

**COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 8TH, 2021**

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

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman reported that he was still waiting for the geology report to continue the Christian Hills Bridge project. A brief discussion ensued regarding whether or not it was financially feasible to leave the current bridge open to through traffic during construction. Darrel reported there are several signs in the county that are slated to be replaced. Chrisman provided commissioners with an estimate for guard rails. Commissioner Ballard suggested that Darrel look into purchasing the equipment necessary for the county to be able to do these projects internally, rather than contracting out. Ballard's reasoning behind this suggesting is that the cost to the county would be significantly less and possibly faster finish times. Ballard then asked Darrel if he was able to fix the low water bridge near Virgil; Darrel responded that he thought crews had completed the project but he would check into the matter. A brief discussion ensued regarding the high prices for lumber and steel. Commissioner Hodge inquired about the bridge west of Neal. Darrel stated the plan was currently being discussed to start on that project. Ballard informed Darrel of bridges in need of repair, stating specifically drain holes that need clearing. Chrisman next informed commissioners that the Emporia recycle facility had continued accepting loads at no charge.

Emergency Management Supervisor Levi Vinson informed commissioners that the lack of 911 signs in the Lamont area had proved to be an issue with fires that broke out over the weekend. He stated that when individuals from out of county respond, the lack of signage creates navigation complications.

County Counselor Paul Dean informed commissioners that there is no longer an 'impassible during high water' sign on 365th Street.

Commissioners reviewed Treasurer's report. No actions were taken.

Commissioner Ballard moved to accept March 1st, 2021 Minutes, as written. Commissioner Spradlin seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hodge moved to accept payroll in the amount of \$123,341.49. Commissioner Ballard seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ballard moved to accept payables in the amount of \$219,719.88. Commissioner Morgan seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners reviewed fee reports. No actions were taken.

Emergency Management Supervisor Levi Vinson reported that the county is slated to receive 200 first time doses of COVID-19 vaccines this week. He also stated that Greenwood County had received 100 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, but he was not sure when, or if, the county would receive any more Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Health Department Nurse Vicki Lindsey presented commissioners with a grant request in the amount of \$129,773 to be utilized for things such as salaries, wages and equipment. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve moving forward with the grant application. Commissioner Spradlin seconded. The motion carried 5-0. Lindsey reported the county had started to administer second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine Moderna. Commissioner Hodge presented questions regarding any allergic reactions Vicki has witnessed. She reported no anaphylactic reactions to date in Greenwood County; although individuals have reported mild reactions such as muscle aches and headaches. Commissioner Spradlin stated he had heard from some individuals who reported flu-like symptoms after receiving the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Lindsey reported that was a normal reaction.

Commissioner Fox stated he had received emails regarding the mask resolution. Fox informed fellow commissioners that he had spoken with local schools who reported they intend to continue the use of masks through the end of the school year. A brief discussion ensued regarding the use of masks in the courthouse. The decision was made to leave the mandate as is. Sheriff Samuels stated a person could be removed from the courthouse if they refuse to wear a mask after being asked to put one on.

Levi Vinson presented commissioners with the 2020 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report. Commissioner Hodge moved to accept said report. Commissioner Morgan seconded. The motion carried 5-0. Levi explained the aspects of how and where spraying for noxious weeds in the county takes place. Vinson stated he would like to again utilize work crews in the near future; although he had yet to speak with Sheriff Samuels in regards to this request. A discussion ensued regarding this years projected tornado season. Vinson offered his opinion that he expects the numbers of reported tornadoes to increase compared to the numbers reported last year. Commissioner Fox then asked questions in regards to generators. Vinson stated a generator committee was formed following the tornado activity in 2018. Generators were supposed to be installed in Madison, Eureka and Severy. Unfortunately, issues arose, causing only one generator to be put in place, in Madison. Levi reported that the generator in Madison is slated to be tested next week.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to adjourn at 10:31 a.m. Commissioner Hodge seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

The next commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST: Kathy Robison
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Ben Fox
Ben Fox, Chairman

Roy Ballard
Roy Ballard, Vice Chairman

Chuck Spradlin
Chuck Spradlin, Member

Paul Hodge
Paul Hodge, Member

Robert Joe Morgan
Robert Joe Morgan, Member