

**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 August 25, 2021. Those present were:

Rob Roberts, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem via phone	Shelley Woodard, County Counselor
Danny Gallagher, Commissioner	Janet White, County Clerk
George Pretz, Commissioner	Casey d'Augereau, Clerk Support Assistant
Phil Dixon, Commissioner	

News: Doug Carder, Miami Republic News

Visitors: Jennifer Williams, Charlie Koch, Daryl Marmon, Mike Scanlon, Holly Aula, Scott Estes

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Scanlon, City Manager of Osawatomie, thanked the Commissioners and County Staff for always being available to help. Mr. Scanlon was hired as the City Manager of Osawatomie around 16 months ago and learned that they were in the process of transitioning to the 800 MHz radio system to take place in months. He was surprised to learn no money was set aside for this and approached the Commissioners and asked that they please work with him while he works through this. Today Mr. Scanlon presented a check to the Commissioners in the amount of \$46,000 and stated final payment will be paid the week of Labor Day. Chairman Roberts turned the check over to Steve Lyman, Financial Director. Commissioner Pretz thanked Mr. Scanlon for the kind words and stated he has been exceptional to work with as a City Manager.

Scott Estes, 31411 W 231st St, Spring Hill, stated he is extremely disappointed with every one of the Commissioners. He stated he has emailed each one and they have not responded to his emails. He stated the county shows his property tax value of his double wide mobile home is \$150,000 yet his insurance will only insure it for \$68,000. He stated the county is running people out of their homes.

Holly Aula, no address provided, stated her children attend Holy Rosary Wea and requested the Commissioners to please consider reinstituting the mask mandate. She stated when she talked to the school about the mask mandate, she was told they can't mandate it until the Miami County Health Department (MCHD) mandates it. When she spoke with the MCHD, who she believes is amazing, she was informed they cannot mandate it but can recommend it. Ms. Aula is a nurse and her husband a physician, we have seen patients with COVID first-hand. Holly stated her children are too young for the vaccine and it is estimated that the vaccine will be available for children around December. There are four kids in school wearing masks. It's not political it's a matter of public health. Is one piece of fabric worth a child's life? Ms. Aula thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of minutes of the County Commission meeting on August 18, 2021
- Approval of AP payment vouchers
- Temporary fireworks display permit for the Borda Productions Dancefestopia Festival, pending an updated application bearing the property owner's signature as well as the property owner's written consent and subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 14-304(B) of the Miami County Code.
- Amendment to the Agenda, moving the Temporary fireworks display permit to New Business item No. 7.

Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Roberts opened a public hearing for the 2022 operating budget for Miami County at 1:12. There were no

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comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 1:12.

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider adopting a resolution exceeding the revenue-neutral rate of 42.773 mills for the tax year 2021. Chairman Roberts invited Sheriff Kelly, EMS Chief Dave Ediger, and JR McMahon, Road & Bridge Director to say a few words on how the budget impacts their departments.

Sheriff Kelly stated:

- I oversee the jail, civil process with the courts, keeping peace within the county and while upholding the constitution
- I need funds to assure these things are taken care of
- We don't look at a budget as numbers. We look at a budget as safety, training, family, professionalism, community, efficiency, pro-active, and transparent
- This year's salaries were a big item, we appreciate you stepping up and enhancing that to get people in the door to cover the positions we have

JR McMahon, Road & Bridge Director stated:

- Mr. McMahon is supportive of the raises and additional manpower for EMS and Sheriff's Office
- Road & Bridge is currently 5 employees down, there are a total of 48-50 people in the department. There are 2 employees retiring next year. I have scheduled interviews and they just don't show up.
- It's not the employees that have been here a few months that hurt you when they leave, it's the ones that have been here for 4 plus years because of the experience they take with them.
- Can contract some work, but snow plowing is not one of the jobs that can be contracted out.
- Road & Bridge can have all the equipment in the world but without the employees to run the equipment it doesn't do any good

EMS Chief Dave Ediger stated:

