JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 16, 2021

August 16, 2021 at 10:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Randy Talkington-Vice chairman, Matt Miller-member, Connie Pretzer-County Clerk assembled in the Chase County Commission Chambers. Also present was patron Mark Gibbons and Emporia Gazette Reporter Megan Sando. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Motion to amend the agenda*** to accommodate an engineer scheduled for 11:30 by Miller was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 08/16/2021 Warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.*** Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Minutes of July 30, 2021*** by Miller was 2nd by Talkington***.*** Motion carried 2-0. Hazelton abstained due to being absent at the July 30th meeting.

***Motion to approve change order 2020-71*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Miller read aloud the proposed resolution 2021-11 in its entirety. The resolution would care for indigent people that reside in Chase County at the time of their death. ***Motion to approve Resolution 2021-11*** by Miller was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Jan Sciacca introduced herself as the owner of the Council Grove Republican. Sciacca provided packets to the Commission that included examples of the publication along with the costs associated with legal publications. The paper is a daily publication(M-F) and features a 5-column format. The legal publication rate is $7 per column inch as opposed to $9.39 per column inch /6 columns per page the county is currently paying. Sciacca would like to earn the County’s business. Commissioners thanked Sciacca for the information and will take the proposal under consideration at the first of the year when they designate the official county newspaper.

CFS engineer Kenny Blair along with Road & Bridge supervisor Thom Kirk gave information to the BOC regarding selected bridges on a truck route. Blair explained the difference between inventory rating and operating rating. Inventory rating is the posting (signage) given to a bridge to offer the least amount of wear which will make the bridge last the longest amount of time. Operating rating is a lower factor of safety and by law is the maximum amount of load the bridge can be posted. Operating rating tends to wear the bridges out faster. By law, the Commission can post bridge signage anywhere between these two ratings. Bridge replacement figures were also included on the report. A bridge life span is 75 to 100 years. Chase County has 140 bridges that are inspected and in the report. Kirk stated we need to be replacing 2 bridges a year. Commissioner Miller commended Kirk on the due diligence that was taken when establishing the truck route.

County Fire Chief Steve Fillmore and Emergency Preparedness Director Scott Wiltse informed the Board of a 6kw generator/light tower at Pioneer Bluffs that could be acquired by the County for around $2,000. The generator would be paid for from the Emergency Preparedness budget and the fire department would be in charge of storage. Commissioners granted permission to Wiltse to make an offer of $2000 for the generator. Fillmore reported that a permanent 18kw generator could be purchased for around $5500 and would power the entire Matfield Green fire station. The City of Matfield Green is expected to contribute to the purchase. Fillmore will continue pursue additional quotes.

Clint Hibbs of BG Consultants presented findings on the proposed fire station in Strong City. The current fire station located on Elm Street is just under 7000 square feet with the need for additional space. The buildings depth is adequate but the height is not suitable for existing and future equipment. The existing building’s steel beams are structurally sound but the rest of the building has major issues. The two plans presented were for a “Back-in Drive-Out” and a “Drive through” building. 5 possible sites were introduced; 1) existing site on Elm St. 2) K177 & Chestnut St. 3) N. Cottonwood and 8th St. 4) US 50 & Chase St. 5) 5th St. & Chestnut. A work/study session will be scheduled and held in the near future to go over the presented materials.

US Stone representative Ben Retter, Howard Chapman and Gordon Turner of Chapman & Turner Limestone, LLC., Byron Lange entered the meeting to discuss a truck route and weight limit restrictions on bridges. Retter began by saying this would impact his operation and is working through all available solutions. Retter is asking for a grace period until October 31st. Howard Chapman had questions regarding the weight limits for bridges on the truck route as well as 2 particular bridges on Middle Creek Road (BSN230 & BSN240). Kirk explained that the crew was currently working on a bridge deck in the Cedar Point area and that one of these bridges was next on the list for repairs to the deck. Chapman then asked if an engineering study had been done to bring the bridge up to a 40 ton limit. Miller quoted from an engineering report: $1,388,000. Kirk explained that upgrading was not really an option due to age and length of the bridge (268’). Chapman then questioned the bridge weight limits on the truck route. Kirk explained that all 5 bridges were posted are in agreement with the most recent bridge study. Chapman then asked why bridge weight limit signage had been changed. Miller referred to the study’s inventory rating versus operating rating for bridges: “inventory rating is something that a county of 2700 people with limited resources would use to make that bridge last as long as possible—operating rating is what the bridge could safely be operated at, but the bridge will have to replaced a lot sooner”. The law allows the Board of County Commissioners to post a bridge weight limit anywhere in between. Signage was recently updated. “Fee for Use” was also discussed without a solution. Kirk then spoke about the condition of the paved portion of Middle Creek Road and the deterioration being caused by heavy trucks. If allowed to continue, the chip-sealed portion of the road will have to be converted to gravel. Miller then asked Retter what was keeping US Stone from using the designated truck route. Retter referred to contracts that were in place with his company and other concerned parties. For this reason, he is asking for the October 31st extension to negotiate with all parties involved. Discussion continued from the floor with the biggest concern being the amount time it would take to renegotiate contracts between the rock company, the trucking company, the landowner, etc. and that this Commission was not allowing enough time to negotiate. Miller repeated that he had been to previous commission meetings prior to becoming a commissioner where this very truck route was put in place then rescinded and trucks allowed to drive wherever they want and however they want. “I’m not good with that. Our job as Commissioners is to try and protect the assets of the county and do the best job we can with the limited resources and the population we have to take care of those. I’m having a difficult time going backwards on this because one individual doesn’t want the trucks driving past his house. “

After further deliberation it was decided to grant a short extension until the next BOC meeting on August 31st to allow US Stone to utilize Middle Creek Road.

Clerk reported the Chase County Health Department would like to change the hours to Monday through Thursday, 8am to 5pm and one night until 6pm. Commissioners were agreeable to the change after the Labor Day holiday.

***Motion for 5 minutes of executive session @ 12:55 for non-elected personnel with clerk*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried. Meeting resumed at 1:00 with no action taken.

Clerk presented the 2022 Budget final draft for review and was instructed to publish the Notice of hearing to exceed revenue neutral rate Budget hearing in the Chase County Leader News.

Commissioners and clerk then traveled to the Detention Facility to tour and meet with administrator Larry Sigler. Sigler reported of the need for a training officer for jail staff. One of the staff will be schooled for certification and will set up an office in one of the Sheriff's offices. Sigler then reported the last ICE inspection went as well as expected with minimal infractions such as water spots on the stainless steel. Commissioners reviewed the ICE contract and supporting documents. Sigler is also checking on housing US Marshall service detainees. Commissioners then toured the detention facility, health department and noxious weed building.

***Motion to adjourn at 3:10 by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington.*** Motion carried 3-0.

Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 10:00 am.

ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

STATE OF KANSAS

COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 31th day of August, 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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Anthony Hazelton, Chairman

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Randy Talkington, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Matt Miller, Member

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

Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk