

**July 30, 2024: Chairman Brad Marcuson opened the regular meeting of the Decatur County Commission at 9:00 am with the flag salute on the second floor of the Courthouse with members Stan McEvoy and Karen Larson. Also present was County Clerk Nora Urban and Oberlin Herald reporter Destry Jackson. Attorney Steve Hirsch was absent.**

Candidate for commissioner, Joe Mondero was also present.

**9:00 Ernie Sheets, Road & Bridge** came to meet with the commissioners and said the elevation project in Roosevelt Twp is complete and he is working on getting the billing to them so they can decide if they want to do the additional mile or not.

He then said it is dry right now, so they are not elevating any more than they have to; looks to be dry the next 10 days.

Mowers are all out and running.

County Clerk Nora Urban received this morning a letter regarding the meal site van. The letter listed some issues with the van; Nora said this is the first time she has heard of any issues as they have not called regarding anything. A copy was given to Ernie, and he will look into the issues.

**Nora continued** by sharing a copy of the fair board insurance which they provided a copy of for the commissioners to review.

**Commissioners reviewed** correspondence and signed prepaids and payroll.

**Commissioner Karen Larson** moved to approve the 7/23/2024 minutes with no corrections or additions. Commissioner Brad Marcuson gave the second, called for the vote and the motion carried.

**Commissioner Stan McEvoy** said he had received a phone call from Tom Wasson. He said he had called Ernie asking about doing the roads at the fair grounds prior to fair. He said that Ernie had told him that was not his job. Commissioners agreed this is something they have done for years as support of the fair.

**Marilyn Mack, Dispatch** came down to give an update on Jeanne Pachner. She said she had fallen on her porch and had a fracture to her leg. They did not have to do surgery however she is to be off of it for a while.

She then said she is looking at some applications, however, is still in need of help. All else is going fine, she said.

**9:23 Stan requested a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel.** Brad gave the second, called for the vote and the motion carried. Those present were the three commissioners and Nora.

9:33 No action was taken.

**9:35 Brooke Graham, Courts** came down with a quote from NexTech for the 3 workstations previously mentioned, as well as two battery backups. She said this did not include labor. The quote was \$4213.75, and she would plan to pay this out of their regular budget. Stan moved to allow the purchase. Brad gave the second, called for the vote and the motion carried.

**Commissioners asked** Nora to draw up a letter to Road & Bridge supervisor Ernie Sheets to let him know that the fair ground roads are something that we do for them at no cost as the county's support of the fair. Commissioners reviewed the letter and signed it; Nora will get the letter to Ernie.

**Nora then continued** by saying that the county has an existing resolution that if any entity owes money to the county that a set off plan would be put in place holding all payments to the entity as payment for the debt to the county. She said this was brought to her attention by another county inquiring as they are in the same situation, and they said there is a statute regarding this. She said that the High Plains Newspaper has past due taxes that have not yet been paid in Decatur and Norton County. As directed by Attorney Steve Hirsch, Nora had already drawn up a letter to send to them. Commissioners agreed to send this onto them. She said she would get the figures from Treasurer Jean Ann Hale and get the letter sent.

**Joe Mondero** asked what or if the city paid or contributed for things. Karen said they do help pay for dispatch; about \$8000/month, which is a calculated percentage. Nora said they also pay \$1500 a year to go towards summer ball. He then asked, what about jail or inmates being housed here or elsewhere; Karen said no.

He then asked if they had discussed any further the sheriff's question regarding housing inmates elsewhere; Karen said no it is not cost effective.

**Stan had to leave** for an appointment.

**10:15 David Wachendorfer, Sheriff** came to talk to the commissioners and started with presenting his monthly bill for CK Tech which is his IT support. It was approximately \$1300, Nora explained that this did not need approval each month as it was previously approved when initially contracted for services. He then said August 13-15 he is sending Amber Carfield to a training in Goodland; it will be \$300. He said he had heard very good things about it and originally, he was going to go, however, had something else come up. If there is another class close by, he will go along with Ed Temmel. Next, he said he would like to set up a new fund for storage impound fees. Nora said she would check with the auditor to make sure there is a statute that authorizes this and get back to him. David then said that Brady Ginther will graduate on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August and then will do an additional 8-week training here. He plans to attend the graduation. Last, he said that they will plan to have a strong presence at the fair. They will have the trailer there as a cooling trailer as well. He said he will have a vehicle up there as the kids enjoy seeing it.

**10:20 Kirk Ulery** came to see the commissioners with concerns regarding EMS. He said that his father-in-law was in the ER here on the 19<sup>th</sup> and needed to be transported immediately due to his situation. He said due to the weather they could not fly him out therefore he would need to be sent by ground transport. He said Decatur County EMS told them they would not transport due to being short-handed. Other calls were made and after sitting there for 6 hours Goodland EMS agreed to come up and drive him on to Kearney. He said this was a serious situation and he was incredibly grateful to them. He said he feels that an apology is due to Brenda Ulery and her dad Jack Benton. He then said he is aware of the ongoing issues with EMS and wanted to know if it is just time to put it to a public opinion to see if it is time to bring someone else in as previously discussed. He asked about the expense of having a company come in. Nora explained this has already been budgeted for. Kirk said that he

wondered if the current process was really putting the tax dollars to best practice. Concerns were further discussed regarding this.

He then also said that he did not feel the director should be driving a county vehicle around unmarked all the time; asking how much is work and how much is personal.

Karen thanked him for coming forward and bringing this to their attention, saying if no one tells them these things they do not know.

Brad said he did know that regarding ambulance transport some situations do require specific personnel.

Kirk said he was told an RN could go on the transport; commissioners agreed this has been done.

Kirk thanked the commissioners for their time and for all they do, as well he said hopefully it will help the next person moving forward and that something will be done. No one should have to wait there in a critical condition for 6 hours; they would not like it if it was their loved one.

Commissioners thanked him again for bringing this information forward to them.

**10:45 Brad adjourned the meeting.**

MINUTES APPROVED: BM, KY, Sm

ATTEST: Debra Urban, County Clerk      DATE: 8/13/24