

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES  
DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, MARCH 18, 2019**

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 A.M. with Second District County Commissioner Thad G. Geiger, Chairman, calling the meeting to order. First District County Commissioner Timothy D. Collins, Third District County Commissioner Jerry P. McKernan and County Clerk Peggy Franken were present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Paul Stewart and Susan Studer observed the entire regular meeting. Troy High School Seniors Tysen Williams and Kyle Jackson were present for a portion of the meeting.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve the meeting agenda as amended to include executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elect personnel within the Road Department. Motion carried.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve County Commission minutes of the March 11, 2019 regular meeting as written. Motion carried.

Commissioner Geiger made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKernan, to approve manual warrant for the period of March 15, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Currently the Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center houses 10 local inmates.

Stan Ruhnke, American Legion Post #55, updated the Board of County Commissioners on the progress of constructing the Veteran's Memorial on the west lawn of the Doniphan County courthouse courtyard. Mr. Ruhnke said five flag poles representing each branch of the military will be placed along the north side of the memorial. Five hundred (500) blank bricks need to be purchased to fill in the void areas. Approximately \$5,000.00 is needed to complete the project, Mr. Ruhnke stated any and all donations would be greatly appreciated. Inscribed bricks with the names of Service Members can still be purchased at a cost of \$75.00 each. For those wishing to purchase an inscribed brick remembering their loved ones service to our Country, forms are available at all county banks and at the County Clerk's office in Troy, Kansas. Commissioner Collins suggested American Legion Post #55 contact Highland Community College if volunteer help is needed on the project, as the Community College has community organizations to assist.

Noxious Weed Director Jim Norris presented the Board with bids for the purchase of four (4) Firestone pickup truck tires:

- Consumer Oil & Propane Inc.                      \$129.60 each
- Triple L Tire    No Bid
- Davies Oil     No Bid
- Neumann Service                                      No Bid

Commissioner Collins made a motion, seconded by McKernan, to accept the only bid of Consumer Oil & Propane Inc. for the purchase of four (4) Firestone pickup truck tires. Motion carried.

Discussion was held in regard to lack of bids from local vendors for the purchase of tires, as they cannot compete with governmental pricing. The Board will compile a list of vendors who wish to be included on a rotating schedule for the mount and balance of tires purchased through governmental pricing.

Noxious Weed Director Jim Norris also presented the Board with a list of in-house repairs to be made to the Noxious Weed shop building while the weather is not conducive to spraying. In addition, bids will be sought to replace the tile floor, which is currently creating a safety hazard, and guttering for the building.

Emergency Management Coordinator Julie Meng gave the Board of County Commissioners an update on the 2019 high water flood event currently taking place. Kansas Governor Laura Kelly declared a State of Emergency on Friday, March 15, 2019. The Missouri River crest level is subject to change hourly based on the amount of rainfall and snowmelt coming downstream. Elwood Gladden Drainage District has 16” pumps available to pump out interior water should it be needed, with Doniphan County and the cities of Elwood and Wathena to split the cost of fuel to run pumps. American Red Cross will have an emergency shelter set up at the Troy Community Building in Troy, Kansas, beginning Tuesday, March 19, 2019. KC Metro Animal Response Team is onsite at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Troy, Kansas, to assist with pets for individuals affected by the flood who are not able to relocate with their pets. US Highway 36 has seen a significant increase in traffic due to the closing of Interstate 29 in Missouri. The Kansas Highway Patrol and Kansas Department of Transportation are working in conjunction with Doniphan County Emergency Management to control traffic. The US Army Corp of Engineers has been on site since the high water event began, patrolling the Elwood Gladden Drainage District levee. Mrs. Meng thanked all first responders, members of Fire District No. 1 and Fire District No. 4, Elwood City Officials, Wathena City Officials, County personnel, Kansas Department of Emergency Management, Elwood Gladden Drainage District members, Law Enforcement Agencies, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, US Army Corps of Engineers and the numerous volunteers who have helped. Congressman Steve Watkins was present at the Emergency Operations Command Center on Saturday, March 16, 2019 to offer any support needed on a federal level. Observer Kyle Jackson asked Emergency Management Director Julie Meng about the relocation of Riverside School students who attend class in Elwood, Kansas. Mrs. Meng stated grades 3-8 have been relocated to the Riverside school west campus and First Baptist Church of Wathena, Kansas, at least for the coming week or until the flood threat subsides.

Chairman Geiger executed a Local Emergency Disaster Declaration on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. The seven day declaration will be renewed weekly until the high water event is no longer a threat.

Emergency Management Coordinator Julie Meng also informed the County Board Kansas Highway 7 is closed from Iowa Point north to the Nebraska state line due to Missouri River flood waters across the roadway. She suggested the Board of County Commissioners direct the Road Department to keep a record of all expenses related to road repair for alternate routes due to Kansas Highway 7 closure, in the event federal or state emergency funds become available for reimbursement.

Commissioner Collins said he has asked First District Road Foreman Sean Price to grade and haul rock on Buffalo and Ashpoint Roads, north of US Highway 36, in order to prepare them for an increase in traffic due to the closure of Kansas Highway 7.

Zoning Administrator Julie Meng told the County Commission, due to lack of quorum, the zoning hearing originally scheduled March 13, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. for Michael H. Foley to establish a rock quarry and ag lime operation at 434 Monument Road, Wathena, Kansas, has been postponed until Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at the Doniphan County Courthouse, Troy, Kansas.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to hire Penny Russell to serve as the Elwood Leisure Hour Senior Citizens Site Director on a part-time basis effective March 21, 2019 at a rate of pay of \$10.75 per hour. Motion carried.

At 9:10 A.M. Commissioner Collins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKernan, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect personnel within the Road Department, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the County Commission at 9:25 A.M. Motion carried. The County Clerk and Road Office Manager remained.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the Board of County Commissioners with February 2019 expenses for the Road Department, road improvement fund balances and rock stockpile balances, for their review.

Manager Norris told the County Commission a large amount of rock will need to be hauled in order to get the roads back in shape following the harsh winter and spring freeze and thaw. In addition, the cost of chat for the upcoming chip seal season will come out of the Road and Bridge budget in March 2019. Commissioner McKernan asked if there is a possibility there will not be an adequate amount of rock or money in the Road and Bridge fund to properly repair the roads. Mrs. Norris said unlike the past couple of years, the current year's budget will be stretched due the amount of rock that needs to be hauled. Commissioner Geiger said the important thing is that the Road Department get the roadways fixed right by grading and rocking. Commissioner Collins asked Road Officer Manager Lindsay Norris to work with Township Boards on repairs needed to township roads.

Commissioner Geiger said some road problems are being created by water runoff from private driveways and property, which is cutting into and through the county roads. He suggested the Road Department work with property owners to correct drainage issues.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris told the Board of County Commissioners Doniphan County's 2019 portion of Kansas Department of Transportation Federal Funds Exchange monies in the amount of \$85,592.04 will be deposited into the County's Federal Funds Exchange account in September.

Chairman Geiger, sighting a help wanted advertisement in The Kansas Chief, asked for clarification on the ad for a Registered Nurse with excellent benefits and holidays for the Health Department/Home Health Agency, as the Board of County Commissioners approved at their March 11, 2019 meeting the hiring of two Registered Nurses on a part-time as needed basis to cover the three day per week position, as requested by Administrator Sheryl Pierce.

Chairman Geiger also reminded County Departments to abide by the County purchasing policy and stay within their approved spending authority.

Observer Susan Studer asked the Board of County Commissioners for an update on Right-of-Way violation letters sent to property owners at their next meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Geiger adjourned the meeting at 9:52 A.M.

DATED THIS 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

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Thad G. Geiger, Chairman