

Commission Meeting  
December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Chairman Paul Hodge called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Ben Fox, Roy Ballard, Chuck Spradlin, Robert Joe Morgan, Kathy Robison County Clerk and County Counselor Paul Dean.

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman reported that the trailers that Road and Bridge ordered are finished and are slated to be delivered by the fourth of January. He reported that the culverts on 175<sup>th</sup> are supposed to be put in this week. Chrisman then informed the commission that he has two graters in the shop currently. Darrel stated he needed to get ahold of county contracted engineer Michael Maris to look at another dilapidated bridge in the county. Commissioner Morgan informed Chrisman that the bridge on Reece road has severe washboards.

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$776.32. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

County Clerk Kathy Robison reported that Jean Edwards has come back part time for the Clerk's office to fill the tax clerk position at a pay rate of \$13 per hour. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve hiring Edwards. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

The decision was made to hold the next commission meeting on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Commissioner Fox presented Spark funding checks to be paid out as follows; GWCO EMS in the amount of \$278.32, GWCO Emergency Management in the amount of \$600, TriValley Developmental Services in the amount of \$1,396.36 and the remaining monies, in the amount of \$1,399.03 went towards the purchase of more gloves. Fox stated that is the last of the SPARK money. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve said SPARK funding. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson reported that SPARK funding was approved for the purchase of a freezer for Meal on Wheels, whose parent company is Aging, Inc. The check was sent to Aging, Inc. and has yet to be sent to the freezer company. Vinson stated that he cannot get anyone from the Aging Counsel to return a phone call or an email. He stated that's a \$16,000 check sitting out there and he still cannot get a response. Vinson asked the commission their advice. County Counselor Paul Dean asked Vinson if the check had been cashed, Vinson stated that he had not checked with County Treasurer Donna Olson. Dean stated he would get contact information from Vinson and see what he could do.

Sheriff Heath Samuels reported that there will be a press release today regarding several positive COVID-19 cases in the Greenwood County Jail.

Scott Hoyt approached the commission stating that their district has done the right thing in maintaining a six foot distance and wearing masks. He said they still had a lot of students and staff quarantined. Hoyt said that they are struggling with is the low risk exposures. He asked the Commission for help in changing the quarantine guidelines for the school stating a list of reasons to support his request including; He is not aware of any positive case in the school and he feels like many students are safer in the building rather than at home. Hoyt requested to have the children who have been quarantined due to a low risk exposure return to school provided they follow six foot guidelines and mask mandates. Hoyt provided commissioners with a list of counties that have implemented these changes. Hoyt stated that he feels the school is the safest place for the children and that remote learning is not the answer. Health Department Nurse Vicky Lindsey-Ross responded stating that as long as they have stayed six feet away, they do not have to be in quarantine. Lindsey-Ross said she spoke with the state and the state does not agree with these changes, therefore she cannot change them. Lindsey-Ross stated that other schools have implemented a classroom solely for quarantined children and that she would not be opposed to that. Commissioner Ballard asked, "What good are the masks, if we come into contact with somebody; they're wearing a mask, I'm wearing a mask and we still have to be quarantined?" Ballard strongly voiced his opinion that he is against quarantining those that are wearing masks. Lindsey-Ross stated, "So let me make it clear to you guys, what he is talking about. He's talking about if these people come in contact with a positive person within six feet, then they are not going to quarantine!" Commissioner Spradlin

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responded, "If they've been wearing masks all this time, yeah." Lindsey-Ross informed the commission that is not what the state recommends and she does not recommend it either. Commissioner Spradlin responded, "I think we understand." County Counselor Paul Dean asked if their school has the ability to put the quarantined students in a separate class room. The response was that they did not have that ability. Commissioner Fox stated he would like to see what other counties have done. Lindsey-Ross stated that if Eureka USD would like to go that direction, she would not agree with it. She said the school can have their nurse take care of their quarantine, because it was going against what she and the state of Kansas put in place for state guidelines and her licensing. Commissioner Hodge stated he did not think that is the answer. Vicky said she would be going against the state if she were to go along with changing guidelines for the school. She continued saying, "That could be my license!" Sheriff Samuels told Lindsey-Ross that she would be going against recommendations, not laws. She responded, "That's right, and it could be my license for that. You don't understand about how it works with licensing for a nurse. If you have recommendations, you have to go by those recommendations." Samuels then asked, "Why are they not called rules?" The decision was made to gather more information before moving forward.

Levi Vinson told the commission that he had just received an email from Aging, Inc., informing him that she did not understand the process. Vinson said he would touch base with her and he thinks they have things figured out for the freezer.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to adjourn at 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 9 a.m.

ATTEST: Kathy Robinson  
Kathy Robinson, County Clerk

Paul Hodge  
Paul Hodge, Chairman

Ben Fox  
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Chuck Spradlin  
Chuck Spradlin Member

Roy Ballard  
Roy Ballard, Member

Robert Joe Morgan  
Robert Joe Morgan, Member