

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, NOVEMBER 16, 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, County Attorney Charles Baskins and County Clerk Peggy Franken were present.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Melanie Davis observed the entire meeting. First District Road Foreman Sean Price, Emergency Management Coordinator Julie Meng, Health Department/Home Health Administrator Sheryl Pierce and Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Kay Smith were present for a portion of the meeting.

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

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve County Commission minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting as written. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve change orders to the 2020 Doniphan County tax roll for added taxes in the amount of \$236.62 and abated taxes totaling \$88.34. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve payroll and warrants for the period November 16, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Fee reports for the month of October and November 1-15 period were presented on behalf of the Sheriff for the Boards review.

Currently the Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center houses 5 local inmates.

Commissioner Geiger made a motion to close county departments on December 8, 2020 from 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. in order for employees to partake in the annual Christmas appreciation dinner hosted and paid for personally by the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to enter into a 60-month lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for courthouse postage machine at a quarterly rate of \$940.65. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to allow District Court Clerk Michelle Smith to seek bids for recovering of twelve juror chairs in the District Court Courtroom with a synthetic leather type material for sanitary purposes. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Department/Home Health Administrator Sheryl Pierce and Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Kay Smith were present to request one-time hazard pay for personnel of the Doniphan County Health Department in response to COVID-19 through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment ELC COVID-19 Staffing and Infrastructure Support Grant.

At 9:20 A.M. Commissioner Geiger made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting individual interest of non-elect personnel in the Health Department, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the County Commission at 9:30A.M. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The County Attorney, County Clerk, Health Department/Home Health Administrator and Public Health Preparedness Coordinator remained.

At 9:30 A.M. Commissioner Geiger made a motion to extend the executive session for the purpose of continuing discussion and protecting the interest of non-elect personnel in the Health Department, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the County Commission at 9:40 A.M. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Commissioner Collins cast a no vote. Motion carried 2-1. The County Attorney, County Clerk, Health Department/Home Health Administrator and Public Health Preparedness Coordinator remained.

Commissioner Geiger made a motion to allocate one-time hazard pay to employees of the Doniphan County Health Department through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment ELC COVID-19 Staffing and Infrastructure Support Grant as follows:

- Full-time Registered Nurses \$1,500.00 each
- Health Department Office Manager \$1,500.00
- Public Health Preparedness Coordinator \$1,500.00
- Home Health Office Manager \$500.00
- Full-time Registered Nurse (recently hired) \$500.00
- Part-time Registered Nurse \$250.00
- Health Department/Home Health Administrator \$5,000.00

With the remainder of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment ELC COVID-19 Staffing and Infrastructure Support Grant funds in the amount of \$9,750.00 to be deposited into the Health Department account to hire part-time temporary contract contact tracers and offset future overtime expenses for COVID-19 response. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Commission Collins cast a no vote. Motion carried 2-1.

Health Department/Home Health Administrator Sheryl Piece presented the Board of County Commissioners a letter from Doniphan County Health Officer Dr. Brad Gaul asking for the Board of County Commissioners consideration in imposing a countywide mask mandate to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

“To Doniphan County Board of Health and To Whom It May Concern – Which is ALL of US, Thank you for your ongoing concern and attention to this pandemic situation. As you are undoubtedly aware, it has gotten worse recently, both locally and nationally. We remain a “hot” county with percent positive testing 15-20%. That is likely to get worse in the upcoming winter months. Any efforts to slow the spread and isolate and mitigate the virus would be worthwhile.

Which of course, brings me to two controversial phrases—“MANDATE” and “LOCKDOWN”. There is recent consideration again to issue a mask mandate. Several surrounding counties and communities are already doing this. I think wearing masks is a good idea. So do the experts at the CDC. I do not however, like the word MANDATE. That word feels like someone pointing a finger in your face and telling you “You have to do what I say...PERIOD.” Nobody likes that. But wearing a mask IS NOT THAT HARD! Cheap. Easy. And good for you, your neighbor, family, friends and community. There are much harder things in life than wearing a mask. Sometimes fate “mandates” a life in a wheelchair or living tethered to an oxygen tank or living in a nursing facility. Yes, I know, we all know someone who wears a mask who got it anyway. This is not a perfect world. My point is, if there is something relatively easy to do that would probably protect yourself and your fellow man, why not do that??? And a mask mandate...or ‘just wear one’ does not make one a liberal socialist. This is science and medicine and public health, not, I repeat NOT politics.

Lastly, the word everyone hates is ‘lockdown’. Absolutely no one wants that for themselves or their community or their country. We have been through that before and the very cumbersome “phases” of recovery. Try to look at mask wearing as a way of perhaps lessening the load of virus in

the community, and consequently, lessening the chances of closing down churches, schools, and businesses.

This is obviously a very difficult time for everyone, made worse by the very polarizing events of these last few months. Please consider helping yourself, your family, your friends, and your community. After all, that's what makes small towns great, isn't it??

Very respectfully,

Brad Gaul, MD

Doniphan County Health Officer

P.S. Thank you for your consideration. We are all blessed to live in this community and blessed also to have such dedicated staff of tireless health department workers!"

The Board of County Commissioners took the request under consideration and tabled action on imposing a countywide mask mandate until their November 23, 2020 regular meeting.

Health Department/Home Health Administrator Sheryl Pierce announced she has been nominated and selected as the recipient of a prestigious 2020 Public Health Award from the Kansas Public Health Association. The Dorothy Woodin Award recognizes her outstanding efforts as public health nurse in Kansas.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to purchase a 2020 Western Star dump truck in the amount of \$146,856.00 for the First Road District. Motion died for lack of second.

Commissioner Geiger made a motion to purchase 300 ton of ditch liner rock, in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00, from Foley Quarry and Whetrock to complete project on Moonlight Road. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Emergency Management Coordinator Julie Meng reported the new courthouse generator has been installed and is up and running. A transfer switch is causing issues, a price quote is being obtained to repair the transfer switch and maintenance agreement, which will also include the Law Enforcement Center generator.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to have the chip spreader and oil distributor serviced by Road Builders, with any repair costs to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners prior to making repair. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Geiger told the County Commission he has asked County Clerk Peggy Franken to put together cost figures to make adjustments to the County wage scale for the Board of County Commissioners consideration.

Commissioner McKernan informed the Board he was contacted by Marty Hewins who has broken up concrete available for the county's use at no charge. Commissioner Collins will view the material prior to the Board taking any action.

At 10:14 A.M. Commissioner Collins made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect personnel in the Emergency Management Office, with the meeting to be called back to order at 10:24 A.M. in the office of the Doniphan County Commission. Commissioner McKernan seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The County Attorney and County Clerk remained.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Geiger adjourned the meeting at 10:25 A.M.

DATED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Attest: _____
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

Thad G. Geiger, Chairman