JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 31, 2020

July 31, 2020 at 10:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Bill Fillmore-Vice Chairman, Randy Talkington-member and Connie Pretzer-County Clerk assembled in the Chase County Courtroom. Also present was Mark Gibbons, patron. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hazelton called the 2021 Budget hearing to order. No concerns or objections to the presented 2021 Budget were noted. ***Motion to approve the 2021 Budget*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 07/31/2020 Warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 06/25/20 to 07/24/20 Payroll*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.*** Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Minutes of July 13, 2020*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.***  Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Fillmore raised concerns about the minutes of the July 13th BOC meeting not reflecting discussion regarding the damage to county roads and culverts caused by SEMA Construction during the hauling of rock from the Passmore quarry. County Attorney Halvorsen and Road & Bridge Supervisor Thom Kirk were present. Kirk will keep track of the expenses to the county road caused by the SEMA trucks.

***Motion by Fillmore for an addition to the July 31st minutes to include his request to have SEMA Construction responsible for restitution for road repairs on the haul route.***  Motion was 2nd by Talkington and carried 3-0.

Scott Wiltse and Jennifer Laird of the SPARK fund committee appeared before the Board to discuss progress the committee has achieved. Wiltse explained the reimbursable as opposed to the direct aid plan of the $548,245 the county has received from the State. The county currently has $76,613 in reimbursable expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining money after all qualified reimbursable expenses have been paid will be available to the county as direct aid. The committee has identified areas that will receive funds with the largest being USD 284 in the amount of $152,500. Commissioner Fillmore raised concern with the list containing funds of $80,000 to the Chamber of Commerce. Jennifer Laird explained the State requirements are basically divided into four categories: 1) Health 2) Education 3) Connectivity 4) Economic Development, in which the Chamber will host grants available to businesses, day cares and other areas that will require applications in order to allocate funds. The following four categories will be available for funds: 1) Grant assistance for businesses and non-profits (20 grants at $1,000 totaling $20,000. 2) Public Health and Churches (20 grants for $200 totaling $4000). 3) Day Care provider with active licenses (8 grants for $4000 totaling $32,000). 4) Food Pantry and food supply chain (4 grants for $5000 totaling $20,000). The remaining $4,000 of the $80,000 under this category is for administrative fees.

Commissioners will have final approval on all grant applications. The county will write and award the checks.

Cindy Jensen, CPA presented the Board with the 2021 Audit along with the internal control letter and the audit process letter. During Jensen’s process of checking the high balances of cash each month, there was one month where the county was not adequately secured. Her recommendation to the BOC is to work with the Treasurer, check these cash balances and take appropriate action. Jensen noticed no violations. Bank reconciliations have been caught up and are now happening on a monthly basis.

Detention Facility Administrator Larry Sigler reported to the Board that an employee has tested positive for COVID so the jail is in the process of all employees and inmates being tested. KDHE will notify Sigler of results in a few days. Sigler also inquired of the County Attorney the recourses available for an employee who had a worker’s compensation claim due to injury. The employee has not been happy with the results of the surgery. Halvorsen advised the employee to hire a work comp attorney which would be covered under the conditions of the County’s policy.

Sigler has contacted Theel to begin the negative air flow room which will fall under guidelines of approval with SPARK funds according to Scott Wiltse.

Sigler inquired about employees’ vacation days with the ongoing COVID pandemic. Accumulation of vacation days (because no one wants to use them because they can’t go anywhere) is becoming a problem. Sigler asked is there was a way to buy the employees vacation days with SPARK funds. County Attorney Halvorsen will investigate the topic.

Sigler told the Board that he will be purchasing a dishwasher. Over $39,000 has been spent leasing the current dishwasher; a new one costs around $12,000.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thom Kirk reported possible catastrophic dam failure at the Chase County State Lake. KDWP has been notified. Emergency Preparedness Director will also be notified. Commissioners gave permission for Kirk to purchase a belly-dump trailer for $11,000.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 on a motion from Hazelton; 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Next scheduled meeting is August 10th at 10:00 am.

ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

STATE OF KANSAS

COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 10th day of August, 2020 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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William Fillmore, Vice Chairman

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Randy Talkington, Member

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

Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk