

March 20, 2023
Unofficial Minutes
Russell County Commission Meeting

At 9:00 am Duke Strobel made the motion to open the meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded. Others present for the meeting were Administrator John Fletcher, County Attorney Dan Krug, and Deputy County Clerk Kristi Whitman.

Chairman Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023, meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded.

The Commissioners had their review.

Duke Strobel made the motion to add John T. Bender to the Paradise Waldo Natoma Fire #3 Department pending payroll paperwork and add Kail Brungardt to the Gorham Fire #1 Department. Steve Reinhardt seconded.

County Administrator John Fletcher told the commissioners about the hearing for a zoning change on a tract of land known as 1205 W Wichita Ave., Russell, Kansas. This would change the zoning district from B-3 General Business District to I-2 Heavy Industrial District. There is also a petition for a variance from the minimum tract size to allow the property to be used as an oil field equipment repair shop and office made up of 1205 W. Wichita Ave. and 1209 W. Wichita Ave. John updated the commission on the Highway 281 project. Off road work will continue in the 2023 construction year and closing the highway will happen in the 2024 construction year. Kansas County Commissioners Association will have their annual conference in Hays, Kansas from April 25 to April 27, 2023.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, told the commissioners there will be \$72,840.17 available to Russell County through the Federal Fund Exchange. Russell County would get \$.90 on the dollar for a total of \$65,556.15. Duke Strobel signed the Request to Exchange Federal Funds under the Federal-Aid Fund Exchange Master Agreement. Alan presented the 2022 Engineer's Report. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the 2022 Engineers Report to be submitted to the state. Steve Reinhardt seconded.

At 9:30 am Duke Strobel made the motion to open the haying bids. Steve Reinhardt seconded.

Duke Strobel made the motion to accept the high bids for haying.

No bids received for Lot #1 Beginning at 175th Street - 4 miles East to 179th Street
North and South sides of Highway 40
ALSO, on 176th Street, from Gorham city limits South approximately 1 mile to I-70
East and West sides of 176th Street

Given to Brad Stoppel for \$151.00 for Lot #2 Beginning at 179th Street - 5 miles East to 184th Street

North side only of Highway 40

Given to Keith Butler for \$147.00 for Lot #3 Beginning at 179th Street - 5 miles East to 184th Street

South side only of Highway 40

Given to Keith Butler for \$137.00 for Lot #4 Beginning at 187th Street - 2 miles East to 189th Street

North and South sides of Highway 40

Given to Ronald Ptacek for \$127.00 for Lot #5 Beginning at 189th Street - 4 miles East to 193rd Street

North and South sides of Highway 40

Given to Ronald Ptacek for \$112.00 for Lot #6 Beginning at 193rd Street - 6.5 miles East to 200th Boulevard

North and South sides of Highway 40

Given to Ronald Ptacek for \$127.00 for Lot #7 Beginning at 200th Boulevard - 4.5 miles East to 204th Street

North and South sides of Highway 40

ALSO, on 200th Blvd, from Dorrance city limits North to I-70 approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile

East and West sides of 200th Blvd

Given to Brad Stoppel for \$301.00 for the Russell County Landfill located at

NW/4 of Sec 2-T13S-R14W

Consisting of approximately 50 acres

Steve Reinhardt seconded.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, said they have been cleaning out ditches. Discussion was held regarding closing the low water bridge SS2301 at 17683 4-Corners Road. No decisions were made.

Steve Reinhardt made the motion to amend the county's internal Economic Development Operating Fund Budget from \$180,000 to \$250,000 to cover the salaries coming out of the Economic Development Operating Fund instead of the Economic Development $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent Sales Tax Fund. Salaries will be taken out of the Economic Development Operating Fund instead of transferring salaries from Economic Development Operating Fund back to Economic Development $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent Sales Tax Fund to reimburse the salaries. Duke Strobel seconded.

Mike Parsons, Economic Development Director, presented the application review for the Billboard Grant Program. The commissioners reviewed the applicants and scored them according to who they feel should receive the billboard grant. The top two scored applicants will share the billboard for 2 years. After the two years, the winners can choose to keep the billboard and pay for it themselves. The cost is \$3060 for two years. Mike will let us know who the winners are later after he averages the scores.

The commissioners presented a retirement plaque to County Clerk Mary Nuss for her 30 years of service to Russell County. She is retiring from office of county clerk effective April 1, 2023.

At 10:55 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel for an employee evaluation with County Clerk Mary Nuss, Deputy Clerk Kristi Whitman, and John Fletcher in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded. At 11:00 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Paula Bitter, County Health Nurse, and Cathy Boxberger, Account Executive with McKesson Medical-Surgical, gave an update on testing equipment. The County Health Department can get a lab testing machine from UnitedHealthcare at no cost for the equipment valued at \$66,760.00. A yearly service agreement, test kits, and the moderate complex testing licensing certificate will need to be paid for by the county. Getting this equipment will let the county health department complete a variety of lab testing in-house instead of sending them off. Steve Reinhardt made a motion to get this new lab testing machine and try it out for a year to see if it is beneficial to the community. Duke Strobel seconded.

At 11:37 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel for an employee evaluation with Paula Bitter and John Fletcher in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded. At 11:42 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

County Administrator John Fletcher gave an update on the courthouse generator. DCS gave a quote on the cost of installing the new generator for the courthouse. The high-end cost would be around \$397,091.00. If the commissioners agreed to continue with this project, they could put the project out for bid. It was the consensus of the commission to discuss this further at the next meeting. John also stated the old radios from EMS and the Sheriff's office will be given to the fire departments. The fire departments will be responsible for the programming. John stated three more mobile radios will need to be purchased. Two for the Emergency Operations Center and one for the other Emergency Management truck. The new radios could cost \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00 each. Duke Strobel asked for the total cost for the three new radios. No decisions were made at this time. John presented paperwork from the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition members to submit a vote on the Lesser Prairie-chicken lawsuit. Duke Strobel made a motion to vote Yea for Pacific Legal Foundation Litigation. Steve Reinhardt seconded.

Tax corrections 2023000049 through 2023000052 were signed with a tax decrease of \$13,249.32.

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

100	GENERAL	\$ 56,940.84	290	GORHAM FIRE	\$ 2,385.51
110	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 5,933.72	300	LUCAS FIRE	\$ 76.64
120	SP ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 11,839.64	310	WAL-PAR-NAT	\$ 613.86
130	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 19,461.83	320	DORRANCE FIRE	\$ 2,998.34
140	4H	\$ 15,840.82	328	RS CO FIRE #5	\$ 696.04
150	CVB	\$ 7,464.02	330	APPRAISER	\$ 177.00
155	ED	\$ 2,816.61	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 1,937.17
180	ELECTION	\$ 157.50	360	SOLID WASTE	\$ 1,872.98
190	AMBULANCE	\$ 7,758.71	435	ROD TECH FUND	\$ 940.41
210	CAP IMPROVEMENT	\$ 15,000.00	380	EM TELEPHONE	\$ 106.92
260	HEALTH	\$ 4,377.39	718	CIT. RVW BRD	\$ 691.20

At 12:00 noon Duke Strobel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded. The next meeting for the Russell County Commissioners will be Monday, April 3, 2023, beginning at 9:00 am in Commission Chambers, Courthouse.