- 29 full-time and 12 part-time EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and Paramedics operating 4 ambulances out of 3 stations, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Respond to an average of 12.1 calls per day estimating over 4,400 calls for 2021
- As of August 1, 2021 responded to 2,585 calls exactly 300 calls ahead of August 1, 2020
- An increase of 9% over the 4,095 calls in 2020
- Crews have worked tirelessly through their own mental, physical, and emotional exhaustion to answer the calls over the past year and a half with the COVID pandemic. They leave their families for up to 48 hours at a time with great personal risk. This is all done for a starting wage of \$11.91 an hour for EMTs or \$14.76 an hour for paramedics.
- Other emergency services offer a higher pay scale
- EMTs and Paramedics working for the county for 1 plus years are leaving for higher paying jobs. They take their knowledge and experience with them, and the county starts the training process over with the new hires.
- Employees that stay with us are forced to take additional jobs to supplement their income.
- The proposed raises for EMS personnel included in the 2022 budget proposal are important to our staff and to the future of our services as it will have a significant impact on each one of them and their quality of life.

Maria Urban, EMT with Miami County EMS shared:

- Hired December 2019 as a reserve which is a group of volunteers
- Worked her way up from a reserve to a part-time and currently to full-time
- Believes has one of the most rewarding and sometimes difficult jobs in the world, she wouldn't trade it for anything
- The knowledge, the bonds with co-workers, and the field experiences are irreplaceable
- Currently working full-time for MICO EMS as well as working 2 part-time jobs and in Paramedic school.
- The three jobs are needed to ensure she is able to pay bills while trying to advance her education to be a better health care provider for her department and the community she serves

Chairman Roberts stated the County Commissioners and himself have never taken the taxes paid lightly. They believe it is important to be as transparent as possible on how the taxes are spent and there is a handout available for anyone that wants one. Chairman Roberts stated it's important that they understand why the tax increase and who it will impact. If we pass this budget two things will happen: (1) The Commissioners have to vote that we will be exceeding the revenue neutral rate. What is a revenue neutral rate? The law says we are required to examine what is

a revenue neutral number which is 42.773. In the year of 2022 the county should not collect anymore than they did in 2021. If we do this, we would not be able to give the pay raises we believe is needed. The proposed mill levy for 2022 is 46.373; Steve Lyman, Financial Director, confirmed. The Commissioners agree this budget will allow 6 new members to be added to the County staff payroll: 4 to EMS as paramedics giving Louisburg another ambulance service; 1 to the Sheriff's office to assist in the combat of drug trafficking; 1 to the accounting office. Approving the resolution will take them to the second part (2) approving the budget for the year 2022. Commissioner Pretz stated Chairman Roberts gave a great review. Commissioner Pretz stated he is not against the amount of money being spent because it is needed, but he is against the way it is being financed. The Arnold Group was brought on board to do a wage evaluation, a large amount of that was thrown out because it didn't focus on the immediate area market it was focused on the Statewide market. Human Resource was then asked to do an evaluation of the wages and decide who the winners and losers are. Commissioner Pretz is requesting an outside second opinion on the wage evaluation be on next week's agenda to eliminate liability to Human Resource Department. There are a lot of MICO citizens fixed income. The average house in Osawatimie went up 14%. Don't forget the mill levy for the County isn't the only mill levy being changed; all the cities within the county have proposed mill levies, all increases. Commissioner Pretz stated we started this year with 4.5 million dollars cash reserves and 5.4 million dollars in regular reserves, Mr. Lyman confirmed the amounts given, for a total of 9.9 million dollars in reserve. Commissioner Pretz proposes we tack on 1.8 mill for \$900,000 and then take \$900,000 out of reserves to satisfy our budget, half of it a mill increase and half from reserves. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve the resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate 42.773 mills, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous. (R21-08-029)

