JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 23, 2021

***Special Meeting***

March 23, 2021 at 10:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Randy Talkington-Vice chairman, Matt Miller-member and Connie Pretzer-County Clerk assembled in the Chase County Commission Chambers. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

 ***Special Meeting for March 23rd at 10:00 am was called for the purpose of resuming department head meetings, discussing Executive Order No. 20-68 and wage study.***

Public Health Officer Carol Coirier and Health Department Administrator Candra Good met with the Commissioners. Good explained that KDHE’s recommendation is to still mask and social distance unless with other vaccinated individuals. Governor’s executive order 20-68 was discussed along with County Resolution 2021-04 which would opt the County out of the executive order. Good was in favor of opting out of the mask mandate as long as Chase County residents understand that it is still recommended by KDHE and CDC to social distance, wear masks and follow hygiene rules. Coirier concurred and added that businesses still have the right to require masks upon entering their businesses. Commissioner Miller said he has been following a bill that will likely pass in the Statehouse that will allow closed businesses to eliminate their property taxes if forced to follow the mask mandate. Miller also believes that even though the County may opt out of the executive order requiring masks, that residents know and understand that the Commission would like residents to remain diligent in fight against this virus by masking, hand washing and social distancing.

Coirier along with Senior Center Director Deb Haglund recommended the Senior Center reopen. Good remarked that most seniors that have the desire to be vaccinated have done so, but those that have not will still need to wear a mask. Haglund said 2 of the 5 staff members at the Center have been vaccinated.

***Motion by Hazelton to approve Resolution 2021-04*** *(a Resolution opting out of Governor Kelly’s Executive Order No. 20-68 relating to mandatory ask wearing)* was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Good updated the Board on County vaccinations. The health department has fully vaccinated about 500 people (receiving both doses). Altogether the department has given around 1100 vaccinations. Coirier said this does not include the nursing home or other county residents that have gone elsewhere for vaccinations. There are currently 2 positive cases in the County; 1 at the nursing home and 1 quarantined inmate at the detention facility. Coirier commended the nursing home, detention facility and USD 284 along with Good for a great job during the pandemic.

***Motion for 10 minutes of executive session at 10:20 for non-elected personnel with Good*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 10:30 with no action taken.

Good then reported that she had applied for $142,917.24 in grants for the Chase County Health Department. Good is excited about returning to normal operations after COVID vaccinations are complete including education, the car seat program and school programs. Commissioner Talkington praised Good on her efforts in the grant process on the County’s behalf.

County Treasurer Dow Wilson reported that he will no longer be requiring appointments in his department beginning April 1st. However, he will still require appointments for driver’s licenses and commercial vehicles. Wilson will be seeking a part time employee when his deputy treasurer goes on maternity leave. The department used to employ a part time person along with 2 full time employees but his budget does not allow.

Emergency Preparedness Director Scott Wiltse presented the BOC with information from KDEM for the fire victims in the recent wild fire in the western part of the County. Wiltse also reported that the EverBridge emergency reporting system had been activated. Residents can fill out an on-line form to be notified of emergency weather and local alert notifications at the following link: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612434?fbclid=IwAR1gEXQiUF7N4rXzGqW0IN9I9e6MPH_vxV56teQvdRcdEY5xQtnWVKwgR1o#/signup>

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thom Kirk acquired Commissioner signatures on a KDOT agreement for emergency relief for $23,158.90. This is a reimbursement for non FEMA roads. Kirk presented a quote for a traffic counter for $4,323.00 ***Motion by Hazelton to purchase the traffic counter from the Road Machinery and Bridge Building Fund*** was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners entered into a wage study session at 11:25.

Motion by Miller 2nd by Talkington to approve the salaries of the following:

Department 2021 Salaries

Detention Center Administrator $ 54,919.87

Road & Bridge Director $ 49,509.10

Ambulance Director $ 46,527.58 + after hours run time

County Attorney $ 44,338.68

County Sheriff $ 47,000.00

County Appraiser $ 41,459.12

County Register of Deeds $ 34,250.00

County Clerk $ 38,000.00

County Treasurer $ 36,500.00

Senior Center Director $ 30,000.00

Commissioners $ 14,646.36

County Fire Chief $ 16,500.00

Emergency Preparedness Director $ 16,494.72

Election Officer $ 5,000.00

Financial Officer $ 3,000.00

Freedom of Information Officer $ 3,000.00

Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Miller 2nd by Talkington to approve the staff wage adjustments of the Road & Bridge, Clerk’s office, Treasurer’s office, Appraiser’s office and Health Department.

Motion Carried 3-0.

***Motion to adjourn at 2:00 pm by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington.*** Motion carried 3-0.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 10:00 am.

 ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

 STATE OF KANSAS

 COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 31st day of March, 2021 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

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 Randy Talkington, Vice Chairman

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Matt Miller, Member

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

 Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk