

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS
FEBRUARY 8, 2021
UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Regular session of the February meetings of the Cloud County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on February 8, 2021 in the Commissioners' room at 811 Washington, Concordia, Kansas with Chairman Gary Caspers, Members Bill Czapanskiy and Ron Copple, and County Clerk Shella Thoman present.

County staff attending was: Andy Asch, Highway Administrator; Barry Porter, County Appraiser; Henry Eilert, Maintenance Manager; Jerry Collins, IT Director; Ken Davis, Sheriff; Mike Hake, Solid Waste Director; Brandi Bray, Health Department Administrator; James Quillen, Emergency Preparedness Director; Kirk Barr, Sheriff Deputy; Tonya Sulanka, County Health Office Clerk and Blythe Atwell, Home Health Aide.

Others attending: Kristi Benyshek, District Court Clerk; Toby Nosker, KNCK; Kim Reynolds, CloudCorp Director; Susie Haver, Marian Condray & Miranda Frye, Cloud County Tourism Committee; and Wyatt Hoch, Foulston Siefken, LLP (by conference call).

The Board recognized the following employees for their service and commitment to government in Kansas by the Kansas Association of Counties for their service years completed at the end of 2020.

Barry Porter, County Appraisers - 24 years
Janice Vignery, Paralegal / Clerk II - 16 years
Kirk Barr, Deputy Sheriff- 8 years
Blythe Atwell, Home Health Aide - 8 years
Erin Garman, Adult Intensive Supervision Officer - 8 years
Kathryn Hajny, Solid Waste Operator / Clerk - 8 years
Todd LeDuc, Heavy Equipment Operator - 8 years
Dana Ringer, Heavy Equipment Operator - 17 years (he was missed last year)
Tonya Sulanka, County Health Officer - 9 years (she was missed last year)

Department Head – 9:19 – 10:16 a.m.

Mike Hake, Solid Waste Director – Repairs on the building are completed and KCAMP will be reimbursing for their share of the expense.

Kristi Benyshek, District Court Clerk – New Magistrate Judge in Washington County.

James Quillen, Emergency Management Director – Finishing up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and closed out the KDEM grant. Received an unmanned air craft license for the drone. All Access will be here this week to install the camera system. The new front entry doors have arrived and are waiting to be installed.

Andy Asch, Highway Administrator –Working on snow removal and around employees quarantined.

Jerry Collins, IT Director – Working on a new work center at the Law Enforcement Center, internal upgrades at the Health Department and finishing the workstations in the EOC and getting a new network set up there.

Barry Porter, Appraiser – Payment under protest hearings and reviews.

Brandi Bray, Health Department Administrator – 496 COVID vaccines have been administered and 77 have had their 2nd shot. Rapid tests and saliva tests are available. Residents will be contacted when vaccine is available

Henry Eilert, Maintenance Manager – Hood’s have the faucets and toilet flushers installed, moving snow, fixing flag at the Law Enforcement Center.

Shella Thoman, County Clerk – A New Directions employee assistance program, a resource for emotional well-being and professional resiliency, was discussed. Additional information will be obtained to discuss further.

Ken Davis, Sheriff – Routine business.

Ron Cople, County Commissioner – Asked that any changes to the Employee Handbook be submitted to Thoman and it will be brought to the Commissioners.

JoDee LeDuc, County Treasurer – Routine business.

Brandi Bray, Health Department administrator reported that the Health Department Food Bank assistance program started in September and they helped 32 individuals from 7 families. In January they helped 7 individuals from 2 families and thanked the Board for their support. Discussed purchasing a snow blower for the Health department, the Board agreed to move forward with the purchase and mask mandate.

Ken Davis, Sheriff and the Board made a call to Wyatt Hoch, Foulston Siefken, to discuss the Law Enforcement Center. Commissioner Cople presented some documentation on UV light filters to help clean the air. He’ll make an appointment to discuss further with Hood Heating and Air and Davis.