Chairman Roberts stated he is opposed to using cash reserves for a permanent fixed expense when it should be used for a one-time purpose. The better half of the reserves is there for a specific reason. Payroll is a fixed liability it has to be accounted for every year a one-time fix from our cash reserves won't fix this expense. Commissioner Pretz stated last year alone we put 2.5 million dollars in reserves, Mr. Lyman confirmed the numbers provided, the reason the county was able to do it was because of COVID money. Commissioner Pretz said why can't we take \$900,000 one-time to help the residents; would like to pass the savings onto the taxpayers right or wrong. Commissioner Dixon stated they spent the last several weeks going over the budgets and he is 100% for the salary increases and for adopting the plan as is. Commissioner Gallagher stated he agrees with Commissioner Dixon. Commissioner Gallagher believes the employees more than deserve the raises. Commissioner Gallagher stated he knows Sara Denning from Human Resource, stated this is a 5-year plan to get the employees' pay where it should be. Commissioner Gallagher stated he doesn't believe a second opinion is necessary. Commissioner Vaughan stated he disagrees with taking a one-time amount from the reserves but understands where Commissioner Pretz is coming from. We need to be mindful of how we use the reserves. Commissioner Gallagher moved to approve and adopt the 2022 County budget as presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded. Commissioner Pretz stated he will be voting no; he wants it clear that he agrees with the budget and what the budget will be accomplishing but he is against the way it will be financed. There were 4 yes votes while Commissioner Pretz voted no.

Chairman Roberts opened a public hearing for the 2022 operating budget for Bucyrus Lights & Sirens budget at 1:56, there were no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 1:56.

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider adopting a resolution exceeding the revenue-neutral rate of 1.507 mills for the tax year 2021. Commissioner Dixon moved to adopt the resolution as presented, Commissioner Gallagher seconded. Steve Lyman, Financial Director, stated the proposed rate is 1.585. The vote was unanimous. (R21-08-030)

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider approving and adopting the 2022 Bucyrus Lights & Sirens budget. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve and adopt the 2022 Bucyrus Lights & Sirens budget, Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts opened a public hearing for the 2022 operating budget for Hillsdale Lights & Sirens budget at 1:58, there were no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 1:58.

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider adopting a resolution exceeding the revenue-neutral rate of 2.191 mills for the tax year 2021. Commissioner Gallagher moved to adopt the resolution as presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded. Steve Lyman, Financial Director, stated the proposed rate is 2.460. The vote was unanimous. (R21-08-031)

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider approving and adopting the 2022 Hillsdale Lights &

Sirens budget. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve and adopt the 2022 Hillsdale Lights & Sirens budget, Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts opened a public hearing for the 2022 operating budget for Fire District No. 1 budget at 1:59, there were no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 2:00.

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider adopting a resolution exceeding the revenue-neutral rate of 3.262 mills for the tax year 2021. Commissioner Gallagher moved to adopt the resolution as presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded. Steve Lyman, Financial Director, stated the proposed rate is 3.538. The vote was unanimous. **(R21-08-032)**

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider approving and adopting the 2022 Fire District No. 1 budget. Commissioner Gallagher moved to approve and adopt the 2022 Fire District No. 1 budget, Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts opened a public hearing for the 2022 operating budget for Fire District No. 2 budget at 2:01, there were no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 2:01.

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider adopting a resolution exceeding the revenue-neutral rate of 4.671 mills for the tax year 2021. Commissioner Pretz moved to adopt the resolution as presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded. Steve Lyman, Financial Director, stated the proposed rate is 6.000. The vote was unanimous. **(R21-08-033)**

Chairman Roberts requested the Commissioners to consider approving and adopting the 2022 Fire District No. 2 budget. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve and adopt the 2022 Fire District No. 2 budget, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts asked the County Clerk, Janet White, if all requirements were met for the budgets. Ms. White replied yes.

Chairman Roberts stated there was a request for a second opinion in the review of the wages offered a compromise to have Shelley Woodard, County Counselor and Lucas Mellinger, Future Finance Director, to look over the wage evaluation Human Resources presented and make sure they agree with the findings. Commissioner Pretz is concerned with the liability remaining on the county and stated he would still like to have an outsider give a second opinion but welcomes Ms. Woodard's and Mr. Mellinger's input.

