JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 22, 2024

March 22, 2024, at 9:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Matt Miller-Vice Chairman, Alan Phipps-member, and Connie Pretzer-County Clerk assembled in the Chase County Commission Chambers. Also present was patron Mark Gibbons. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Motion to call the Board of County Canvassers to session*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to conduct canvass in Commission Chambers per KSA 25-3105*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

One provisional ballot was produced which will not be counted due to the Election Office not receiving it by election date.

***Motion to sign the Abstract of Votes for the March 19, 2024 Presidential Preference Primary*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to adjourn the Board of County Canvassers*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to convene regular session of the regular session of the Board of County Commissioners*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 03/11/2024 Minutes*** by Miller was 2nd by Phipps***.*** Motion carried 2-0 with Hazelton abstaining due to being absent March 11th.

Commissioners and Road & Bridge supervisor Thom Kirk commenced the discussion of replacing the Cedar Point Iron Bridge. Due to the bridge’s registration with the Kansas State Historical Preservation Society, the structure is federally protected, meaning the county will be forced to build a second bridge in a new location. Engineers Cook, Flatt and Strobell (CFS) have proposed a larger bridge be built downstream of the iron truss bridge. The original plan, which would have demolished the historic structure, would have cost the county $116,850.

The *estimated* additional costs to keep the iron bridge include additional survey, design and geology costs of $60,000 and 20 percent of KDOT’s contribution of $500,000 and an additional $100,000 from PROTTECT funds. The County’s responsibility is now approximately $351,850 for the over 2.2-million-dollar bridge.

Commissioner Phipps said he cannot support a project that he considers wasteful government spending because of all the historical requirement and there is always a way out to the south.

Patron Mark Gibbons asked for a traffic count on the bridge to which Kirk replied approximately 60 vehicles a day.

Commissioner Hazelton agreed that the County cannot afford the extra money the bridge will cost. However, the County cost of around $350,000 for a 2.2-million-dollar bridge is probably the way to go.

Commissioner Miller said he stands with Phipps on the wasteful spending part of the situation. However, it is certain that the Mill bridge will need to be replaced in less than 50 years and we need to look to the future. Miller also states how hard these decisions are to make when dealing with multiple government agencies that are all operating under their own mandates that have been assigned to them by state and federal legislatures all of which believe that we, at the local level, are not responsible with taxpayer money.

***Motion to move forward with bridge project #19-A.2 and accept KDOT PROTTECT funds*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 2-1 with Phipps opposed.

***Motion to approve bi-annual bridge inspection agreement with CFS in the amount of $13,916*** Phipps was 2nd by Hazelton. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion at 9:31 for 10 minutes of executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with Clerk & Kirk*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 9:41 with no action taken.

Kirk informed the Board that he had purchased a 2022 Dodge 3500 crew cab diesel 4-wheel pickup from Bolton for $47,500. An extended warranty and grill guard will be added to the final purchase price.

Kirk discussed the rental from Berry Tractor of a screen plant for creek gravel. Approximate cost will be $15,000 a month. This will be about double the cost of the creek gravel but will still be less than purchase price for road rock.

Commissioner Miller reported meeting with Sheriff Welsh, landowners and BNSF regarding the railroad crossing at Norton and T roads being blocked for long periods of time. Miller feels progress is being made and great headway is being made.

Clerk reported several calls regarding the access road to the State Lake being next to impassable. Kirk explained that Wildlife & Parks had contracted with private contractor to haul rock and improve the road. Kirk also explained the 10-year agreement with Wildlife and park to maintain the swimming area. Kirk asked the Board if they would agree to help maintain the road by grading it as a public service. The Board agreed this would be good for the community.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am on motion from Hazelton 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0. Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 28th as Friday the 29th is a scheduled holiday.

ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

STATE OF KANSAS

COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 28th day of March, 2024 as shown in the Minutes of this date's meeting, the above Minutes are hereby ADOPTED as the official record of the proceedings, business and actions of the Board of Chase County Commissioners during the session above described.

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Anthony Hazelton, Chairman

SEAL

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Matt Miller, Vice Chairman

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Alan Phipps, Member

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk