

May 6, 2024
Unofficial Minutes
Russell County Commission Meeting

At 9:00 am Duke Strobel made the motion to open the meeting. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Others present for the meeting were: County Attorney Dan Krug and County Clerk Kristi Whitman

Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2024, Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting for County Administrator Interview, and April 29, 2024, Special Meeting with USD 407 and City of Russell. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

The Commissioners had their review.

Duke Strobel made a motion to increase the estimated cost for the small purchase procedure to \$10,000.00 in the Procurement Policy. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Duke Strobel made a motion to pay the Central Kansas Local Environmental Planning Group dues in the amount of \$7,485.00. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

At 9:03 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with County Attorney Dan Krug and County Clerk Kristi Whitman attendance. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:08 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, presented the Request to Exchange Federal Funds Agreement with Kansas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$57,233.65. Duke Strobel signed the agreement. Alan presented the Emergency Action Plans for Road and Bridge and the Landfill. Also presented was the Personal Protective Equipment Policy for the Highway Department and Solid Waste Department. A Violent Situation Policy and an AED at the Landfill were added. Duke Strobel made a motion to accept the Emergency Action Plans for Road and Bridge and the Landfill and the Personal Protective Equipment Policy. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Luke Fanshier, Murphy Tractor, was here to discuss the Trac Loader. A bid for a John Deere 755 Crawler Loader with a five-year, 5,000-hour warranty in the amount of \$442,123.00 from Murphy Tractor was presented. Duke Strobel made a motion to purchase the John Deere 755 Crawler Loader with a five-year, 5,000-hour warranty in the amount of \$442,123.00 from Murphy Tractor. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Duke Strobel made a motion to pay this out of the County General Fund with the principal and 2% interest paid back by the Landfill in four years. County Attorney Dan Krug will get an agreement. Duke Strobel signed the customer purchase agreement with Murphy Tractor.

At 9:45 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel for employee evaluations with Public Works Director Alan Kuntzsch in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. At 9:50 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Friday Otuya, Nex-tech Community Engagement Specialist, travels across the community of Northwest Kansas to make sure Nex-tech has good working relationships with communities and customers. Friday shared the Nex-tech services available including loans, grants, programs and the benefits of those services to the community.

Charma Craven and Delinda Petty, Luray Community Foundation, asked if the county could help in any way to take care of a nuisance property that is behind in property taxes. The property is attached to one of their buildings in Luray. County Attorney Dan Krug stated a tax sale would take time to get set up and the best recourse would be for them to contact their own attorney.

Alese Hageman, 911 Director, and Dylan Reidel, Russell Fire Chief, stated they were still dropping pages. There has been some testing but there are other things that need to be tried to see if it fixes the problem. Alese thought switching from UHF to the 800 system would help. Alese presented the 911 Fund and Equipment Reserve Fund Reports. Duke Strobel asked when the software will need to be replaced. It is nearing its end of life. Duke stated he would also like more updates on 911 and if 911 was the only city department that pays electric and water utilities. Alese will look into these questions.

Paula Bitter, County Health Administrator/ Officer, stated vaccine costs are rising. Paula asked if she could attend the National Reproductive Health Conference in Philadelphia. The expenses would be paid for by a grant. The only cost to the County would be her salary. Steve Reinhardt thought it would be a good idea for Paula to go. Daron Woelk agreed. Paula gave updates on other conferences this year, the CLIA testing machine, and WIC.

At 11:38 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Treasurer Trisha Strobel attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. The executive session was extended an additional 5 minutes. At 11:48 am the meeting resumed. Duke Strobel made a motion to open a third counter position in the treasurer's office. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

Trisha Strobel, Treasurer, stated she was asked if the County had a comprehensive plan for the future similar to what the city has. County Clerk Kristi Whitman stated each department has some form of their own plan but may be a good idea in the future.

At 11:53 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. At 11:58 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

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

100	GENERAL	\$ 168,795.52	290	GORHAM FIRE #1	\$ 362.40
110	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 281,935.12	300	LUCAS FIRE #2	\$ 1,925.78
130	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 20,347.71	310	WAL-PAR-NAT FIRE #3	\$ 7,929.35
140	4-H	\$ 24.84	320	DORRANCE FIRE #4	\$ 1,023.91
150	CVB	\$ 3,191.96	328	RUSSELL CO FIRE #5	\$ 266.89
155	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 11,152.83	330	APPRAISER	\$ 655.97
180	ELECTION	\$ 1,150.00	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 62,755.46
190	AMBULANCE	\$ 2,735.55	360	SOLID WASTE	\$ 18,419.91
210	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$ 12,620.00	380	EMER. TELEPHONE	\$ 406.55
260	COUNTY HEALTH	\$ 12,501.67	718	CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD	\$ 2,036.64

At 11:59 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 Monday, May 20, 2024, beginning at 9:00 am in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse.