

THE BOARD OF NESS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 12, 2024

The Ness County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Ness County Commissioner Chambers. Chairman Mark Davis called the meeting to order with Commissioners Travis Petersilie, Dave Albers, and County Clerk Lori Hertel in attendance.

Minutes

Regular minutes of January 29 Commission Meeting and Regular minutes of the February 5th meeting were approved as presented. Minutes of the Special Meeting held February 1, 2024, were approved as corrected. Correspondence was reviewed and acknowledged.

Road and Bridge

Ness County Road and Bridge/Landfill Supervisor Ron Johnson presented bid estimates for purchase of new grader. Johnson updated Commission on the request of an entrance to property in the Ransom area that may need a culvert installed. The weekly work schedule was presented.

Motion: Upon the motion of Albers, seconded by Petersilie, Commission unanimously voted to recess into executive session for nonelected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) for a period of 10 minutes beginning at 9:48 a.m. (Davis, Albers, Petersilie, Johnson, and Hertel in executive session). Regular session resumed at 9:58 a.m. No action taken.

Motion: Upon the motion of Davis, seconded by Albers, Commission unanimously voted to recess into executive session for nonelected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) for a period of 5 minutes beginning at 9:58 a.m. (Davis, Albers, Petersilie, Johnson, and Hertel in executive session). Regular session resumed at 10:03 a.m. No action taken. Sheriff Mitchell joined meeting at 10:04 a.m. Discussed with Commission a 1998 Chevy C1500 pickup. Johnson will list on Purple Wave Auction site.

Freedom Claims Management, Inc.

Julie Yarmer of Freedom Claims Management, Inc. met with Commission to discuss Ness County's reserve funding amounts for 2024.

Commission

A letter of referral by Mark Bauer as Ohio Township Trustee was received updating Commission of the resignation of Joann Walker as Ohio Township Treasurer. Bauer suggested Mary Jean Schwindt to complete Joann Walker's term.

Motion: Upon the motion of Petersilie, seconded by Albers, Commission voted unanimously to appoint Mary Jean Schwindt to fill the Ohio Township Treasurer position.

Ness County Health Department

Ness County Health Department Administrator Dennille Schweitzer and Ness County EMS Director Kathy Clouston spoke with Commission regarding EMS Ambulance coverage and State regulations we are required to meet. Schweitzer presented grant writing options for the County using Workforce Development Grant funding. Schweitzer presented Commission with request to allow chamber bucks to be given as a prize to any elected personnel that won in the Weight Loss Challenge. Hourly employees would still win vacation days. An update on purchase of emergency cots for Shelter in Place location. 9 cots were received today, paid for with PHEP Grant (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) moneys.

Adds/Abate/Escapes

The following changes were made to the 2023 tax roll: Abate- Oil, \$414.74; Real Estate, \$9,697.06.

County Clerk

Ness County Clerk Lori Hertel presented Commission with a web-based time clock software program to improve and eliminate manual figuring of timecards. Reports would show Department totals for input into CIC payroll system. Computer information Concepts - \$7,640.00, PayClock Online-\$3.00 per employee, per payroll.

Motion: Upon the motion of Petersilie, seconded by Davis, Commission voted unanimously to try PayClock program for 30 days with 9 office personnel. If it works as needed, then add the rest of County employees to system.

County Attorney

Ness County Attorney Jacob Gayer reviewed and approved Accounts Payable. Commission consulted with Attorney Gayer on legal issues.

Accounts Payable

Accounts payable for February 9, 2024, was reviewed, approved and signed by Commission.

The meeting dismissed for lunch at 1:09 p.m. and resumed at 1:45 p.m.

Commission

South Ness County EMS Director Kathy Clouston met with Commission to present a draft of the required letter to be sent to the State Board of Emergency Medical Services concerning the operation of North Ness County EMS Services. Contact was made with John Nuttle, President of Grisell Memorial Hospital Board & Aaron Kuehn, CEO of Ness County Hospital District #2 per phone calls. Both parties were in agreement with the contents of the letter to be sent to the State. An appeal of the termination of an employee was reviewed, with Commission in agreement that the decision to terminate still stands.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Attest:

Mark Davis, Chairman

Lori Hertel, Ness County Clerk

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