

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, MAY 11, 2020**

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session via Zoom 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 McKernan, County Attorney Charles D. Baskins and County Clerk Peggy Franken were present.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Paul Stewart and Health Department/Home Health Administrator Sheryl Pierce observed the entire meeting via Zoom. County Attorney Secretary Celeste Etherton, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Emergency Management Coordinator Julie Meng and Appraiser Danielle Kiefer were present in person.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve County Commission minutes of the May 4, 2020 meeting as written. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve payroll and warrants for the period of May 15, 2020 as presented. Motion carried. 3-0.

Currently the Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center houses 1 Wyandotte County and 9 local inmates.

Commissioner Collins informed the Board of road repair needed on Rising Sun Road, off of Monument Road. Commissioner Collins said the road has been cut back into the driving lane and will need tube replacement and dirt work. Commissioner Geiger stated Rising Sun Road is on the Second District project list to be completed this summer. Commissioner Collins suggested the roadway be flagged and warning signs placed.

The Board of County Commissioners and Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris discussed necessary repair work on Peck Road, south of 245th Road, northeast of Troy, Kansas, in Burr Oak Township. During high water events, the creek has undermined the roadway creating an unstable road base in Section 23, Township 2 Range 21E. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris will contact Engineer David Beach with Schwab-Eaton, PA to put together a recommendation and cost estimate for repair. In the meantime, Norris recommended the roadway be closed or warning signs placed warning motorists of dangerous road conditions.

Commissioner Geiger made a motion to approve repairs to Mack truck #84 by Mayday Trucking Service in the amount of \$1,195.09. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner McKernan informed the County Board Third Road District has completed patching roadways in the District with employees available to assist in First and Second Road Districts.

Commissioner Collins stated the First Road District is working on shaping and rocking 160th Road. Two trucks are broke down in the District, electrical issues persist with the Mack truck and the driveshaft is out of the Kenworth. Foreman Price is obtaining cost estimates for repair.

Commissioner Geiger suggested the County Board review employment applications to fill vacant operator positions within the Road Department once Emergency Health Orders are lifted.

Emergency Management Coordinator Julie Meng presented the Board of County Commissioners with an amendment to the Doniphan County Emergency Health Order, amending Section 7 Subsection II letter C. removing “churches and other religious facilities” from public gathering as they are exempt under Kansas State Governor Laura Kelly’s executive order. After review of amendments as presented, Commissioner Geiger made a motion to ratify Doniphan County’s Emergency Health Order as amended by Doniphan County Health Officer Dr. Bradley Gaul, MD. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Julie Meng, Emergency Management Coordinator, also presented the Board of County Commissioners with a phased-in approach plan to re-open County Governmental offices for the safety and well-being of the people served and staff at each location beginning May 18, 2020 at 12:00 P.M. unless Doniphan County Emergency Health Order is further extended. Health Department/Home Health Administrator Sheryl Pierce stated 700 N95 masks were donated to the Health Department and will be made available to the public for recommended usage while performing business in County Governmental offices. The public and office holders will be required to abide by State of Kansas Governor Laura Kelly’s executive orders and Ad Astra: A Plan to Re-Open Kansas.

At 9:09 A.M. the Board of County Commissioners recessed in order to establish a new Zoom meeting session with the meeting to reconvene in the District Court Courtroom at 9:15 A.M.

Health Department/Home Health Administrator Sheryl Pierce told the County Commission Doniphan County to date has 9 confirmed COVID-19 cases, seven of which are resolved. Administrator Pierce said she has been receiving calls from the public, businesses and organizations about upcoming planned events. She suggested a written plan be submitted to the Health Department for review and approval by Pierce, Health Officer Dr. Brad Gaul, MD, Emergency Management Coordinator Julie Meng and County Attorney Charles Baskins. The Board of County Commissioners discouraged submission of a written plan for approval, but recommended the public, businesses and organizations call the Health Department for recommendation and guidance if they have concerns with upcoming planned events. Chairman Geiger warned against deviating from State of Kansas Governor Laura Kelly’s Ad Astra: A Plan to Re-open Kansas following lifting of the Doniphan County Emergency Health Order.

Commissioner Geiger asked about services provided by the Doniphan County Health Department during the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Administrator Pierce said the Department is continuing to provide essential services such as WIC and immunizations. Once the Emergency Health Order is lifted the Department will resume in office services, following social distancing guidelines, as well as begin Home Health housekeeping services.

Chairman Geiger requested Appraiser Danielle Kiefer’s presence at the County Commission meeting. Chairman Geiger asked Appraiser Kiefer to put on hold informal hearings of real estate and personal property valuations until such time as the Doniphan County Emergency Health Order is lifted and the courthouse is open to the public. Appraiser Kiefer stated hearings were held the previous week by appointment, as hearings had to be held by the May 15, 2020 deadline in accordance with K.S.A. 79-1448.

Commissioner Geiger addressed the Board of County Commissioners regarding a misquoted statement by Reporter Paul Stewart in the May 7, 2020 edition of The Kansas Chief quoting Commissioner Geiger as saying “It’s probably a good thing we don’t have a lot of small businesses in the county.” Commissioner Geiger said in his 36-year history of living in Doniphan County he has been a huge advocate for small businesses and in no way would advocate against having small businesses in the county. Misquotes, misconstrued statements, summarizing and paraphrasing his comments by The Kansas Chief led the public to believe he was not a proponent for small businesses in Doniphan County.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Geiger adjourned the meeting at 9:41 A.M.

DATED THIS 11TH DAY OF MAY 2020.

Attest: _____
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

Thad G. Geiger, Chairman