

**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 31, 2022. Those present were:

Rob Roberts, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem	Shelley Woodard, County Counselor
Danny Gallagher, Commissioner	Stacey Weaver, Deputy County Clerk
Phil Dixon, Commissioner	Jessi King, Operation Support Assistant
George Pretz, Commissioner	

Visitors: Leslie Belt, Gerald Rittinghouse, Andy Martin, Bobbie Debrick

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Belt, 33888 Pressonville, expressed her concern about the public trail close to her home that taxes have not been paid on since the land changed hands in 2004, as well as the trail of ownership of that property. She went on to state that she has had issues in the past with that trail, with vehicles and poachers, and struggle to get the help that they want from the law enforcement. Ms. Belt stated that the trail is posted as open from daylight to dark with no camping allowed. However, recently she got a notice from Midwest Endurance Race Company about a 100-mile marathon happening in Osawatomie this weekend, where racers will be camping in the right-of-way right just outside her driveway and blocking some county roads. She stated that at the last event held in this area, residents were unable to get through to their destination and lights and noise were a nuisance. Ms. Belt questioned where the profits from the race were going and if any of the revenue was even coming to the county. Shane Krull, County Administrator, explained that because the race will be taking place on the trail that is declared as a State Park, Miami County no longer has jurisdiction there. The Commissioners asked Shelley Woodard, County Counselor, and Mark Whelan, Emergency Services Coordinator, to work with the Sheriff to ensure that Miami County residents are able to access their homes safely.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of minutes of the county commission meeting on August 24, 2022
- Approval of AP payment vouchers and payroll
- Add-on – TreanorHL Courthouse Improvements
- Add-on – Sign Regulation Enforcement Moratorium

Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Roberts opened the public hearing for the 2023 operating budget for Hillsdale Lights and Sirens and Bucyrus Lights and Sirens at 1:18 p.m.

Lucas Mellinger, Finance Director, explained that for the Hillsdale Lights and Sirens, there would be a slight mill rate increase from 2.187 to 2.460 to keep pace with expenses. The total expenditure will be approximately \$8,200. For Bucyrus Lights and Sirens, the total cost will be closer to \$4,000. These dollars pay for the electricity and energy bills to keep streetlights and storm sirens functioning, as well as maintenance on those structures. Commissioner Gallagher moved to close the hearing, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts closed the public hearing at 1:22.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Hillsdale Lights and Sirens budget as presented, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; after a roll call, the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Bucyrus Lights and Sirens budget as presented, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; after a roll call, the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts opened the public hearing for the 2023 operating budget for Fire District #1 at 1:23 p.m.

Bobbie Jo Debrick, 20100 W 335th, stated that she lives in a rural property that is 5 miles from a fire station and more than one mile from a fire hydrant and that she pays the highest possible rate for fire insurance. She asked the Commissioners how her fire protection is going to improve with the increase of valuations and funding in the Fire District. Commissioner Vaughan addressed these concerns, explaining that there was a water summit with all water carriers where they discussed a fire hydrant improvement plan and the challenges that that may bring. He enforced that this was a concern for the commissioners as well. Commissioner Pretz added that the annual maintenance cost has increased, taking up a portion of those funds.

Lucas Mellinger, Finance Director, stated that in 2022 the expenditure budget was \$968,000 and will increase to \$1,021,000 for 2023. He reiterated that this money is needed for ongoing expenditures as well as to put some money toward future purchases of vehicles for the Fire District. Mark Whelan, Emergency Services Coordinator, added that the cities have increased volunteer firefighter pay, with the county to be following suit shortly. Commissioner Gallagher moved to close the hearing, Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts closed the public hearing at 1:30.

Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the Fire District #1 2023 Budget as presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded; after a roll call, the vote was unanimous.

Holly Ray, Human Resources Director, presented KPERS457, a deferred compensation plan to employee benefits. This program will provide additional retirement benefits at no additional cost to the county. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, presented a request for approval for a change an employee in the Economic Development Department to full-time Operations Support Specialist. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts announced that the County Commissioners will now be sitting as the Fire District Fire Board.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Services Coordinator, and Gerald Rittinghouse, Louisburg Fire Chief, presented bids for the RFB 2022-021 Fire Apparatus for Louisburg Fire Department. Chief Rittinghouse gave an update on a used fire truck that he test drove yesterday, stating that due to the size and weight of the truck, that it would not be a good fit for the department. Mr. Whelan stated that after discussions with administration, the prices bid to them could not be afforded by Miami County, and the only good options were to ask the Commissioners to reject the bids and continue to look for a quality used apparatus or consider lease financing. Commissioner Pretz moved to reject the bids presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts adjourned the Fire Board meeting.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, explained that the 6th Judicial District has been awarded 2 new District Court Judges, with one being based in Miami County. As more judicial space, i.e. courtrooms, will be needed, the Commissioners are being requested to approve the TreanorHL proposal to do a judicial space study to see

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what is needed to bring the current courthouse up to grade for \$47,550. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts presented a request for a moratorium on sign regulation enforcement. He explained that the moratorium would give the Commissioners a chance to evaluate the current regulations to better improve and create more user-friendly regulations. Commissioner Vaughan requested that time parameters be put on the moratorium, Chairman Roberts stated that he wanted to work with Commissioner Vaughan to determine an appropriate time frame. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Whelan, Emergency Services Coordinator, explained that Chief Love has received his new vehicle after an almost 2-year wait. He wanted to thank the commission for allowing him the purchase. Mr. Whelan gave an update on the COVID 19 numbers, with 300 known new cases of Miami County residents in the month of August, and no deaths of residents since early May.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Pretz stated that more than 2 commissioners could be at Arista Recovery for their ribbon cutting this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Pretz stated that more than 2 commissioners could be in the Commission Chamber on September 20th at 6:30 p.m. for Solar Education.

Commissioner Vaughan stated that the QuikTrip in Spring Hill is having a ribbon cutting and encouraged everyone to look at the larger scope of what that means for our communities. He reiterated the importance of being prepared for the larger regional players coming into the growing corridors in Miami County.

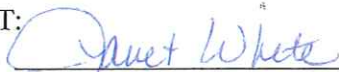
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

(Seal)


Rob Roberts, Chairman

ATTEST:



Janet White, County Clerk

