

Commissioner Meeting  
March 6, 2017

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, Brian Hind, and Kathy Robison, County Clerk. Paul Dean, County Counselor was not present.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve February 27, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor, reported Seimears Construction looked at the bridge at 220<sup>th</sup> and R and the wingwall at Reece; Commissioner Hodge told Lowe there was a low water crossing on 50<sup>th</sup> Rd, about a mile east of K99 that was in need of repair, there was discussion about the deterioration of the bridge going on for four to five years, and there was a resident that lives in that area present that said he had been told that FEMA had already paid money for the repairs to be made. Levi Vinson, Emergency Management Director had a denial letter from FEMA dated 2015. They denied it because FEMA said Google Map showed damage back in 2012. Vinson explained that FEMA doesn't pay money until a project is completed. The commissioners told Lowe that it needs to be fixed, Lowe said he is trying to also get the bridge fixed at Reece. Lowe said that they have sent Michael Marris information on Ladd Bridge to seven contractors and have asked to have it back by March 20<sup>th</sup>; crews have been hauling dirt at the landfill and KDHE has been out there; Commissioner Hodge also discussed a bridge on 10<sup>th</sup> Street East of Severy with Lowe and discussed several other road projects he was concerned about; Commissioner Hind told Lowe that he picked up a sign near Blakely Cemetery that had been laying in the ditch for months. Lowe said that crews had put a new sign up and left the old one there. Commissioner Hind remarked that he didn't know why they didn't pick the old sign up after putting the new sign up.

Ron Estes, Republican Candidate for the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Special Election, that will be held, April 11<sup>th</sup>, stopped by the meeting, as he was already in the area for a meet and greet. The commissioners discussed some issues that concerned them, mainly bridge funding.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Management Director, received the final determination from FEMA for the debris removal project in May of 2015. The original amount of the initial FEMA estimate was \$171,000 and the determination letter said Greenwood County should receive a little over \$9,000. There are still two sites FEMA is looking at that have appeals pending; a culvert upsize at 70<sup>th</sup> and P Rd for \$8,600 and gravel road projects for just under \$50,000. Vinson said the maximum the county will receive now is \$66,750. Commissioner Hind reported that he had talked to a KDEM representative on his way to the meeting and was told that part of the reason the county isn't receiving more money is because of the lack of sufficient paperwork submitted by the Road and Bridge Department. There was some discussion with Road and Bridge Supervisor, Roger Lowe, about the situation, and what could be done differently to correct it so the county could receive better funding. The timecards were mentioned specifically; they need to be more detailed, about how much time spent, miles driven and resources that are dedicated to a specific site in order to have the necessary data for claim submittal. Emergency Management Director, Levi Vinson said, "Documentation is the key," he added, "Some drivers are filling out the forms correctly and others are not." After more discussion about the importance of proper documentation, the commissioners suggested that Lowe stress the importance of accurately filling this documentation out and give them one week to do this. After a week, Commissioner Hind suggested making a list of the employees not correctly filling out the forms and having them attend the next commission meeting. Levi Vinson, Emergency Management Director, commented that he thought there was a big learning curve with the FEMA projects. "We've learned that there are a few simple things we can do right off the bat," he said. Vinson explained that part of the problem in the past was that storm events needed to be added to cumulative local and state damage totals before they knew if it would qualify for a FEMA claim and sometimes it would be two months before it was declared. "By that time we've missed some of the sites," he explained. Now they know when an event is the magnitude that will qualify, so they can start the proper documentation right away.

Benjamin Trout III, with EPM visited with commissioners about replacing electronic controls for heating/cooling utilities in the courthouse. Commissioners gave him permission to do further research, however they were concerned about the over 60 year old chiller. Replacing controls, really won't address the issues associated with that piece of equipment.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel with Lela Day, Health Department Administrator. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. An additional 5 minutes was added to the executive session.

No decision was made.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve payables, dated 3-6-2017, in the amount of \$9,659.14. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve abatements in the amount of \$865.32. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The commissioners viewed a Certificate of Liability for PrairieLand Partners, Inc.

The commissioners reviewed the Fee Reports.

Sheriff Heath Samuels presented two bids to the commissioners for the phone system upgrades to prepare for Next Generation 911. The Advantage Computer bid was a range of \$7,400-\$11,900 and included new phones, which Samuels said is unnecessary. The AT&T quote was for \$7,600 without new phones, but does require an annual fee of \$387, whereas the county is already contracted with Advantage Computers, so an extra fee would not be required. Sheriff Samuels was more interested in the quote from AT&T, but Commissioners' Hind and Fox discussed

some of the issues the county has had with AT&T in the past. Sheriff Samuels said the phone upgrade will be paid for with the E911 fund. No decisions were made.

Levi Vinson, Noxious Weed/Emergency Management Director, informed commissioners that the Weeds Office will still be closed at this time because he is waiting to receive his license to sell chemicals from the State. After Vinson was hired, he discovered that there had not been a license issued to Greenwood County to sell chemicals since February 2016. Vinson has been working on the paperwork and sent the check, and is now just waiting, however, he did relate that Household Hazardous Waste is now open. Vinson announced that for more information, people are to call Weeds Department at 620-583-8182 or Road and Bridge at 620-583-8111. Vinson also invited the commissioners to attend the Storm Spotters meeting at the Eureka Jr./Sr. High School March 30<sup>th</sup>. Vinson also presented a directive to the commissioners, outlining the new storm siren policy. It's effective immediately, to conform to the recommended guidelines from FEMA, the National Weather Service and SkyWatch, Greenwood County Emergency Management and the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office have adopted the new policy regarding activation of outdoor warning sirens. Eureka local storm sirens will be remotely set off by the Sheriff's Office. The policy emphasizes that in Eureka, Greenwood County does not activate an "All Clear" alert and no longer activates the siren for fire department alerts. There was some discussion between Commissioner Hind and Vinson regarding the use of an "All Clear" signal after initial warning. Vinson presented findings from weather sources that state an "All Clear" siren encourages apathy and issues more risk for people not heeding warnings. Commissioner Hind felt that an "All Clear" siren is necessary and indicated that Madison firemen would still be sounding it locally.

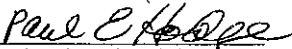
Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

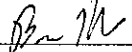
At 11:40 a.m. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Calendar:

March 13th- Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.

  
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Ben Fox, Chairman

  
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Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman

  
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Brian Hind, Member

ATTEST:   
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Kathy Robison, County Clerk