

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, DECEMBER 18, 2023

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 Wayne Grable, Chairman, calling the meeting to order. First District County Commissioner Timothy D. Collins, Third District County Commissioner Bobby Hall and County Clerk Peggy Franken present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Melanie Davis observed the entire meeting. Noxious Weed Director Jim Norris, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Sheriff Chad Clary, Iowa Township board members Trustee Ken McCauley, Treasurer Mike Twombly and Clerk Craig Windmeyer, Mary Winder, Thad Geiger, Harley Hartman, Jason Wilson and Register of Deeds Susan Shuster were present for a portion of the meeting.

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

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve County Commission minutes of December 11, 2023, regular meeting as written. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center currently houses eleven local inmates.

Due to observance of the Christmas holiday, the Board of County Commissioners will hold their next regular board meeting Friday, December 29, 2023, at 8:30 A.M.

Noxious Weed Director Jim Norris presented the County Commission with 2024 Kansas Department of Transportation contract to treat noxious weeds along State right-of-way. Norris told the County Commission the proposed contract calls for a reimbursement rate of \$40.00 per hour for equipment and \$30.00 per hour for labor. Commissioner Grable made a motion to enter into a contractual agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for the purpose of treating noxious weeds along the State right-of-way during the 2024 spray season. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Director Norris told the County Commission Big Iron Auction sold the old sprayer unit to the highest bidder. After commissions Noxious Weed received \$5,124.00 for the unit. Jim thanked Mike Twombly, salesperson for Big Iron Auction, for his help in getting the equipment sold.

Jim Norris, Noxious Weed Director, who assists with brush and tree removal during the spraying off-season, discussed with the Board of County Commissioners rental of chipper and mulching equipment. The Board of County Commissioners took no action pending Mr. Norris obtaining additional information on rental price for bucket truck and setting up a demonstration for mulching equipment.

Iowa Township Board Members Ken McCauley, Trustee, Mike Twombly, Treasurer and Craig Windmeyer, Clerk met with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss road maintenance on one mile of Castleton Road, north of US Highway 36 to 240th Road, west of Highland, Kansas. Trustee McCauley said the Township Board agreed there is a need to open the road up to eliminate farm equipment from traveling through the City of Highland's main street. Iowa Township representatives would like to cost share on the project with Doniphan County providing labor and equipment to take down the banks, remove trees and build up the road. Iowa Township would provide rock using funds from the Township's recent voter approved 8 mill road improvement fund. The Board of County Commissioners agreed to work with Iowa Township on building up and rocking one mile of Castleton Road, north from US Highway 36 to 240th Road. Commissioner Collins asked representatives of the Township to speak with adjoining landowners before any work begins.

Ken McCauley, Iowa Township Trustee, inquired about vacating a portion of 280th Road, east of Denmark Road, Section 35 Township 1 Range 19E. Chairman Grable said a petition to vacate would need to be filed for County Commission consideration and discussions held with County Attorney Charles D. Baskins.

Commissioner Collins asked Iowa Township Board Members to consider rocking 280th Road one mile west to the Brown County line. Township representatives said they would give the request some consideration.

At 9:17 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect road personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:27 A.M. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney, County Clerk, Road Office Manager and Harley Hartman remained.

At 9:30 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect road personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:45 A.M. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney, County Clerk, Road Office Manager and Jason Wilson remained.

Mary Winder met with the Board of County Commissioners to request approval to purchase four 36" x 48" canvass prints detailing the life of Ernie Dittmore (1915-1995), a Doniphan County resident who lived off the land literally in a hole in the ground. The display will be in the lower level of the Doniphan County Courthouse. Mrs. Winder told the County Commission the four canvass prints with gromets would be done by Doniphan County Library District No. 1 at a cost of \$136.00. Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve the purchase of canvass prints detailing the life of Ernie Dittmore for display in the lower level of the Doniphan County courthouse. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Thad Geiger appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to thank the County Commission for road work on Old Kiowa Road, east of Troy, Kansas. Mr. Geiger asked the County Commissioners to consider building up and rocking Oxide Road, north of 175th Road to US Highway 36, as it is direct access to US Highway 36. He told the County Commissioners he and other adjoining landowners would cooperate with the County giving dirt and use of equipment for the project. The County Commissioners took no action.

At 10:06 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect sheriff personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 10:11 A.M. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney, County Clerk and Sheriff remained.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve the following Sheriff's Department invoices:

- DirecTV (bill reduced from \$697.51) \$ 34.55
- Wash-ena Car Wash \$ 67.40
- Miller Trash Service \$125.00
- Rainbow Communications \$285.95
- Rainbow Communications \$ 50.00
- December payroll expenses \$85,000.00

Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the County Commission with Road Department expenses, Road Improvement Fund balances, rock stockpile balances, bridge plank, tire, and road tube inventory reports for the period ending November 30, 2023, for their review.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve purchase of rock for Burr Oak Township in the amount of \$2,090.99 and Center Township \$2,035.02 from County Road and Bridge rock fund. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve dividing remaining Road and Bridge rock funds between the three road districts with each district to receive \$66,700.00 to be used for rock stockpile. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Lindsay Norris, Road Office Manager, told the County Commission project information for 6'x90' crossroad culvert replacement on 140th Road, east of Ottumwa Road, Section 10 Township 4 Range 21E has been mailed to all contractors listed on the County contractors list. For clarification purposes, Norris asked about the purchase of rip rap for the project. The County Commission agreed Doniphan County will purchase rip rap material, with Contractor to haul. The contractor will also be responsible for utility locates.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve an invoice to Mission Creek, LLC for repair on 2018 Western Star (#11) rock truck in the amount of \$1,847.47. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve repair invoice to Redneck Diesel for 2020 Peterbilt (#206) in the amount of \$1,298.60. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to execute planned service agreement between CK Power and Doniphan County, Kansas, for courthouse generator in the amount of \$1,235.00. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to enter into a contractual agreement with Jackson County, Kansas, for disposal of Household Hazardous Waste materials at a rate of \$29.50 per hour and \$0.65 per mile for pickup of waste material for the 2024 calendar year. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve 2024 Kansas Association of Counties dues in the amount of \$2,774.34. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Register of Deeds Susan Shuter met with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss storage of old County records. The Board of County Commissioners agreed to removing bars from the old cell block area of the former jail, located at 105 S. Liberty St., Troy, Kansas, having the area cleaned up and using it to store County records. The Board asked County Clerk Peggy Franken to send a memo to courthouse departments asking about storage needs of each.

At 10:53 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 11:08 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney and County Clerk remained.

At 11:08 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 11:23 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney and County Clerk remained.

At 11:23 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, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 11:33 A.M. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney and County Clerk remained.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to grant a \$1.00 per hour pay increase to all employees, including department heads, effective January 1, 2024. Grant a \$1.50 per hour pay increase to elected officials effective January 1, 2024. And grant a \$3.00 per hour pay increase to all currently employed Registered Nurses of the Doniphan County Health Department effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to set the starting wage at \$16.00 per hour effective January 1, 2024, for all employees except for Road and Bridge, Sheriff's deputies with experience, Jailers and Registered Nurses. Set the starting wage for Road and Bridge at \$20.00 per hour. Set the starting wage for experienced Sheriff's Deputies at \$20.00 per hour. Set the starting wage for Jailers at \$16.50 per hour. Set the starting wage for Registered Nurses of the Doniphan County Health Department at \$30.00 per hour, all effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to increase the Election Official's salary by an additional \$1,000.00 annually beginning January 1, 2024. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to grant Kimberly Smith, Deputy Treasurer, an additional \$1.00 per hour pay increase effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to grant Dennis McKittrick an additional \$1.00 per hour pay increase effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to grant the County Clerk an additional \$0.50 per hour pay increase effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to grant the Road Office Manager an additional \$1.00 per hour pay increase effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to hire Harley Hartman as an operator/laborer in the Road Department at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, subject to pre-employment screening. With him to report to the Third Road District and assist both Second and Third Road Districts, effective January 2, 2024. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to hire Jason Wilson to serve as First District Road Foreman, subject to pre-employment screening, effective January 2, 2024. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Collins made a motion to adjourn at 11:37 A.M. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DATED THIS 18TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

Attest: _____
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

Wayne Grable, Chairman