

Commissioner Meeting  
May 14, 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, and Kathy Robison County Clerk. Paul Dean, County Counselor arrived at 9:08 a.m.

Shawn Steward from AAA-Kansas presented an award to Sheriff Heath Samuels and Sgt. Mike Cordell for the Greenwood County Sheriff's Department. Steward explained it is an annual award presented to recognize law enforcement agencies for their effort to improve local traffic safety, and Greenwood County earned a gold award for their effectiveness. Only ten other law enforcement agencies in the state received the award. The Sheriff's Department was recognized for enforcing a policy for all department employees to wear a seatbelt, participation in a successful student-lead 'Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE) program' at the high schools, conducting a driver's ed demo during the summer, providing education to community members about the dangers of texting and driving, proper car seat installation clinics and a homeschool presentation including proper seatbelt usage and K-9 deployment for drug enforcement efforts. Steward also saluted the commission for providing the Sheriff's Office sufficient resources.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve April 30, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve May 7, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge asked to be put on record that the article in last week's Eureka Herald was not written correctly, as the headline said "Greenwood County Commissioners To Consider Re-Districting; Adding Board Members". Commissioner Hodge felt the headline was misleading, depicting that they all proposed it.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Roger Lowe reported the job Zack Marshall has been working on DD Road is done; has been to the Norwegian Church Bridge and they are getting ready to pour the deck; Lowe said Michal Maris is coming today to look at the bridge up by Madison, and he has talked to the people with Kansas Bridge Program (Kent and Lindsey) that are wanting the bridge closed. Michael Maris, has a drawing on how to keep the bridge open. He is proposing to put a 10' H beam crossways in the middle of it, and up the bridge, to up the limit to 10 ton. Commissioner Spradlin asked if that would take care of the school buses. Madison News Editor, Tammy Seimears, who was a former school bus driver said that would not be enough for a bus because an empty school bus is 15 ton. Lowe said they talked to the people at the Landfill company about the compactor, and it is at their shop and ready for them to go look at. Commissioner Fox said he would meet with Michael Maris, with Office Manager Amber Woodie, and the Kansas Bridge Program people in regard to the bridge in Madison so Lowe can leave for Missouri to inspect the compactor. Lowe mentioned that Maris said this fix would cost roughly \$10,000-\$12,000 versus over \$100,000 to build a new bridge. Lowe also said he would like to build an asphalt bridge, like the one on the county line on 390<sup>th</sup> Street. Commissioner Fox mentioned a pre-fab bridge. Lowe said he had Jamie Larcom replace a culvert on 100<sup>th</sup> & CC, due to washouts. Commissioner Spradlin told Lowe he has had another complaint about the wide roads and wondered if he has made any progress with his employees. Lowe said he is working on it, but some of it has to do with the condition of the road at the time (mud). Lowe said they tried their bowmag machine, and it has worked well. Commissioner Hodge asked about 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Lowe said they were planning on hauling some rock out there. Office Manager Amber Woodie told commissioners she had information on the Federal Funds Exchange. The information showed Greenwood County having a remaining balance of \$140,588.27. Commissioners have until September 15, 2018 to submit the request to exchange those funds through the state's Federal Funds Exchange program, which allows the county to spend the funds with fewer regulations in exchange for 25%. Woodie also had a post project agreement to be signed for the Sign Project in 2020. It's for the southern half of the county. Commissioner Fox told Woodie to give it to County Counselor Dean to review. Michael Johnson, Mechanic/Laborer, said he had the budget reports, and a new applicant for the Landfill, information about running a gas pipe for the generator. Commissioner Fox suggested that they talk to Donnie Thornton about the line because he knows all about that. Johnson presented the recycling and solid waste budget balances. Johnson also presented bids for porta potties out at the Landfill, one was for \$200 dollars per month, the other \$135 per month. Trash compactor will come out of Special Machinery but the shipping for the compactor is to come out of Solid Waste per Office Manager Amber Woodie. Johnson said they needed to bring a check for the shipping cost of the compactor and a check for 50% of the cost of the compactor if they decide to purchase it, then next week, they will bring it here to them. Commissioner Spradlin approved an employee verification for Ron Mast for a full time landfill/recycling position @ \$13.60 per hour. Ron has a Class B CDL. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. Johnson also said the the department needs a new truck for recycling. Johnson presented bids for manual tarps, which he said are mandatory. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve the purchase of tarps up to \$7,000. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion for a 15 minute executive session for personnel performance review. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioners gave permission to use the courthouse parking lot for the local farmer's market.

Commissioners reviewed the Fee Reports.

Commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer's Report.

Joy Jensen attended the meeting to discuss the event Dirty Kanza that will happen the same day as Eureka Days, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They expect 800-900 bike riders and 600 support cars. One race will be a 200 mile race, starting in Emporia, stopping for a ride through Madison area, then onto Eureka are for a ride through, then back to Madison, and finish at Emporia.

