

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, JULY 20, 2020**

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the office of the Doniphan County Commission, Troy, Kansas, 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 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 observed the entire meeting. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Troy City Mayor Sarah Boeh-Cerra, Troy City Attorney Alan Boeh, Doniphan County Ambulance District No. 1 Director Matt McKittrick and Assistant Director Tanner Veach were present for a portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the meeting agenda presented. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve County Commission minutes of the July 13, 2020 regular meeting as written. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Currently the Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center houses 4 local inmates.

Chairman Geiger reiterated Doniphan County's protocols regarding the Coronavirus Disease stating the use of face masks are not required but are strongly recommended along with social distancing and proper handwashing in an effort to keep the number of COVID-19 cases in Doniphan County at a minimum by preventing the spread of the Coronavirus Disease.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to purchase a secure drop box to be located at the courthouse for patrons to drop off official county documents, from American Security Cabinets at a cost of \$2,218.00, with the expense to be submitted for reimbursement through Coronavirus Relief Funds. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Consultant proposals for the Kansas Governor's Office of Recovery SPARK Taskforce Coronavirus Relief Funding were presented to the Board of County Commissioners to assist Doniphan County with administration, reporting and auditing requirements.

- Swindoll Janzen Hawk & Loyd, LLC, Hutchison, Kansas \$35,000.00
- Witt O'Brien's, Houston, Texas \$35,000.00

Commissioner Geiger made a motion to enter into a consultation agreement with Swindoll Janzen Hawk & Loyd, LLC to administer Doniphan County's Coronavirus Relief Funds as set forth by requirements of the Kansas Governor's Office of Recovery SPARK Taskforce in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 with the expense to be reimbursed through Doniphan County's portion of Coronavirus Relief Funding. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Notice from the City of Elwood for the issuance of taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for Girton Land and Building Project was presented to the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to K.S.A 12-1749c and K.S.A. 12-1749d.

Commissioner Geiger re-opened discussion on Doniphan County Ambulance District No.1's request for additional funding in the amount of \$75,000.00 for budget year 2021. The Board of County Commissioners at their July 13, 2020 meeting approved additional tax appropriations in the amount of \$40,000.00. Commissioner Geiger stated an 80% increase in funding without prior notification or dialogue to the taxing authority shows incompetence with proper budgeting. Understanding the loss of volunteers and the need for an ambulance service, Commissioner Geiger made a motion to alter the amount of tax appropriation given to the City of Troy for operations of Ambulance District No. 1 from the previously approved amount of \$134,000.00 to \$144,000.00 for a total increase of \$50,000.00. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the County Commissioners with Road and Bridge and Township Road Improvement fund expenses and balances through June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Geiger suggested the Road Department work with farmers to divert water away from county roadways and onto field terraces and drain tile. Commissioner Collins was in agreement.

Road Office Manager Norris also presented the County Commission with documentation and history of 130th and Larkinburg Roads for their review.

Commissioner Collins asked about the status of Monument Road, south of Wathena, Kansas, in Section 5 Township 4 Range 22E, where the Missouri River is cutting back into the roadway causing it to slough off. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris stated she has contacted the US Army Corp of Engineers to determine the best way to divert the Missouri River away from Monument Road. She will reach back out to the US Army Corp of Engineers.

Troy City Mayor Sarah Boeh-Cerra, Troy City Attorney Alan Boeh, Doniphan County Ambulance District No. 1 Director Matthew McKittrick and Assistant Director Tanner Veach appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to discuss requested \$75,000.00 increase in tax appropriations for Doniphan County Ambulance District No. 1 for budget year 2021. Attorney Boeh told the County Commission the Ambulance District is in the midst of a perfect storm; the ambulance service use to be staffed largely by volunteers but in 2020 only six volunteers remain with two of the six no longer able to serve. In addition, the State Board of EMS requires two licensed personnel on every run. He stated without hiring of additional full-time staff the County risks losing ambulance service through Doniphan County Ambulance District No. 1, which could also be detrimental to economic development and future growth. The Ambulance District will be putting together a request for a portion of the County's Coronavirus Relief Funding to offset the loss of revenue due to patients not seeking the ambulance service out of fear of being taken to the hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Collins remarked with dwindling volunteers since 2015, the ambulance district should've been planning for hiring of additional staff for several years instead of asking for a large increase all in one year. Commissioner Geiger on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners stated the Board absolutely cares about human life but they also have to be economically responsible and mindful of the taxpayer. Chairman Geiger asked for complete budgets for Doniphan County Ambulance District No. 1 and the City of Troy showing all funding sources and expenditures including salaries and benefits for their review and consideration before the Board of County Commissioners takes further action.

At 9:27 A.M. Commissioner Geiger made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing legal matters with counsel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:37 A.M. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney and County Clerk remained.

At 9:37 A.M. Commissioner Geiger made a motion to extend the executive session to continue discussing legal matters with counsel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the County Commission at 9:57 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney and County Clerk remained.

Commissioner Geiger encouraged citizens of Doniphan County to exercise their right to vote on August 4, 2020.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Geiger adjourned the meeting at 10:05 A.M.

DATED THIS 20TH DAY OF JULY 2020.

Attest: _____
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

Thad G. Geiger, Chairman