

Commissioner Meeting
January 8, 2018

Chairman Ben Fox called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Paul Hodge, Kathy Robison, County Clerk, and Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commission District Position #1 is vacant at this time due to Commissioner Brian Hind passing away. There will be a meeting January 27, 2018 at the Central Christian Church at 8:00 a.m. for the Greenwood County Republican Committee in the First District to select his replacement to finish out his term. The meeting will not be open to the public.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve December 29, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor, reported crews salted the roads even though they have a truck down; crews are cutting brush; they received a tax refund from APAC in the amount of \$5,775.42; Commissioner Hodge asked how they are doing in the cold weather and Lowe reported they are working in the shop and maintaining equipment; and reported he purchased 3 grader tires from Mel's Tire.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve a payable, dated 1-3-2018, in the amount of \$71.42. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve a corrected KPERS payable, dated 1-5-2018, in the amount of \$3.49. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve an employee verification for Carla Deniston as a full-time motor vehicle/driver's license employee of the Treasurer's Office at \$10.50 per hour. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Doug Mitchell attended the meeting and announced he is retired now and said he would like to help Greenwood County out if he could.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Preparedness/Noxious Weed Director told commissioners that the boil advisory for Fall River is still in effect, along with 18 water districts in several counties as the water comes from Fredonia, and could be 1 to 2 weeks before it is repaired. Vinson has delivered a pallet load of water to Fall River and Fall River as decided to only provide the bottled water to residents living inside the city limits, even though the water boiling advisory affected rural customers as well. Vinson said that last year when the same situation occurred, people from other counties came to Fall River to attempt to obtain bottled water. Vinson said he was sympathetic to the rural Fall River residents but encouraged them to contact the Fall River City Office and clarified that the water customers are receiving can be used, it just has to be boiled first. They are not completely out of water. Vinson added he would like to find a place in the county that he could store water, so he could take advantage of ordering larger quantities.

No weekly Treasurer's Report to view.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director said he would like to get bids for a new plotter, which is used to print road and mailbox signs. The current plotter is outdated and does not cut through the thicker reflective paper that is required. Vinson estimated that a new machine will cost approximately \$5,000 and he thought he could sell the current machine to another county. Vinson said the female inmates help make signs. They are doing a lot of signs for the county's road markings, between people stealing them or having target practice and they are still offering individual address signs for county residents for \$12.

Commissioner Hodge asked about 911 GPS systems in the county. Ambulance Director Brian Mongeau reported that there are still major problems. Mongeau said helicopter flight services and the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) have all had issues trying to locate addresses, as they are not current in Garmin or Tom-Tom GPS systems. Mongeau reported that the information is sent to a third party from the county, which in turn provides it to navigation companies.

Sandra Dickerson, Greenwood County Hospital CEO and Matt Morris of BKD CPAs and Advisors presented the Greenwood County Hospital's 2016 audit. Matt said they are scheduled to work on their 2017 audit next week and should have those figures ready by sometime in March. Morris commented that a system software conversion in 2016 delayed the preparation of the audit and the company he works for was not able to get involved with the process until the summer of 2016. Morris noted that accounts receivable for the hospital because of the system conversion was up more than it typically is about \$500,000 over the previous September 30, 2015. It's been brought down since then, but they are looking at old data. Because they are a critical care hospital, they get third-party pay settlements (Cost Report Estimate) \$442,000, Morris discussed the fire in the Home Health building. He said rebuilding Home Health and the health records system transition contributed to the decline in net patient service revenue, which dropped by \$356,000 from 2015 to 2016. He said the net uncollectible accounts increased from \$789,596 in 2015 to \$937,740 in 2016 mainly because claims were not sent out in a timely manner, they must be filed within 60-90 days or they have to be "written off" as a "bad debt". There was an operating loss of \$1,425,644 in 2016 compared to \$703,547 in 2016 due to the electronic health systems that typically only have an operating life of 3-5 years. Between 2015 and 2016 salaries and wages increased by \$289,585. "Things looked a lot worse, mainly because of the software issue," stated Morris. He added that the "bugs" of the software are worked out now and 2017 should appear to be more normalized. "The commissioners didn't have any questions regarding the report. Morris said he should have the 2017 Hospital audit by mid-March.

