

**March 18, 2024**  
**Unofficial Minutes**  
**Russell County Commission Meeting**

At 9:00 am Duke Strobel made the motion to open the meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. Others present for the meeting were: County Attorney Dan Krug, County Clerk Kristi Whitman, John Fletcher, Kevin Mravinec, and Treasurer Trisha Strobel. Thomas Mahoney and Jeannine Byers-Long attended parts of the meeting.

Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024, meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

The Commissioners had their review.

Duke Strobel made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-7 Declaring April 14 – 20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the Kansas County Commissioners Association 2024 Membership for \$365.16. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

At 9:02 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with County Attorney Dan Krug in attendance. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:12 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

County Attorney Dan Krug stated he received notification back that the Attorney General's Office received the certified letter requesting an attorney general opinion on Statute 19-203a. He also stated he heard back from T-Line Emergency Vehicles on the Gorham Firetruck. It will be available for pickup March 22, 2024.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, presented the minutes from the March 12, 2024, Annual County/ Township Meeting. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the minutes. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

(insert minutes)

Alan stated they had to replace a culvert on 15<sup>th</sup> Street Road. They will start milling up Lincoln Road tomorrow. There are no updates on the Hell Creek Bridge project. Alan would like an answer on the sign truck. Duke stated he thought getting a flatbed pickup would be best. Alan will get prices on some trucks. The Freightliner truck with over 600,000 miles is up for replacement. Alan will get some prices. Alan brought in some prices on a couple of different loaders to replace the one at the landfill. Discussion was held on what options would be best, to buy or lease, and to repair the old one to use as a backup instead of renting a machine when one is being repaired. The commission would like Luke Fanshier with Murphy Tractor to attend the

next meeting with some prices on loaders. Alan stated the county shop building's entry way wood studs are rotting. Alan will be getting prices on how much it would be to replace the entry way with metal.

Alan Kuntzsch asked on behalf of the City of Bunker Hill for reduced landfill rates for a city-wide cleanup day. The date is to be determined. Duke Strobel made a motion to give reduced landfill rates to the City of Bunker Hill for a city-wide cleanup day. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

Chris Brown, GIS/ Zoning Director, presented a Temporary Conditional Use Permit for H&M Firearms, LLC/ Richard Hodges for a Firearms Expo and Range Day at LaSada Lodge on May 3, 2024 to May 5, 2024. Duke Strobel asked Richard Hodges how the security and flow of the event would take place and if the vendors would charge Russell County sales tax. Richard Hodges stated his protocols in place and would give the vendors information on the Russell County sales tax for them to file with the state. GIS/ Zoning Director Chris Brown also asked some questions on locations of food trucks, beer garden, and shooting ranges. County Clerk Kristi Whitman presented Cereal Malt Beverage application for Jamie Richardson DBA Louie's Bar and Grill for the beer garden at the H&M Firearms, LLC Firearms Expo and Range Day at LaSada Lodge. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the Temporary Conditional Use Permit for H&M Firearms, LLC/ Richard Hodges for a Firearms Expo and Range Day at LaSada Lodge on May 3, 2024 to May 5, 2024, and the Cereal Malt Beverage application for Jamie Richardson DBA Louie's Bar and Grill for the beer garden at the H&M Firearms, LLC Firearms Expo and Range Day at LaSada Lodge. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

At 10:10 am bids were opened for chemicals for the Noxious Weed Department. Duke Strobel made the motion to approve low-bid chemical purchases in the total amount of \$96,612.09 from SIM's in the amount of \$22,793.85, Central Plains Agronomy in the amount of \$30,085.50, Nutrien in the amount of \$21,505.10, and Van Diest in the amount of \$22,227.64. Steve Reinhardt seconded, and Daron Woelk approved. Jennifer stated Winkel Manufacturing upgraded long sills to a six-inch channel for \$100.00 on the flatbed truck. They picked up the truck from Winkel's last Friday. This Thursday they are taking the truck to pick up the new tank and then to Simpson's in Ransom to have the spray system installed. This should be done in approximately two weeks. Jennifer asked if a capital outlay fund could be set up for the Noxious Weed department. Duke made a motion to set up a capital outlay fund for Noxious Weed per Statute 2-1318. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

Mike Parsons, Executive Director Russell County Economic Development and Convention and Visitors Bureau, gave an update on the housing project. He stated between \$1.5 and \$2 million would be needed for infrastructure funded by the City of Russell and Russell County. Mike stated he, in partnership with Kayla Schnieder (City of Russell) and Northwest Kansas Innovation Center, put in a request for funds through the state per House Bill 2273, an economic

development package. \$100,000 would be needed by county funding: \$65,000.00 through LACTF and \$35,000 would be from the Economic Development Budget. Duke asked if ARPA money could be used for this instead of the Economic Development Budget. Treasurer Trisha Strobel will check to see if this is allowed. Mike stated he should find out if the \$1.5 million will be awarded in the next couple days. Mike asked for approval to apply for a Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership class. If accepted into the two-year program, the cost is \$5,600.00. Duke Strobel made a motion to allow Mike to apply for the class. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Mike handed out the new Russell County visitor guide that was designed by Tourism Director Maggie Holloway.

Paula Bitter, Russell County Health Nurse, presented a letter of understanding for dietitian services for WIC between Russell County and Belinda Kasper. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the letter of understanding for dietitian services for WIC between Russell County and Belinda Kasper. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

2023 Tax Roll Corrections 2024000043 through 2024000047 were signed with a tax decrease of \$5,921.48.

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

<b>100</b>	GENERAL	\$ 144,726.42	<b>290</b>	GORHAM FIRE #1	\$ 1,701.63
<b>110</b>	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 29,500.16	<b>300</b>	LUCAS FIRE #2	\$ 477.96
<b>130</b>	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 721.96	<b>310</b>	WAL-PAR-NAT FIRE #3	\$ 1,945.84
<b>140</b>	4-H	\$ 760.10	<b>320</b>	DORRANCE FIRE #4	\$ 278.33
<b>150</b>	CVB	\$ 1,202.89	<b>328</b>	RUSSELL CO FIRE #5	\$ 1,854.33
<b>155</b>	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 729.73	<b>330</b>	APPRAISER	\$ 667.54
<b>170</b>	SP. MACHINERY	\$ 46,330.75	<b>340</b>	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 1,599.74
<b>180</b>	ELECTION	\$ 8,227.00	<b>360</b>	SOLID WASTE	\$ 13,419.30
<b>190</b>	AMBULANCE	\$ 6,212.06	<b>370</b>	EMER TELEPHONE	\$ 1,079.40
<b>260</b>	COUNTY HEALTH	\$ 7,812.81	<b>435</b>	REG. OF DEEDS TECH FUND	\$ 691.20
			<b>718</b>	CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD	\$ 1,018.32

At 10:38 am Duke Strobel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. The next meeting for the Russell County Commissioners will be a Special Meeting to canvass the results of the March 19, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary on Monday, March 25, 2024, beginning at 8:00 am in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse. The regular meeting for the Russell County Commissioners will be April 1, 2024, beginning at 9:00 am in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse.