

**April 1, 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. County Clerk Kristi Whitman was also present for the meeting. Others attending parts of the meeting were: John Fletcher, Kevin Mravinec, Chris Brown, Mitch Driscoll, and Jeannine Byers-Long.

Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024, meeting. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2024, special meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

The Commissioners had their review.

Duke Strobel made a motion to pay the Hammeke Electric bill to install the 4H generator. Draw for 80% in the amount of \$33,207.77. This was agreed upon during the December 18, 2023, meeting.

A quote for Coughlin Company to mill up 2 miles of Lincoln Road for \$18,581.00. Duke Strobel made a motion to accept this agreement for \$18,581.00 and mill up 2 more miles of Lincoln Road. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

Duke Strobel made the motion to add Stephan Rhudolph and Harry Black to Lucas Fire #2 Department pending payroll paperwork. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

At 9:06 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:11 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Luke Fanshier, Murphy Tractor, and Justin Mermis, Road and Bridge Mechanic, discussed the options for the landfill trac loader. Repair to our current loader was estimated to be around \$20,000.00. This repair will be done this week. Discussion was held on options to lease or buy a new trac loader and warranty information. Steve Reinhardt asked how much a factory rebuild would be on the loader we have. Luke will get some pricing on the rebuild and a new loader. Luke went over spec differences of the 755K loader and the 655K loader.

Chris Brown, GIS/ Zoning Director presented a quote for the annual GIS ESRI Software subscription for \$6,600.00. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the annual software subscription for \$6,600.00. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

Delinda Petty, Luray City Mayor, stated since Highway 281 is closed for construction, increased traffic has been a problem. She is concerned about heavy truck traffic speed. She asked if a sign for a reduced speed limit and a “no jake brakes allowed” sign on Luray Lane could be put up. Truck traffic from K-18 is coming into town. There is also increased traffic using Russell County Avenue. Delinda asked if there would be a sign available to put up to decrease traffic and speeding. Duke stated he will check with County Attorney Dan Krug, Public Works Director Alan Kuntzsch and Sheriff Andrew Van Der Wege to see what can be done.

Paula Bitter, County Health Nurse, stated the Kansas Health rankings were received. This year is more of a snapshot of how Russell County is doing. Paula stated there is a grant she can apply for the Drug Endangered Children in Kansas. She can apply for up to \$100,000.00. Commissioners agreed Paula should apply for the Drug Endangered Children in Kansas Grant. Paula stated measles cases are on the rise in the United States. Duke asked if the CLIA testing machine is being used. Paula stated she is waiting for Dr. Somers to finish his CLIA certification, since she is currently working under his certification. A grant for \$75,752.45 was already awarded from the American Rescue Plan Act. This can be used for workforce, foundational capabilities, and data modernization through 2027. Paula is still planning on how to use the grant money. Paula asked to give two employees each a \$2,000.00 bonus for working during the COVID pandemic. Duke Strobel voted not to give the bonus to the two employees. Steve Reinhardt and Daron Woelk agreed to give the two employees each a \$2,000.00 bonus to be paid with the American Rescue Plan Act Grant. Paula stated the Health Department will need to be closed the afternoon of April 22, 2024, through April 24, 2024, so the staff can attend WIC training and conference.

At 10:26 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Paula Bitter, County Health Nurse, in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. At 10:31 am the meeting resumed with no action taken

Sheri Stoppel, representative of the Russell County Free Fair Board, and several members of the board, gave an update on the Fair Board’s plan for the 2024 Fair and the 2025 Fair. They found a carnival to be at the 2025 Russell County Free Fair for \$14,000.00. An agreement would need to be signed and a \$4,000.00 deposit would need to be paid this year to Amusement Associates with the remaining \$10,000.00 to be paid upon Amusement Associates arrival for the 2025 fair. The commissioners agreed to pay the \$4,000.00 deposit and to have County Attorney Dan Krug review the agreement before it is signed.

Craig Poe, Kaley Conner, and Andrew Van Der Wege, representatives for High Plains Mental Health Center, presented the annual report for 2023, an update of services for 2024, and a funding request for 2025 of \$40,364.26. Duke Strobel asked why the Russell County portion was higher per capita than other counties. Craig Poe stated there is a formula they use to figure the portion and Russell County is provided more services than other surrounding counties.

911 Dispatchers thanked the Commissioners for signing Resolution 2024-7 declaring April 14, 2024, through April 20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. A picture was taken of the 911 Dispatchers with the Russell County Commissioners.

Kayla Schneider, Russell Deputy City Manager, asked the commission for a 50% reduction in landfill fees for the City of Russell City Wide Cleanup Day on April 20, 2024, held from 9:00 am to 11:30 am in conjunction with the county's Household Hazardous Waste Day. Last year the clean-up day generated 14.89 tons of debris. Duke Strobel made a motion to reduce the landfill fees by 50% for the City of Russell City Wide Cleanup Day on April 20, 2024, held from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

At 11:30 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Appraiser David Gillmore in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. At 11:40 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

At 11:41 am Duke Strobel made a motion to adjourn the meeting until 1:00 pm. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

At 1:00 pm Duke Strobel made a motion to open the meeting. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

Sheriff Andrew Van Der Wege and Undersheriff Scott Axtell presented updated quotes for the Sheriff's Office roofing replacement from A-lert Roof System Division for \$192,920.00, High Plains Roofing Inc. with ABC Seamless quote for \$138,735.00, and Roofmasters Roofing and Sheet Metal for \$113,672.00. Duke Strobel made a motion to accept the quote from Roofmaster's Roofing and Sheet Metal for \$113,672.00 to be taken out of the Capital Improvement Fund. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Duke Strobel asked to have County Attorney Dan Krug look over the quote and scope of work. Sheriff Van Der Wege stated he will turn in the first quarter reimbursement report in the amount of \$9,100.00 for the inmate waiting to go to Larned Mental Health Institution.

At 1:20 pm Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Sheriff Van Der Wege and Undersheriff Axtell in attendance. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. The executive session was extended an additional 5 minutes. At 1:30 pm the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Kristi Whitman, County Clerk, presented the Cereal Malt Beverage license for Jamie Richardson DBA Louie's Bar and Grill for the beer garden at the H&M Firearms, LLC Firearms Expo held at LaSada. Duke Strobel made the motion to approve Cereal Malt Beverage license for Jamie Richardson DBA Louie's Bar and Grill for the beer garden at the H&M Firearms, LLC Firearms

Expo held at LaSada. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. Kristi also presented a Cereal Malt Beverage application for Paige Kraus/ Lake Wilson Marina for on-premises sales. Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the Cereal Malt Beverage application for the on-premises cereal malt beverage license for Paige Kraus/ Lake Wilson Marina. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

At 1:31 pm Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with County Clerk Kristi Whitman in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. The executive session was extended an additional 10 minutes. At 1:51 pm the meeting resumed with no action taken.

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

<b>100</b>	GENERAL	\$ 7,657.41	<b>260</b>	COUNTY HEALTH	\$ 5,988.14
<b>110</b>	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 38,865.88	<b>290</b>	GORHAM FIRE #1	\$ 238.68
<b>130</b>	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 8,203.51	<b>300</b>	LUCAS FIRE #2	\$ 148.55
<b>150</b>	CVB	\$ 518.87	<b>330</b>	APPRAISER	\$ 98.95
<b>155</b>	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 8,953.87	<b>340</b>	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 1,025.81
<b>180</b>	ELECTION	\$ 110.00	<b>360</b>	SOLID WASTE	\$ 19,977.70
<b>190</b>	AMBULANCE	\$ 595.09			

At 1:54 pm 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 April 15, 2024, beginning at 9:00 am in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse.