JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 13, 2021

September 13, 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. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hazelton called the 2022 Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget hearings to order. No concerns or objections to the presented 2022 Budget were noted. ***Motion to approve the 2022 Budget*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Resolution 2021-12 exceeding revenue neutral rate (County)*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Resolution 2021-13 exceeding revenue neutral rate (Fire District #1)*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Hazelton adjourned the 2022 Budget Hearing and called regular session into order.

***Motion to approve 09/13/2020 Warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Minutes of August 31, 2021*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.*** Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk reported that the Clerk’s office laptop purchased 11/18/2011 was beginning to malfunction and presented a quote from Advantage Computers for $1263 to be paid from the Clerk’s technology fund. Commissioners gave permission for the purchase. Clerk also submitted an ARPA request for Zoom capability in the Commission Chambers. A quote of $15,757 from Advantage Computer accompanied the request. Commissioners tabled the request.

County Auditor Cindy Jensen presented the 2020 County Audit. Jensen noted that the treasurer is not balancing each day or making a daily deposit. Jensen recommends the balancing process and deposits be done on a daily basis. Reconciliation is being performed satisfactorily. Jensen also recommended periodic review of the payroll process as only one person is delegated with this task. Jensen also recommended the Commission approve a pay schedule to add transparency and clarity to payroll. Jensen also noted that the tax roll is not being formally reconciled. Discussion was held on various county funds and processes. In conclusion, the audit and audit process were satisfactory.

Bukaty Insurance broker Stephen Euston appeared before the Board to explain his past experience with the County and our current coverage with Aetna for health insurance. Euston has been the County’s broker since 2017. Euston also had a quote from United Health that mirrored previous quotes from other agents. Euston also explained the 19% premium increase from Aetna last year was mainly due to a high utilization rate from employees. Aetna will not have a new rate until sometime in mid-October. Euston reminded the Commissioners that all independent insurance agents have access to the major companies.

Ben Retter of US Stone reported that his company was unable to compromise with Chapman/Turner Limestone on using the truck route instead of Middle Creek Road to ship the quarried limestone. US Stone will leave the Chase County quarry, however would like to have until the end of the year to remove the existing quarried stone. Retter asked the Commission one last time for use of Middle Creek Road until the end of the year in order to avoid unnecessary legal expenses. After this is done, the site will be reverted back to prairie. Miller conveyed his sympathy to Retter however, didn’t see how the Commission decision should be reversed at this point. “I would love KVOE to have been here to air this pathetic situation regarding the landowner’s part. I’m not afraid to say this on the record to anyone” said Miller. Hazelton commented that the County has to protect the two lower bridges and the hard surfaced road on Middle Creek Road. A truck route was established for this purpose, but the landowner is causing issues to US Stone. Retter said he understood the decision and appreciated the Commissioners trying to work with him. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thom Kirk asked Retter if some sort of monetary value could be arrived at for the use of Middle Creek Road until the end of the year. Retter replied that it would not be feasible for US Stone to justify this as a solution for 3 months. Talkington stated that he would not have a problem with US Stone continuing to use the Middle Creek Road route until the end of the year if some sort of monetary value to help the Road & Bridge department could be determined. Miller then stated that this is a decision that he is not willing to make today. “I’m not ready to vote today to give you an extension until the end of the year” Miller said. Miller suggested Retter and Kirk get together this week and see if there is a number that could be arrived at. “The cattle and grain trucks will not have a problem using the truck route”. ***Chairman Hazelton then called for a special meeting on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 10:00 am.***

Oscar Borrego & Scott Brackett of SEMA Construction and BNSF representatives Kristopher Swanson and Jacob Rzewnicki entered the meeting to discuss the ongoing rail expansion project in Chase County. SEMA is hauling product from 210th , 180th and TP Roads and will continue for the foreseeable future. Reinforcement of a box culvert on T Road had been completed. Miller asked about an agreement with the County for returning roads, shoulders, crowns in roads, bridges etc. to like or better than condition when the project is complete. Swanson replied that the project began in Butler County in 2019 and a point was made to talk to both Butler and Chase counties that the project was at hand. A meeting in early 2020 was held with Thom Kirk, Tony Hazelton, an engineer from Cook, Flatt & Strobel and Swanson where an inventory was established of everything in the haul route. The intent of this was to identify what structures were at risk. BNSF included the identified structures in their contract with SEMA as contingency items to repair if needed. Hazelton asked Swanson how much longer the project is expected to take which Swanson replied it was supposed to be a 2 ½ year project ending in 2021 but COVID had an impact on progress. In October 2021 a 2nd line from Eleanor to Gladstone will be installed and the goal is to have the line in service before Thanksgiving. Further discussion and education on truck routes and weight limits was held to which Miller commented that we all just need to be good partners and have some transparency as to how the County’s assets are being protected. Commissioners thanked the gentlemen for coming to the meeting.

Commissioners and Clerk concluded the meeting with general discussion on County health insurance, the preliminary Strong City fire station plans, grant writers etc. No action was taken.

***Motion to adjourn at 1:30 by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington.*** Motion carried 3-0.

Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 10:00 am.

ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

STATE OF KANSAS

COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 30th day of September, 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