

May 17, 2021
Unofficial Minutes
Russell County Commission Meeting

At 9:00 am Steve Reinhardt made the motion to call the meeting to order. Daron Woelk seconded, and Duke Strobel approved. Others present for the meeting were: Administrator John Fletcher, County Attorney Dan Krug, GIS Chris Brown, Treasurer Trish Strobel, and Clerk Mary Nuss.

Steve Reinhardt made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting. Duke Strobel seconded, and Daron Woelk approved.

Steve Reinhardt made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-7 Declaring a State of Local Disaster Emergency for the County of Russell, Kansas for the recent flooding in the County. Duke Strobel seconded, and Daron Woelk approved.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, updated the Commission on the road conditions after the floods over the weekend. Bids will be taken on the Iron Pile at the Landfill on June 7, 2021 at 9:45 am.

Alan stated that they had been putting up barricades in the northern part of the County with as many structures are under water. SS2625 at 5611 182nd St north of Ken Stielow's has held up to the recent rains. OS116 at 17891 Saline Rd. must have rubble/trees removed that is blocking the flow of water under the structure. The last Commission closed a structure south of Bunker Hill on 196th St at 3182 196th at OS2707 because of flooding at that time. Alan asked if this current Commission wants to keep this structure closed and remove that structure or see if FEMA will give us funding for repairs. Steve Reinhardt made the motion to remove the structure OS2707 and not to replace it. Daron Woelk seconded, and Duke Strobel approved.

KDOT's current detour for Hwy 281 that went through Luray on K-18 is effectively closed due to the flooding over the weekend. KDOT is meeting this afternoon to discuss 2 possible new detours for the North HWY 281 project. One possible detour will be the old HWY in Luray by the Luray Golf Course or use the 193rd St N of Bunker Hill up through Luray with KDOT possibly resurfacing this road after the N 281 Project is complete.

Jon Quinday, Russell City Manager and Kayla Schneider, Assistant City Manager gave an annual update on Russell City's Neighborhood Revitalization Plans. The first Plan was a 10-year plan with a descending rebate plan. Russell City has a proposed Plan to expand this program including most of the City of Russell. The Commission is asking that the transferrable from one owner to another be taken out of the Plan. In 2018 \$1.65 million in project was applied for and \$1.2 million has been completed. In 2019 \$566,000 applied and \$569,000 approved. 2020 \$960,000 applied and none are completed yet.

Tawnya Rohr, Director of Senior Companion Program and Foster Grandparent Program, came in to explain funding for the 2022 funding. They are waiving the request for funding in the 2022 budget.

Tawnya stated that Russell County is down 4 volunteers and they are looking to replace them and possibly get a few more volunteers for their programs.

Walt Hill, Executive Director of High Plains Mental Health, brought in their 2020 Annual Report and the 2022 Budget Request of \$35,664. Due to COVID 19, a large portion of their services, were done by Telemedicine in 2020. Kaylee Conner does High Plains grant writing, media announcements and emergency mental services.

At 11:40 am Duke Strobel made the motion to recess the meeting for lunch until 1:00 pm. Steve Reinhardt seconded, and Daron Woelk approved. At 1:00 pm Steve Reinhardt made the motion to reopen the meeting. Duke Strobel seconded, and Daron Woelk approved.

Lyman Nuss and Kent Truan of the County Conservation Board and Ray Gonzalez, NRCS Director presented the 2022 Budget of \$29,000.00. Chairman Reinhardt signed the request.

Sheriff Fred Whitman and Under-Sheriff Andy Van Der Wege, updated the Commission on Sheriff's response to the flood in Russell County. Andy is gathering information on updating the vests. Discussion was held about the 2022 budget and the hiring of employees and our existing vacant court security officer.

At 1:57 pm Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 45-minute executive session for non-elected personnel for interviews for the County Appraisal position. David Gilmore, Kenton Lyon and John Fletcher were also in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded, and Daron Woelk approved. At 2:42 pm the meeting resumed with no action taken.

At 2:44 pm Duke Strobel made another motion to enter into a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with David Gilmore and John Fletcher in attendance. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved. At 2:59 pm the meeting resumed with no action taken.

It was the consensus of the Commission to add Cody Groth to the Gorham Fire Department pending all paperwork has been turned into the payroll office.

Tax Correction 2020-101 was signed with a tax decrease of \$870.00.

Checks were approved and signed to be deducted from the following funds:

100 GENERAL	\$	27,923.90	260 HEALTH	\$	5,270.98
110 ROAD & BRIDGE	\$	23,830.48	290 GORHAM FIRE	\$	77.82
120 SP BRIDGE	\$	654.62	300 LUCAS FIRE	\$	1,826.49
130 NOX WEED	\$	505.13	310 WAL-PAR-NAT	\$	866.52

140	4H	\$	2,474.78	328	RS CO FIRE #5	\$	562.32
150	CVB	\$	1,192.48	330	APPRAISAL	\$	449.03
155	ED	\$	130.49	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$	1,152.65
180	ELECTION	\$	1,000.00	360	SOLID WASTE	\$	3,619.27
190	AMBULANCE	\$	4,068.40	380	EM TELEPHONE	\$	106.41
				718	CTZ RVW BRD	\$	1,071.56

At 3:05 pm, Duke Strobel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved. The next meeting for the County Commissioners will be June 7, 2021 beginning at 9:00 am in Commission Chambers, Courthouse.