On a motion by Commissioner Czapankiy, second by Commissioner Cople, unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for Attorney/Client privilege to discuss the Law Enforcement Center including Ken Davis, Sheriff and Wyatt Hoch, Foulston Siefken, LLP (by conference call) resuming to open session at 10:45 a.m.

Andy Asch, Highway Administrator discussed bids for replacing the toilets at the Highway Department and is working on getting bids to replumb the building. Looking for a used pick-up for the Weed Department.

On a motion by Commissioner Czapanskiy, second by Commissioner Cople, unanimous vote the Board a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss employee matters including Asch and Thoman resuming open session at 11:17 a.m.

Susie Haver reported that 100% of funding for Cloud County Convention and Tourism (CCT) comes from a 5% county-wide transient guest tax. Transient guest tax collections fell 37% from March – December of 2020 making the CCT eligible to apply for PPP and SPARK funds to help keep the office open and staff employed. Visitation dropped 56% to 2,766 visitors and they were only able to host 2 group tours in 2020, down 93% from the 32 group tours in 2019. The gift shop sales were the lowest in 5 years (down 27%) but the 4th quarter were the highest ever, showing that people were shopping locally. Prior to the shutdown staff participated in a day trip to Abilene to visit the Eisenhower Museum and have lunch at the Brookville Hotel on Presidents Day. A Barn Quilt Block workshop was in the office and they partnered for Caring for Cloud County 1.0 and 2.0 and postponed the Big Dig until August 27-29 2021.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Czapanskiy, unanimous vote the Board approved the following nominations to serve on the Cloud County Convention and Tourism committee: Ellen Anderson (National Orphan Train Complex), Barbara Shunn (POW Camp Concordia) and Carman Davis (Cloud County Museum) to fill the terms through December 31, 2023.

Kim Reynolds, Cloud County Economic Director presented the January Slate Selection for the Get in the Cloud Small Business Grants. The Committee recommends funding Robert Investments LLC \$10,000 and Central Plains Agronomy \$40,000. Robert Investments recognizes the need for commercial rental space and purchased 206 E 17th Street (KDOT's old building). Cross Fit Gym will relocate to the space and occupy 2 of the 3 bays available and the 3rd bay will be utilized as a lease agreement for a local agriculture business to house commercial products. The building will also be used to provide a non-profit housing unit to KSU Veterinary students job shadowing as an outreach/externship program with Tallgrass Veterinary Hospital. (No funds will be used for the house portion of the project.) Central Plains Agronomy (CPA) will construct a 130' x 80' building in the North Development and will contain both office space and inventory space; and will allow CPA to store all products in one location, expand its bottling line and add 2-3 more full time jobs.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Czapanskiy, unanimous vote the Board approved the January Slate Selection for the Get in the Cloud Small Business Grants for Robert Investments, LLC for \$10,000 and Central Plains Agronomy for \$40,000.

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Quarterly Report for the period ending January 31, 2021 with an ending cash balance of \$14,039,530.77.

The Board approved the following payroll expenses totaling \$166,680.11
General Fund – \$84,184.20 Road & Bridge – \$48,396.58
Appraisal - \$5,420.28 County Health - \$19,685.86
Noxious Weed - \$1,763.96 Election - \$1,536.92
Solid Waste - \$5,692.31

Payroll Deductions & Benefits - \$70,570.94

The above expense detail is available at the County Clerk’s office and the Clerk’s Public Records webpage.

On a motion by Commissioner Czapanskiy, second by Commissioner Copple, the Board approved abatements 2021-41 thru 2021-46 with a net change totaling \$1,162.30, no refunds.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, second by Commissioner Czapanskiy, unanimous vote the Board approved the February 1, 2021 minutes as presented.

The Board adjourned at 1:45 p.m., until Tuesday February 16, 2021.

Cloud County Board of Commissioners

Attested:

Gary Caspers, Chairman

Bill Czapanskiy, Member

Shella Thoman, County Clerk

Ron Copple, Member