Commissioner Spradlin updated the other commissioners on information he learned at the Greenwood County Hospital Board Meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup> that he attended. Commissioner Spradlin reported that there seemed to be an emphasis on "dealing with how little we're going to lose this year," versus "how can we break even or become profitable." Commissioner Spradlin mentioned that the hospital had budgeted for a \$181,000 loss. He also reported that the hospital has presented a budget with payables listed at \$817,000 and other payables \$250,000, making their total payables over a million dollars. Another area of concern, Spradlin pointed out was that the overall budget is \$12 million dollars and, a total of \$8,412,000 is for payroll, roughly 77 percent of their total outlay. Commissioner Spradlin proposed a statement from the commission board to

the hospital board with their concerns that the hospital is being run as a 'for loss' instead of 'break even.' Commissioner Spradlin also pointed out that approximately \$180,000 is given to the hospital from the mill levy and approximately \$600,000, a year from sales tax. After some discussion the commissioners decided that Commissioner Spradlin should draft a letter to the hospital board and CEO, requesting a statement on how they're going to deal with the budget shortfall, Spradlin added that right now, they're projecting a half million dollar loss for the year. Commissioner Fox added that he thought it would be closer to a \$700,000 loss. The commissioners plan on reviewing the letter before sending it. Commissioner Spradlin encouraged Commissioners Hodge and Fox to attend a hospital board meeting, but added, "I didn't feel like I was welcome."

Commissioner Spradlin revisited the subject of the proposal for five commissioners. Again he outlined how he thought there were some real possibilities for economic development in the county but without the ability to work on things during the week, he felt the efforts would become stagnant. Commissioners Spradlin said his goal is to get the idea to the voters to decide and encouraged the other commissioners to give their input. Spradlin noted a commissioner's pay is roughly \$13,500 per year plus insurance for those that take the county's plan. He thought two new commissioners would cost around \$30,000 more. Spradlin added that the savings in other areas could compensate for this. Commissioner Hodge said he had some people ask him what they would benefit from it. Commissioner Spradlin said he had ideas to offer but would like to have a work session, open to the press and public, to further discuss it. The commissioners scheduled a work session after next week's regular meeting. Sheriff Samuels asked if they had looked at other counties that had five commissioners and Spradlin said there are other comparable counties to glean from.

Ed Buckle, former commissioner, addressed the board regarding the re-districting of the county and expanding the commission board to five members. Buckle said that there were only seven counties, out of 105, that have five member boards and they are wealthy counties with high population and large industrial complexes. Commissioner Fox corrected Buckle and said that there are 14 counties with five member boards. Buckle felt that if Greenwood County were to be split up into five districts, "All you've got is cattle and horses and sheep and stuff like that that's going to be your constituents because there's nobody out there." Buckle noted that the bigger cities have more complex issues to discuss outside of the meeting, but commissioners here can discuss their issues and ideas weekly. Buckle also said that he thought the cost of two more members would be \$50,000 more. Buckle then told commissioners that he thought they should give the money they would pay two new commissioners to the Greenwood County Hospital instead. Buckle added that he thought the current commissioners are trying to run the hospital and that's not their purpose. Buckle told the commissioners that they need to go to more training and described the past mill levies and sales tax and encouraged commissioners to keep the current mill levy. He told them they tell everyone "yes" that comes in for money and when the hospital comes in "it's a no." Commissioner Fox disagreed and pointed out that the hospital received a three mill levy just this year. Commissioner Hodge commented that he was concerned that the hospital is a million and a half in debt, but they still gave everyone a raise. Buckle supported the raises and said they should be competitive with Wichita and the commissioners should go to hospital board meeting instead of "just bad mouthing them" and "micromanaging them."

Fire Chief Doug Williams reported the county received \$4,500 from Reno County from federal reimbursement for helping earlier this year. Williams mentioned several truck maintenance and repair projects that have been done so far. He has a truck in Piedmont that needs a tank sandblasted and recoated, cost approximately \$3,200. There are also six old military trucks that Williams has a hard time maintaining and he would like to start replacing them with two newer, used, 2.5-ton trucks, and the cost would be \$10,000 each. The funds would come from Capital Outlay.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 15 minute executive session for personnel for employee performance with County Counselor Paul Dean. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Commissioners will have a work session, May 21st after the commission meeting, and Paul Dean will not be present next week at the commission meeting.

At 11:12 a.m. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

May 21st - Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.  
May 24th - GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg @ 5:30 p.m. @ GW Co Hospital Conference Rm  
May 28<sup>th</sup> - Courthouse will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.  
May 29<sup>th</sup> - Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST: Kathy Robison  
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Ben Fox  
Ben Fox, Chairman

Paul Hodge  
Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman

Chuck Spradlin  
Chuck Spradlin, Member

