JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 31, 2022

August 31, 2022 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. Also present were

Shayla Gaulding-Chase County Leader News, Theresa VanAckeren and Mark Gibbons.

***Motion to approve 08/31/2022 Warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 07/25/2022 through 08/24/2022 Payroll*** by Hazleton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 08/15/2022 Minutes*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington***.*** Motion carried 3-0.

Jamie Johnson representing the Chase County Health Department introduced herself to the Board. Johnson told the BOC that the transition from former nurse Candra Good had gone smoothly and she would continue to look forward to working with CCHD nurse/secretary Rachel Jones who was doing an excellent job. At the request from Commissioner Miller, Johnson will check with Senior Center Director Deb Haglund to come to an understanding of what the Health Department can offer to the Center.

Howard Chapman briefly met with the Commissioners to ask if the County had taken steps to apply dust control to C Road. Hazelton replied that the Road & Bridge department had been too busy and short-handed to make contact with US Stone and resolve the dust problem. Road & Bridge supervisor Thom Kirk will be directed to contact Ben Retter of US Stone in the near future.

Sema representatives spoke to the BOC and offered updates on the current BNSF project. BNSF will be laying track in early October which will mean traffic on Sharps Creek road will be detoured during the process. BSNF is expected to reach the Sharps Creek road crossing around mid-October. The detour will take residents about 15 miles out of their way and will take BNSF approximately 2 weeks to complete. The County will be notified and signage will be posted about two weeks before the closing date.

Miller told the BOC he had spoken to Matthew Whitcomb about trimming some trees on the Courthouse lawn. Whitcomb quoted a price of up to $900 which includes clean-up. Commissioners were agreeable to the price and said to proceed.

Developers Bill Caton and Fred Bently met with the BOC and explained that the 2022 Kansas legislature earmarked significant funds through several housing programs including the Moderate Income Housing Program which would allow grant monies for new homes to be used for down payment assistance, reducing the cost of homes or infrastructure. An application process to qualify potential homeowners will have to be met following the Fair Housing Act. The Housing Investor Tax Credit program had no income qualifications. Both programs are designed to help rural communities create more housing and improve economic development. The County along with the cities of Strong City, Cottonwood Falls and Matfield Green will work together identifying potential building sites and qualifying applicants. Letters of support for the programs will be sought from business owners. A September 30th deadline will also have to be met. Commissioners thanked the gentlemen for the information.

Greg Davis representing the Chase County Fire Department and 911 committee reviewed the packet of information from BG Consultants with the Commissioners. County Fire Chief Steve Fillmore was also present. Davis reviewed the options to replace the County fire station in Strong City. Option 1 is to remain at the present location with no improvements. Option 2 is to renovate the present location. Option 3 is to build in a new location. The 1st two options have been deemed to not be viable options. A new location for option 3 has tentatively been chosen as the property one block north of Highway 50 at North Cottonwood and East 8th street, however other locations are being considered. The new floor plan for the new fire station includes a 30 foot expansion from the previous plan for added equipment. Rose Mary Sanders of Ransom Financial Services is seeking funding options for the fire station. Davis requested funds from ARPA funds as well. Commissioner Miller suggested using ARPA funds to pay for Sander’s time spent on the project. Davis also mentioned the Sanders had found possible funding to repair the existing building to usable for the City of Strong City since it is their building. Commissioners gave their permission to proceed with the project and have the Clerk’s office post the fire station plans on their Facebook page.

Retiring Sheriff Richard Dorneker briefly met with the Commissioners to ask to have his number (802) retired. ***Motion to retire Sheriff Department number 802*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Road & Bridge supervisor Thom Kirk requested help with his budget on the YY Road project. The estimated cost presented was not included in his 2022 budget. Miller suggested the last mile of the YY Road project, when the amount was firmed up, come from the Capital Improvement Fund. Kirk will provide the amount to the Clerk’s office for a transfer from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Discussion on the lease/purchase contract with Cottonwood Valley Bank for the mini-excavator. Several discrepancies were noted in the original contract which will be corrected before releasing the contract. ***Motion to sign the agreement with Cottonwood Valley Bank*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Kirk presented a quote from PubWorks for software and devices for his department for $16,000 that will enable tracking of time, equipment and materials. There will be an approximated cost of $2000 cost for devices. The current system being used has become outdated and customer service is not as good as it used to be. Miller suggested the program due to the availability of more public input to the system and was researched by Kirk, Miller and R&B secretary Kayla Kampff. Kampff has spoken to other counties that use the program. Hazelton asked Kirk how this would fit in the R&B budget with other purchases incurred this year. Kirk said he would make it fit. Commissioners gave approval of the purchase.

Kirk responded to the request of dust control on C Road by asking Commissioners to set some parameters before considering this measure. The R&B department only has a limited amount of manpower. Miller directed Kirk to talk to US Stone/Ben Retter regarding C Road.

Discussion regarding the information received earlier in the meeting regarding the Rural Housing project for Chase County was held. The need for housing has been identified and County Attorney Halvorsen was contacted by phone for approval of his review of the resolution and builder’s agreement. Halverson gave his approval to the presented agreement and resolution. A committee will be formed through the Clerk’s office which will contain members from the 4 entities involved. All reporting will be through the Clerk’s office.

***Motion by Miller enter into an agreement with Windy Ridge Development and Time Line Advisors*** was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Resolution 2022-09 (Chase County Homes)*** by Miller was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Additional Warrant to correct checks written from 08/31/2022*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Talkington. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 12 at 10am.

 ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

 STATE OF KANSAS

 COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 12th day of September, 2022 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