Former Commissioner, Cole Conard, who served four years on the board with, the late Commissioner Brian Hind, attended the meeting to propose naming a bridge southeast of Madison the "Brian Hind Memorial Bridge. Currently

the bridge is known as the Esslinger Bridge, as the old steel truss bridge that once sat there was located along property owned by George Esslinger. Commissioner Hind had made many phone calls to KDOT and other governmental agencies to make funding happen. A grant was awarded in 2014 and construction concluded in 2016. George Esslinger had approached Conard about the idea of naming the new bridge after Commissioner Hind shortly after his death. "Brian deserves it," Esslinger told Conard, "He's like a son to me." County Counsel Paul Dean and Commissioner Fox both relayed that they have heard supportive comments in regard to this idea. Conard told commissioners that if it was approved, he would like to head the project up and donate the plaque for the dedication. The commissioners thanked him for his work and asked him to proceed with his plans. Commissioner Fox made a motion to move forward with the dedication process, changing the name of a bridge southeast of Madison, to Brian Hind Memorial Bridge. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

County Appraiser Jami Clark presented the contract for R & S Digital for mapping services to the county in the amount of \$7,024 for the 2018 year. The same amount as last year. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve the 2018 contract with R & S Digital for mapping services in the amount of \$7,024. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for legal for questions on contracts with Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to appoint Ben Fox as the Commission Chairman. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to appoint Paul Hodge as the Vice Chairman. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to use The Madison News and The Eureka Herald as the county's official newspapers. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to appoint Home Bank & Trust as the main depository and Emprise Bank for warrants and payroll. All other banks in the county were approved to be used for investments. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel for employee performance with Levi Vinson, Noxious Weed/Emergency Management Director. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel for employee performance with Vicki Ross, Health Department Director. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. An additional 5 minutes was added to the meeting.

No decision was made.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel for employee performance with Donna Olson, Treasurer. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Vic Delpine, former Building Maintenance Supervisor, updated the commissioners on the progress of the new chiller project. All contractors are getting together for a meeting to create a flow chart on a timeline and their engineer is working with Westar currently to plan a major power shut downs to happen on Saturdays when the courthouse is closed.

Commissioner Hodge said he was contacted last week about the ownership of Sunflower hill Roads by Fall River Lake. During their last discussion on the roads, they discussed the possibility of them being county roads, but could be assigned to the township. After some discussion, Commissioner Hodge said he would contact Joan Penner of the Salt Springs Township board to discuss the matter.

Commissioner Hodge fielded a complaint from Cherokee Lanes in Eureka that they felt they did not get treated fairly in the county dinner bid process. Their complaint was that the letter soliciting the bids stated the dinner could be held at their location or catered to the Matt Samuels building. Commissioners reviewed the letter and stated that it would be changed for the next bid.

Ed Buckle came in and asked if it was okay to stack hay along side a road, he was referring to 160th and Hwy 54. The commissioners said they would view it.

County Fire Chief Doug Williams reported that the old city fire truck in Virgil is beyond repair and needs to be replaced. Williams said if they don't replace the truck soon, it could jeopardize their ISO rating that provides for lower insurance rates. Williams is working with other rural districts in the state to find a suitable used truck that would qualify. Williams also reported that he recently attended a wildfire seminar in Topeka and the immediate weather outlook is "very unpleasant." He noted that moisture patterns are predicted to keep in a dry cycle for the next 45-60 days, setting up conditions for extreme fire danger. Williams also said that he consults with local ranchers


when calling a burn ban, and the penalties for burning during those bans can be fines of up to \$500 and potential jail time. Williams ended his update with telling the commissioners that he is trying to set up a solution to refill fire trucks that are out in the south end of the county. Filling out of creeks and ponds creates problems when silt gets in the tanks and nozzles. They asked permission to put a hydrant at the bottom of the District 1 water tower, but was denied permission. Now Williams is looking at setting a 10,000 gallon tank on a hill he can gradually fill with water. When it's full, it will provide additional water for outlying rural areas.

At 11:03 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

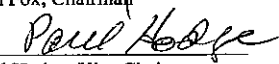
Calendar:

January 15th – Next Commission Meeting – 9:00 a.m.

January 25th – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg @ 5:30 p.m. @ G.W. Co. Home Health Conference Rm.



Ben Fox, Chairman



Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

District# 1, Member (Vacant)