

September 27, 2021

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:06 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Those present were Rick James, Chair; Jim Johnson, Vice-Chair; David Lamb, County Clerk; Morgan Northcutt, Deputy Clerk; and Gary Thompson, County Counselor. Rick James led the Pledge of Allegiance. David Lamb opened the meeting with prayer.

Rick James moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting as printed. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$332,191.33: General, \$129,302.26; Employee Benefit, \$131,935.19; Appraiser, \$13,273.08; Rural Fire, \$3,134.89; Road and Bridge, \$39,447.87; Law Enforcement Trust, \$422.70; County Health Dept., \$12,354.52; and Elderly, \$2,320.82. Rick James seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 9:09 AM Danny McCullough arrived at the Commission meeting.

The Clerk reported the current prisoner count. There are currently 18 prisoners in house and 4 farmed out to other Counties.

The Clerk also presented copies of the weekly Fire Report from Doug Barlet.

Bill Matlock, River City Construction, gave an update on the building project.

Louis Aloï, AMR, reported on their calls for the past month and their activities for the past week. Aloï also introduced Virgil Swanson, new Supervisor/Paramedic for AMR.

Shaun West asked to hire Dennis Hardy Jr., Levi Whisenhunt, and Kevin Lewis as Equipment Operators at a wage of \$15.6173 per hour (Range 8, Step K) due to their Class A CDL status. Rick James moved to hire Hardy, Whisenhunt, and Lewis as requested, pending pre-employment testing. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

West then presented requests from the City of Pleasanton to close portions for 1050 Road for a 5K race Saturday morning and portions of Scott Road for a rodeo Saturday evening. Danny McCullough moved to temporarily close the roads around Pleasanton as requested on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for General Pleasanton Days. Rick James seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

West and the Commission then discussed the parking area around the Courthouse Annex. We need to remove one of the storage units before the concrete can be poured. West also discussed the recycling grant that was previously approved for recycle trailers. After reviewing the bids, West discovered that our cost would be \$10,501.16.

West then stated that the City of Pleasanton would like to have a waiver of dumping fees for their City Cleanup Day. West also presented information on advertising at the County Park.

Jim Johnson moved to sign an amendment to the Work for Hire Agreement with Jessica Hightower. Danny McCullough seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jessica Hightower asked for an official appointment as Airport Manager, so she can sign notices about the airport. Rick James moved to appoint Jessica Hightower as the Airport Manager for the Linn County Airport. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 9:32 AM the Chair asked for public comment.

At 9:33 AM Rick James moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee; and for 25 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:18 AM. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Counselor, and Shaun West attended the executive session.

At 9:45 AM Shaun West left the executive session.

At 10:18 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jim Johnson discussed the press release from the Sheriff last week stating that we were trying to defund his programs. Commissioner Johnson also stated that we increased the Sheriff's budget \$745,668.00 over last year's actual expenses (approximately \$2,000.00 per day), we were not defunding any of his programs. The Commission stated that we have not had any response from the School Superintendents since we sent the letters asking for SRO funding. Danny McCullough stated that they do care about the SRO program and were not trying to defund it.

At 10:23 AM Rick James moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 62 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:25 AM. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Deputy Clerk attended the executive session.

At 11:25 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Shaun West presented information on the 3 to 5 year needs for the landfill. West then discussed quotes for propane for County buildings for the year. The Commission asked West to check with Gary Thompson about the need for bids before discussing propane prices. The Commission also informed West that they were not interested in pursuing the recycling grant due to the higher cost to the County.

At 11:38 AM Rick James moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 45 minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee and conduct interviews for the Health Department Director position. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:23 PM. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Deputy Clerk, and applicants for the Health Department Director position attended the executive session.

At 12:23 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jessica Hightower informed the Commission that we have had 558 completed surveys on our Comprehensive Plan. Hightower has a meeting scheduled tomorrow to compile the results of the survey.

With nothing further on the agenda Rick James moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, October 4, 2021. Danny McCullough seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

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Commission Chair

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County Clerk