

THE BOARD OF NESS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
January 3, 2023

The Ness County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Chambers. Chairman Dave Albers called the meeting to order with Commissioners Mark Davis, Travis Petersilie and County Clerk Lori Hertel in attendance.

**Minutes and Correspondence**

Minutes of the December 27, 2022, regular meeting was read, corrected, and approved. Correspondence was reviewed and acknowledged. Commission agreed to change locks on all outside doors of the Courthouse.

**Commission**

Commission discussed citizen's concerns. 5 County meeting to be held January 25, 2023. Payments under protest were reviewed. December 2022 payroll was reviewed and approved.

**Motion:** Upon the motion of Albers, seconded by Petersilie, Commission voted unanimously to approve the 2023 IRS mileage rate of 65.5 cents per mile.

**Accounts Payable**

Accounts payable was reviewed and approved.

**Road and Bridge**

Road and Bridge/Landfill Supervisor Ron Johnson met with Commission. \$155.00 was received in landfill tipping fees December 20<sup>th</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup>. Johnson informed Commission oil burner is installed and working.

**Emergency Management**

Ness County Emergency Manager Travis Rothe discussed with Commission the recent fire north of Beeler. Rothe is finalizing yearend reports for 2022. Estimate for replacement of Heating/Air for office was received by Healzer's Heating & Plumbing. Commission requires one more estimate before making decision. National Weather Service out of Dodge City has suggested keeping the Burn Ban in place.

**Attorney**

Ness County Attorney Jacob Gayer reviewed accounts payable.

**ROZ**

**Motion:** Upon the motion of Petersilie, seconded by Davis, Commission unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 2023-01, authorizing participation in Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program calendar year 2023.

Resolution No. 2023-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF NESS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF NESS COUNTY, KANSAS,

**Section 1.** Pursuant to K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

**Section 2.** Ness County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-50,222. As of July 1, 2022, the County population was 2,672 as certified by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

**Section 3.** Ness County Commissioners hereby obligate Ness County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

**Section 4.** Ness County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years if the resident individual meets the terms of qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

**Section 5.** Ness County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

**Section 6.** The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by Ness County and the State of Kansas shall be \$15,000 over a term of five years.

**Section 7.** Ness County shall allocate \$0.00 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. Ness County shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis submitting a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Ness County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of October each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication.

Adopted this 3rd day of January 2023 by the Board of Ness County Commissioners, Ness County, Kansas.

**Health Department**

Ness County Health Administrator Dennille Schweitzer updated Commission on the coming change in hours of operations for the Health Office due to Grant guidelines of required evening hours. Scheduling of Health Department Open House was discussed.

**Appraiser**

Ness County Appraiser Kelly DesLauriers and Commission discussed equipment stored in the basement that is no longer needed. It was agreed to list on Purple Wave for sale.

**Reorganization**

**Motion:** Upon the motion of Albers, seconded by Davis, Commission unanimously voted to appoint Travis Petersilie as Chairman for 2023.

**Motion:** Upon the motion of Petersilie, seconded by Davis, Commission unanimously voted that the following businesses be named as Official Depositories:

First State Bank-Ness City

First State Bank-Ransom

Farmer's Bank and Trust-Bazine

Peoples Bank and Trust-Ness City

**Motion:** Upon the motion of Petersilie, seconded by Davis, Commission unanimously voted that the Ness County News be named the Official County Publication.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Attest:

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Dave Albers, Chairman

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Lori Hertel, Ness County Clerk

January 3, 2023