March 16, 2021: 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 Deputy County Clerk Megan Davenport, County Attorney Steve Hirsch, and Oberlin Herald reporter Dayna Mannebach.

9:02 Ernie Sheets, Road & Bridge came to see the commissioners with a few award of contract agreements he had from Penco for the Jennings bridge. The commissioners looked over the contracts and signed them. Ernie then said he received an email from Eric Oelschlager from KDOT in Atwood about the project south of Dresden regarding the agreement for detours while road maintenance is done. As per the agreement we will take care of the roads for the public to have alternate routes in exchange the county will receive 2,000 cubic yards of asphalt millings.

Next he said he and Trent took a trip last week to look at a used trailer. He said any used trailer will be in the $30,000-35,000 price range or higher. The used one he found is an 2008 mechanical detach lowboy trailer from Brian Wurtz in Riley, KS and he was asking $25,000 but Ernie got him down to $20,000. Commmissioner Stan McEvoy moved to approve the purchase. Commissioner Karen Larson gave the second. Commissioner Brad Marcuson called for the vote and the motion carried.

Ernie then gave an update on his department. He said the fire extinguisher service was in last month and all tested good.

He also said that he spoke to Mark Polifka at Foley about the estimate he was given for the landfill trac loader. He said it was light and once they started looking at the loader they said it needs more work done. The new estimate given was approximately $30,000 on top of the original estimate given at $47,000. Ernie asked them to go through it again and give him a new estimate. The machine should be done in about a week.

He said everything else is good, working on roads and checking bridges. Has a new application in for a potential new hire.

The commissioners and Ernie then spoke briefly about the options for recycling. Brad said that Regional Recycling decided to disband effective May 1st due to lack of funds, therefore nothing else will be going. The old recycling will no longer be used. After further discussion, it was decided that a new building will be constructed out by the county shop.

9:28 Halley Roberson, City of Oberlin came in to speak with the commissioners about her plans on the blighted houses in town. She started by thanking the commissioners for their time and said she wants to show that the county is working with the city financially/with incentives as she thinks it'll help. Karen mentioned the free dump days and taking advantage of those. Halley asked if they have a house that were demo'd would there be a possibility of free dumps. Karen asked how many houses is she thinking or wanting to do. Halley said maybe 3 but wouldn't expect or ask for a high number like 15. She said the city pays $3,500-4,000 just to demo a house, let alone dump it. Ernie asked if she'd like to do a reduced rate and Halley said she was thinking 2 or 3 houses for free then use a graduated scale. Karen suggested 1 free, then graduated scale. Stan asked what is the cost of 1 house being dumped. Ernie said it is quite a bit of work and man hours and is more apt to agree with Karen. Halley asked after the 1 free house dump what would be the rates and Ernie said he'd split the rate in half after weighed. Stan suggested 1 free house then a graduated rate of 2nd house at 40%, 3rd house at 60%, after that full price per year. Halley said she was ok with this, Ernie agreed. Stan made a motion to approve this. Karen gave the second. Brad called for the vote and the motion carried.

Lastly, Halley mentioned that Kroger who owns and operates Dillons grocery store is looking to buy watermelons from Northwest Kansas. She would like to plant a bunch of watermelon to sell or if it

would help out with the farmer's market that they could sell to Kroger. She asked if they could rent the dock at the recycling building. The commissioners didn't think there was one there but agreed it would be a good idea to help local farmers and the farmer's market. Halley thanked the commissioners for their time.

10:03 Bobbi Koerperich, Health Department stopped in with a grant application from KDHE for COVID help in the amount of $114,070. The commissioners and Attorney Steve Hirsch looked it over. Steve said he thinks the grant money should go to a different account as to not affect the budget. Bobbi agreed and said she is going to use the money to upgrade and update the health department with things such as AED's, new flooring, desks, locks on doors, etc. She said it can be used in retrospect so she will use it for the paint she recently purchased. She also said that it can be used as a bonus for staff so she would like to do that as well. Steve approved the application. Karen made a motion to sign the grant. Stan gave the second. Brad called for the vote and the motion carried.
Karen then asked how the COVID vaccines are going, Bobbi said they are going well and staying busy with it.

10:15 Megan Davenport, Deputy County Clerk asked about the values for KCAMP. She has been going over all the values for vehicles, equipment, and property to adjust the values to keep them up to date. She said she has been speaking with Alan Hale, County Appraiser for help in getting the correct values of the properties and had some papers to show the commissioners. The commissioners looked over the papers and decided it would be best to use replacement value on the larger, more expensive buildings and the current value on the smaller buildings. As the values are changed Megan will give the sheets to the commissioners so they can look over the price changes.

10:17 Gaylen Huntley, Noxious Weeds stopped by to give the commissioners bids for chemical. They went with the lowest price for each chemical choosing local Nutrien for Detail at $650.00, Van Diest for Crop Oil 17% at $8.11/gallon, Glyphos Ranger Pro at $12.59/gallon and E2 at $41.50/gallon, Sims for Dicamba at $28.00/gallon and Clethodim at $28.50/gallon.
Gaylen then gave a quick update saying the small engine had the carburator fixed but is still needing work so it was taken back and currently waiting on a part.
He asked about the plan for recycling. Brad said they'd like a building by R&B and anything that can be baled can go to the landfill. He aslso said that Sunoco is on a travel ban at the moment so they can't come here but can't do anything with glass or plastic. Stan asked if Sunoco would take cardboard or paper. Brad said the cans would go to Norton when we received enough to make a trip.

10:35 Stan made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-13 regarding gun laws. Karen gave the second. Brad called for the vote and the motion carried.

10:37 Walter, High Plains Mental Health then joined via telephone. He thanked the commissioners for meeting him and asked if everyone had received the mailing sent out. He went over the statistics using the figures and graphs provided. He said they are requesting funding of $18,180 for 2022. He then asked if the commissioners had any questions. Brad said no questions but that they are doing a good job. Stan said everyone is satisfied with the services. Walt thanked the commissioners for their time.

10:50 Megan asked about the bid received for the EMS Jennings building from Laser Line Construction. Stan said that it is only valid for 30 days and we need to look into whether it is still good or not. Megan said she will check on this.
Next, the township road meeting was talked about. Stan said they would like to schedule it for March 30th if the courtroom is available, if not, then April 6th. Megan said she will find out availability.
Megan had township bond pages for Grant Township to be signed. Brad moved to sign the papers. Stan gave the second. Brad called for the vote and the motion carried.

11:00 Bill Cathcart, Fire Chief came in to give a proposal from Weis for 2 new fire trucks needed for Jennings and Oberlin. The commissioners looked it over at a total cost of $533,050 with discounts. Karen said they are needed and made a motion to approve the purchase. Stan gave the second. Brad called for the vote and the motion carried. Bill thanked the commissioners for their time.

11:20 Megan showed the commissioners the new county website she has been working on. Karen said it looked good and did a good job. Stan and Brad both liked it, said it looked very good. They decided to give Megan the go ahead to publish the new site to the public. The county website is www.dccoks.org. Any changes or updates need to be submitted to the clerks office.

11:50 Karen left the meeting.

11:55 Bill Cathcart emailed the contract for the Weis firetrucks. Brad and Stan looked over the contract, signed it and asked Megan to send it to Steve for approval.

12:02 Brad adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED: _____, _____, _____

ATTEST: _____, **County Clerk** **DATE:** 3/23/21