Shane Krull, Administrator, requested the Commissioners to consider approving Mr. Krull to sign a County Communications Center (CCC) backup use agreement with Johnson County for the usage of 911 and Public Safety Communications equipment and facilities located at the Johnson CCC. Chairman Roberts asked Sheriff Kelly if this agreement has changed from last years? Sheriff Kelly said it is the same as last year's agreement. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve Mr. Krull to sign into a backup use agreement with Johnson County as presented, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous. **(A21-08-043)**

Chairman Roberts called Daryl Marmon to the podium to speak about the temporary fireworks display permit. Daryl Marmon, Wald Fireworks, the permit is for display fireworks, but it is not for high ariel types it will be used for pyrotechnics. These are mainly flame effects and sparkler cones that are stationary on the stage. The county code requires an 11:00 p.m. shut off time. These displays will not have a burst charge, you will see them but not hear unless you are within 50 – 100 feet. Asking permission from the Commissioners to extend the time to 1:00 a.m. Chairman Roberts asked would these be visual affects? Mr. Marmon stated it will only be visual effects. Commissioner Gallagher moved to approve the fireworks display permit and extend the time to 1:00 a.m., Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Shane Krull, Administrator, stated Mr. Estes has attended our meetings every year for about 15 years. Mr. Estes is entitled to his opinion, but his opinion has not prevailed in the formal appeals and he has exhausted his formal appeal ability. Each instance, they have confirmed the values that we determined for his property. Chairman Roberts stated the Commissioners take pride in answering emails from the citizens' as they receive them. There are times when a Commissioner cannot respond or react, such as possible legal issues when a person has filed an appeal. Chairman Roberts asked Justin Eimers, County Appraiser, if the information Mr. Krull shared was correct. Mr. Eimers agreed

with Mr. Krull. Mr. Krull stated his intent was not to be antagonistic but wanted the second side of the story known.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, updated the Commissioners on COVID-19 stating Miami County has 3,299 cases and increase of 104 since last Wednesday with over 155 active cases. According to MCHD we have 200 students and staff undergoing modify quarantine with 3 active clusters. There have been 47 deaths, an increase of 1 since last Wednesday. Hospital beds are getting short.

Chairman Roberts asked the Commissioners if any of them have a desire to have on the agenda next week any consideration for a mask mandate. The Commissioners agreed none at this time.

Commissioner Pretz stated different subject, where are we at for the second opinion for a salary adjustment he would like on the agenda next week? Chairman Roberts asked if other Commissioners support a second opinion, the Commissioners said no. Commissioner Pretz thanked them. Chairman Roberts stated he did ask 2 staff members to review the findings of Human Resources, Commissioner Pretz stated he heard that.

JR McMahon, Road & Bridge Director, shared a couple things:

- Chip and seal completed yesterday (August 24, 2021)
- Would like Commissioners to look at 311th Street, it was milled. Would like to have approval to use this same method as a template.
- Washed roads from rain

Teresa Reeves, Planning Director, introduced Katey Jardieu as the new Planner 2 for the planning department.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Pretz stated:

- Road & Bridge began the repairs to the Creamery Bridge this week.
- Miami County Republican Party will have a dinner and meeting on August 26, 2021 at Casa Grande, dinner begins at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:00. Mike Thompson is to be the guest speaker
- He will be working on the 2023 budget starting immediately

Commissioner Dixon stated he is happy about the raises, they are well deserved.

Chairman Roberts stated the Commissioners received a letter from the Mayor of the City of Osawatomie thanking them for the left-over millings from the road projects. The millings were used on the golf cart paths to smooth them out.

Chairman Roberts thanked everyone for all the hours they put in on the budgets.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.




Rob Roberts, Chairman
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem

ATTEST:


Janet White, County Clerk