JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 30, 2021

June 30, 2021 at 10:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Randy Talkington-Vice Chairman, Matthew Miller-member, Connie Pretzer-County Clerk and Tiffany Harshman-Deputy Clerk assembled in the Chase County Commission Chambers. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Motion to approve 06/30/2021 Warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 05/25/21 to 06/24/21 Payroll*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.*** Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Minutes of June 14, 2021*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.***  Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Resolution 2021-08*** (a resolution ending the Covid-19 pandemic declaration)by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Crime Prevention request of $300.00 to Parkapoloza*** by Miller was 2nd by Hazelton. Motion carried 3-0.

County Appraiser Andrew Durbin entered the meeting and requested an executive session with Commissioners. ***Motion at 10:10 for 10 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 10:20 with no action taken.

Register of Deeds Kathy Swift made the request to order a $1,239.34 table top replacement for the deed book table in the vault room. The purchase will come from the ROD budget for 2021. BOC granted the request. Swift also inquired about using American Recovery Act monies to have the older bounded deed books in her vault digitalized. Commissioners encouraged Swift to research the ARA website to see if it is a qualifying event.

Cindy Jensen CPA explained SB 13 which enacted the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) effective for the 2022 budget year. The RNR rate is achieved by the County Clerk in a mathematical equation by taking the amount of tax received the previous year and dividing by the June 2021 preliminary assessed value for each taxing entity. When final assessed values are received in November and if valuations have decreased, ***less*** tax dollars will be received because the County Clerk is required to cap at the RNR. It is known that the valuations will go down because of an error by the State Assessed Utilities division of the Kansas Department of Revenue. In order to avoid less tax dollars received by taxing entities, a form must be signed by July 20th and given to the County Clerk by the taxing entity indicating they will exceed the RNR.

Jensen then presented the 2022 Budget draft reflecting a 2% increase across the board. Jensen noted the importance of a small increase due to the rising costs in goods and services this year. A lengthy budget discussion was held. Commissioners will continue to study the draft and budget study will be on the agenda for July 12th.

Detention Facility Administrator Larry Sigler and County Attorney William Halvorsen came before the Board to request executive session. ***Motion for 10 minutes of executive session at 11:15 for attorney client privilege with Sigler and Halvorsen*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 11:25 with no action taken.

Road & Bridge supervisor Thom Kirk along with County Attorney Halvorsen appeared for the Board as requested for road discussion. County Sheriff Richard Dorneker was also present. Commissioner Hazelton began by reporting overweight vehicles on county roads. A possible solution would be to enforce weight limits on bridges and assessing fines. Halvorsen pointed out that this would modify a previous Commission decision regarding weight limits on all roads and bridges. Commissioner Miller stated he felt that it was irresponsible for the Commission body to not be protecting the County assets. Halvorsen then confirmed with Kirk that all bridges had the proper signage. Overweight limits can be waived in the event of no alternative route. Overweight limits can also be waived if the route has been designated a truck route. It was also noted the burden of enforcement fell on the County Sheriff who does not have a way to weigh a possible overweight vehicle. Sheriff Dorneker stated that he has taken possible violations to a local business to be weighed.

After further discussion it was the consensus of the Commission to allow for several weeks of publicity to allow businesses and patrons to voice concerns prior to an August 1st effective date for enforcement of weight limits on County bridges.

***Motion at 12:05 for 10 minutes of executive session for attorney client privilege with Halvorsen and Kirk*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 12:15 with no action taken.

Kirk continued discussion on bridge replacement on Road ZZ between roads 270 and 280 for an existing culvert built in the 1930's. Kirk felt the area would benefit from a steel bridge manufactured by Husker Steel rather than a same kind replacement due to the volume of water and debris the area receives. Road & Bridge crew would remove the old structure. Kirk will also get a bid from another company.

Kirk presented bids for work to the roof and a heater for the Noxious Weed building. Miller asked for more information on the roof work. Commissioners suggested looking into an overhead heater rather than running ductwork to the chemical room.

Kirk gave the Board a quote from APAC for 1 layer of chip/seal for 1 mile $14,902.51 for materials only. $43,217.43 for the 2 projects at Bazaar and Matfield Green. 500 tons of hot mix for leveling will cost approximately $52,000. This will deplete the funds set aside for hard surfaced roads this year. Discussion was held on roadways of concern and where the best use of funds should be applied.

Vehicles for the Road & Bridge department were discussed. Commissioners directed Kirk to order a pick-up for his department and purchase the used Dodge 2006 diesel $12,000 for a replacement sprayer truck.

A meeting has been set up with BG Consultants for Thursday, July 8th at 1pm for discussion on the County Fire Station in Strong City. Commissioner Miller will attend and report to the BOC.

Clerk reported a leak in the work room above the west window. Commissioners directed Clerk to have the grout joint repaired.

***Motion by Hazelton at 1:37 for 5 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel was 2nd by Miller.***  Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 1:42 with no action taken.

***Motion at 1:42 for 5 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 1:47 with no action taken.

***Motion by Hazelton to approve Resolution 2021-07 appointing Andrew Durbin as County Appraiser was 2nd by Talkington.*** Motion carried 3-0.

Miller expressed interest in forming an advisory board with Fire, EMS, Emergency Services, Health Department and others with a working knowledge of the County.

Budget discussion carried through the remainder of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 on a motion from Hazelton; 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Next scheduled meeting is July 12th at 10:00 am.

ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

STATE OF KANSAS

COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 12th day of July, 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

SEAL

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Randy Talkington, Vice Chairman

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Matt Miller, Member

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

Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk