enforcement agencies and all of them said there is nothing they can do. Commissioner Roberts said this is not a new issue to Miami County as Tannerite is legal and there really is nothing that can be done to prohibit people from shooting it off. Ms. Gamerl asked if the Tannerite could be added to the fireworks ordinance which only allows the use during specific times of the year. Chairman Vaughan said that the Commission, the County Attorney and the County Administrator will look into if that can be done.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the following adjustments:

- Motion to alter Action Item #3 to "Authorizing the Chair to sign notification to the County Clerk of intent to exceed revenue neutral for County General Funds
- Motion to remove Action Item # 4
- Motions to Add Action Items #4-7
- Motion to Add Action Item #8

July 12, 2023

Page 2

- Approval of minutes of the county commission meeting on July 5, 2023
- Approval of AP payment vouchers
- Temporary Construction Easement & Permanent Right-of-Way Robert R., and David A. Roth
- Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Rebate taxes of \$33,436.20 for 2022

Commissioner Roberts seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Public Hearing – 1:22 p.m.

Chairman Vaughan opened for comment the public hearing regarding the Miami County CDBG-CVR application. Janet McRae, Economic Development Director, gave a summary on the application and stated that this grant is for businesses that had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The money comes from the Federal Government and is filtered through the state to the county. This application is for the childcare industry and assists the for profit licensed childcare facilities in Miami County. Tiffany Ellison, 1206 N. 1st Street East, wanted to know if the Federal requirements of the grant were on the county or on the business that accept the money. Janet McRae said there are some requirements for both the County and individual businesses to meet.

Close Public Hearing – 1:29 p.m.

Janet McRae, Economic Development Director, requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing the Chairman to apply and sign related documents for the CDBG-CVR funding. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. (R23-07-029)

Lucas Mellinger, Financial Director, requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing the Chair to sign notification to the County Clerk of intent on exceeding revenue neutral for County General Funds with a proposed rate of 36.5. Commissioner Vickrey thinks the County is at risk of building a budget that will be difficult to maintain next year and that the budget contains some things that may not be able to sustain in the future. Commissioner Roberts said we need to bring wages up to compete with the market to recruit and retain employees. The County is struggling to fill positions in the jail, dispatch, EMS, and public works department because they cannot find people to fill those roles based on the current wages. Commissioner Pretz said this has been a long process to lower the rate by 4 mills and the County is counting on other revenue to keep the mill levy down. Commissioner Diediker said that another employee at the Road and Bridge department left because of the salary and said it will be hard to maintain and perform normal operations if we don't keep the employees we have. He also said that there is a learning curve when bringing on new employees and that puts them even more behind. There is no way that Miami County can compete with Johnson County on wages, but the County needs to do what it can. Chairman Vaughan wanted to point out that this mill rate equates to a 5% increase in property taxes over 2 years. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve as presented, Chairman Vaughan seconded; the vote was 4-yes 1-no (Vickrey).

Lucas Mellinger, Financial Director, requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing the Chair to sign notification to the County Clerk of intent to not exceed the revenue neutral rate for Hillsdale Lights & Sirens. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Lucas Mellinger, Financial Director, requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing the Chair to sign notification to the County Clerk of intent to not exceed the revenue neutral rate for Bucyrus Lights & Sirens. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Sitting as Miami County Fire Board – 1:40 p.m.

Lucas Mellinger, Financial Director, requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing the Chair to sign notification to the County Clerk of intent on exceeding revenue neutral for Fire District #1. The revenue

neutral rate is 2.071 with a proposed rate increase to 3.5. The additional funds will be set aside for future fire engine and equipment purchases. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Lucas Mellinger, Financial Director, requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing the Chair to sign notification to the County Clerk of intent on exceeding revenue neutral rate for fire District #2. The revenue neutral rate is 4.469 with a proposed rate increase to 5.0. The additional funds will be set aside for future expansion of the fire district. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Exiting as Miami County Fire Board – 1:44

Commissioner Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing the Chair to sign an invoice seeking reimbursement from the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services for inmate housing expenses. Senator Molly Baumgardner drafted and helped get approved Senate Bill 228 which allocated Miami County to send an invoice and request payment in the amount of \$63,400.00 for any person who is a patient at Osawatomie State Hospital waiting transport to Larned State Correctional Facility for mental health evaluation. Commissioner Roberts moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Janet McRae, Economic Development Director, wanted to remind the Commission and members of the public that the Lasting Infrastructure and Network Connectivity (LINK) application program is open for public comment until July 19th.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, wanted to update the Commission that Jim Frances responded that Fire District #2 is awaiting a response from their County Counselor regarding an invoice.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Roberts said the Motor Vehicle Department operates under state guidelines. The State also takes a fee from every vehicle registered or driver's license issued, and the County goes into a hole every year paying these fees to the state. He is working with some finance professionals and is drafting an invoice that will be sent to every elected official requesting repayment to make the County whole again. He means no disrespect to the County Treasurer as she is an elected official, but her department is performing a State function that the County is paying for.

Commissioner Pretz said Miami County Airport Advisory Board met and took a tour of the Miami County facilities. They wanted to show KDOT the facility so that it could be eligible for grants. The airport is getting new runway lights. It is a great asset to the County, and it receives FAA money that the County matches up to 10%. Shane Krull, County Administrator, has headed up taking care of the airport and all of the paperwork involved.

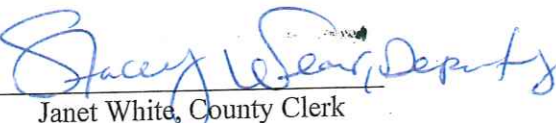
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.




Tyler Vaughan, Chairman

ATTEST:


Janet White, County Clerk