

Commissioner Meeting
July 16, 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, Chuck Spradlin, Shannon Gant Deputy Clerk, and County Counselor Paul Dean.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve July 9, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Greenwood County Hospital Board President Pam Brown presented a letter to the commissioners requesting a resolution necessary to place a question on the General Election ballot in November for a half cent sales tax for the public to vote on. The commissioners have been discussing this with the Hospital for a few weeks and they are interested in pursuing it, as Eureka's one cent sales tax for the library/pool is about to sun-set at the end of this year. This half cent sales tax would be added to the one cent sales tax the hospital already receives. Commissioner Fox said he would have a discussion with City Administrator Ian Martell regarding the one cent sales tax and further plans.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$116,669.49. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$229,640.78. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox announced that Road and Bridge Supervisor Roger Lowe gave his resignation, effective today, and was leaving on good terms. Commissioner Fox added that Road and Bridge Operator Darrell Chrisman would be acting Road and Bridge Superintendent until they hire a new one.

Road and Bridge Office Professional Janet Turner and acting Road and Bridge Superintendent Darrell Chrisman were present to give the Road and Bridge report. Turner reported that crews have been working on tin horns, and they received a compliment; they've been doing a lot of mowing; Darrell has done several LEPP inspections this past week; Turner let the commissioners know that with the Road and Bridge Dept being busy this last couple of weeks with tornado/debris cleanup, she has taken several complaints on the recycling program. People are upset not understanding why Road and Bridge is not keeping up with it. Tarps have been put on two of the trucks; landfill will remain open all this week from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and the City has requested that they be open on Saturday also because it is the last day the City is accepting anything from storm debris. Turner reported they would like to shut the landfill phone off at the landfill because we have been paying for it over a year, and it doesn't work. Commissioners agreed. They also asked for a portable generator to run an AC unit at the landfill. The generator is \$1,600 and will be stored in the operator's truck inside the Road and Bridge garage when not in use. The commissioners agreed. Turner gave out a list of houses, from the City, that have been demolished. Turner also discussed a road with the commissioners that, according to the resolution, it is unclear, whether it is closed or not. It has been turned over to County Counselor Paul Dean for his review. Chrisman reported the culverts around Perrier's place needs fixed and the switch on the new mow-tractor needs fixed.

Commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer's Report.

EMS Director Brian Mongeau reported that the new ambulance should be done by the last week in August. Mongeau also reported that the billing company they use said they are not receiving as much money as they could and suggested increasing rates due to allowable insurance rates. Mongeau shared the three levels that could be raised and the rate changes. Commissioner Hodge was concerned about uninsured patients. Mongeau said they are always willing to work out payment plans with those without insurance and mentioned he is also interested in hiring a collection agency to help collect payment from past-due accounts. The commissioners asked him to research ambulance rates from surrounding counties and bring more information about a collection agency.

County Counselor Paul Dean shared an update on a previous incident in the county regarding a fire. Dean said he spoke to the man's insurance company that owns the guardrails and they should pay for it.

Madison resident Bob Kimberlin attended the meeting to address the commissioners with several concerns. He had attended a meeting back in May when the commissioners were briefly discussing looking for an excavator. Kimberlin was concerned they were going to purchase expensive equipment that they didn't pay taxes on and stop using contractors, which would affect our tax base in the county. The commissioners tried to reassure him that they were not planning on cutting out contractors. They still need them to contribute to many projects. Kimberlin also thought the money for the excavator should just be given to the Greenwood County Hospital, but Commissioner Fox explained that the money set aside in equipment funds cannot be distributed in that manner. There was some discussion about the half cent sales tax, and the commissioners, tried to explain that it, should actually produce more funding for the hospital than the three-mills. Kimberlin asked, "But if it doesn't pass then what?" Commissioner Spradlin explained that the sales tax increase for the north end of the county could be "doable" because they spend a lot of their money out-of-county and typically use the hospital in Emporia. "I'd love to see them spend it here, but they haven't." Spradlin concluded, "The county needs to make a decision, do we support the hospital?" Commissioner Spradlin explained that he has been going to Hospital Board meetings so he could better understand and learn their financial situation and he is in support of the hospital succeeding.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 5 minute break. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session with Health Department Administrator Vicki Ross and County Counselor Paul Dean for personnel employee performance. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. After the 10 minutes were up, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson was asked to join the executive session and an additional 15 minutes was added.

After returning from executive session, Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve Health Department employee, Arianna Mock, as the Public Information Officer (PIO), in the event of a disaster, for Greenwood County. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried. In the event of a disaster, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson will make a PIO request to Health Department Administrator Vicki Ross. Mock will then work under the direction of Vinson for emergency operations. There will be no change in rate of pay, however, Mock's salary will come out of Emergency Management budget, when operating as the PIO.

County Counselor Paul Dean stated that several attorneys are asking counties to participate in opioid litigation, which entails lawsuits against various drug companies due to the costs associated with opioid addictions. Dean added there is a 20% contingency fee and no out of pocket costs, "It's something to consider. I don't see a downside in participating," stated Dean.

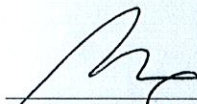
Building Maintenance Supervisor Jason Findley updated commissioners on a bid in the amount of \$22,742.33 that will be sent to KCAMP on the new roof damages caused by the tornado for approval.

At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

July 23rd – Next Commission Meeting – 9:00 a.m.

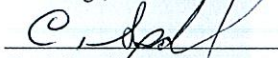
July 26th – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg @ 5:30 p.m. @ GW Co Hospital Conference Rm



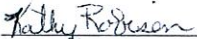
Ben Fox, Chairman



Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman



Chuck Spradlin, Member

ATTEST: 

Kathy Robison, County Clerk