

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, MAY 13, 2019**

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 A.M. with Second District County Commissioner Thad G. Geiger, Chairman, calling the meeting to order. First District County Commissioner Timothy D. Collins, Third District County Commissioner Jerry P. McKernan and County Clerk Peggy Franken were present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Paul Stewart and Susan Studer observed the entire regular meeting. Paul Smith, Highland City Representatives Joann Karn and Terry Gibson, Sheriff Chad Clary, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Chris Griffin with Doniphan County Conservation District Office, Christi Miller representing KANZA Mental Health and Guidance Center and Northeast Kansas Environmental Services Office Manager Martha Smith were present for a portion of the meeting.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve the meeting agenda as amended to include 9:45 A.M. appointment with Northeast Kansas Environmental Services and discussion on Half Mound Road. Motion carried.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve County Commission minutes of the May 6, 2019 regular meeting as written. Motion carried.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve payroll and warrants for the period of May 15, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Fee reports for the month of April 2019 were reviewed on behalf of the County Clerk.

Currently the Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center houses 15 local inmates.

Paul Smith addressed the Board of County Commissioners in regard to previous discussion on hiring a Road Director as part of a restructuring plan for the Road and Bridge Department. Mr. Smith expressed in his opinion a Road Director takes away from the Board of County Commissioners duties of running the Road Department. Commissioner Geiger stated the intent of a Road Director is to oversee the Road Department, having the same administrative duties as Appointed Officials over other County Departments.

Commissioner Geiger said 215th and Kennekuk Roads will be reshaped and rocked this week. Paul Smith said Larkinburg Road north of US Highway 36 needs to be bladed and rocked.

Susan Studer offered her support in hiring a Road Director, to equally oversee the Road Department. Commissioner Collins said he met with people of the First Road District and no one in the west end of the County is in favor of hiring a Road Director.

Appraiser Danielle Kiefer presented the Board with bids for the purchase of an office computer as follows:

Dell	\$2,231.16
LockIt Technologies	\$1,632.00

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to accept the bid of LockIt Technologies for the purchase of a computer for the Appraiser's Office. Motion carried.

City of Highland Representatives Joann Karn and Terry Gibson were present to discuss the status of dilapidated structures within the City of Highland that are currently on the delinquent property tax list. County Attorney Charles Baskins outlined the procedure for holding a tax foreclosure sale and opined the County Commission could order the sale of individual properties independent of a countywide tax foreclosure sale, although the cost to do so would be higher. Commissioner Collins made a motion to order the County Counselor to begin foreclosure proceedings on five (5) properties located within the corporate city limits of Highland, Kansas. Commissioner McKernan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chris Griffin, Doniphan County Conservation District, presented the Board of County Commissioners with their 2020 budget request in the amount of \$34,000.00. No action was taken pending preparation of the Doniphan County 2020 budget.

Mrs. Griffin also presented the Board of County Commissioners with a map of approved Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) projects to be completed in conjunction with the Doniphan County Road and Bridge Department. All projects approved lie within the Second Road District, as no applications for Districts One or Three were submitted for consideration. Project locations are 1) 100th and Mineral Point Roads, north and south of 100th Road; 2) 150th Road, east of Mineral Point Road; and 3) Port William Road, south of 150th Road.

Christi Miller, KANZA Mental Health and Guidance Center, presented the Board of County Commissioners with a proclamation proclaiming May as Mental Health Month. Commissioner Collins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKernan, to execute a proclamation proclaiming May as Mental Health Month. Motion carried.

Sheriff Chad Clary addressed the Board of County Commissioners in regard to setting a new starting wage for the Road Department, saying he hopes the policy extends to other departments, as getting qualified applicants and retaining employees is a countywide problem. Sheriff Clary stated the Doniphan County Sheriff's Department has the lowest paid employees of the surrounding counties. He offered to do the leg work for obtaining like wages for area counties for all departments for the Board's consideration in improving wages for all employees. Commissioner Collins said the Road Department is a starting place for increasing County wages, as the Board knows other departments are underpaid as well. Commissioner Geiger said he is not interested in addressing other

department wages at this time, as when taxpayer's dollars are involved there is never enough money to address the issue. However, the Board would take the matter under consideration when preparing the 2020 budget for various departments.

Sheriff Chad Clary asked for a legal opinion for making donations to the area humane societies who assist when aggressive or neglected animals are seized or taken into custody, at no cost to the County. County Attorney Charles Baskins said he would review the legalities of making charitable donations and report back to the Board.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to chip seal the parking lots of the Doniphan County Health Department and Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center during the 2019 season, with the expense paid from the New Sales Tax fund. Motion carried.

Chairman Geiger read to the Board of County Commissioners notice of termination by Michael Cluck as Center Township Trustee due to moving out of Center Township. The Board of County Commissioners will appoint to fill the vacant position. Those interested in the Center Township Trustees position should contact the Doniphan County Clerk.

Household hazardous waste collections for the period of May 1, 2019 were presented to the Board for their review.

Aging Administrator Peggy Wood gave the Board of County Commissioners an average per day eat-in meal count for each Senior Citizens Center for the month of April 2019 as follows: Elwood 6.6, Wathena 17.37, Troy 16.91 and Highland 35.32.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris told the Board of County Commissioners the new bridge deck on structure T32-1 located at 210th and Mineral Point Roads will be poured today, May 13, 2019.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to execute a notice for Herzog Contracting Corporation to proceed with resurfacing of 165th Road and authorized the use millings on the shoulders instead of AB3 rock, in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Transportation Federal Funds Exchange Program. Motion carried.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the Board of County Commissioners with Road Improvement Fund balances and road expense reports for the month of April 2019, for their review.

Commissioner Geiger made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to recess into executive session at 9:41 A.M. for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect personnel within the Road Department, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the County Commission at 9:51 A.M. Motion carried. The County Attorney, County Clerk and Road Office Manager remained.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to authorize \$2,000.00 worth of rock from the Road and Bridge general fund to rock Half Mound Road to 190th Road. Commissioner McKernan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Geiger made a motion to advertise for a Second District Road Foreman. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Martha Smith, Office Manager with Northeast Kansas Environmental Services, told the Board of County Commissioners a tire recycling collection will be held for Doniphan County residents on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. at the Second District Road Shop located at 302 W. Robertson Street, Troy, Kansas. Discussion was held on the cost of the program. Commissioner Collins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKernan, to pay \$1.50 for passenger tires up to a limit of 10 and charge the expense to the Solid Waste fund, with the consumer to pay for additional passenger and larger tires. Motion carried.

Chairman Geiger asked County Attorney Charles Baskins to draft a resolution for the Board's consideration calling for a simple majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners before any Appointed Official, including Road Foremen, can be terminated from employment.

Chairman Geiger reminded the County Commission of Mo-Kan Regional Councils SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) meeting to be held at the Troy Library on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 beginning at 4:00 P.M.

Commissioner Collins made a motion at 10:01 A.M. to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing confidential negotiations with Counsel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the County Commission at 10:07 A.M. Commissioner McKernan seconded the motion. Motion carried. The County Attorney and County Clerk remained.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Geiger adjourned the meeting at 10:08 A.M.

DATED THIS 13TH DAY OF MAY 2019.

Attest: _____
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

Thad G. Geiger, Chairman