JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 31, 2023

January 31, 2023, at 9:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Matt Miller-Vice chair, Alan Phipps-member, Connie Pretzer-County Clerk assembled in the Chase County Commission Chambers. Hazelton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present was Shayla Gaulding-Chase County Leader News and Kirk Engle-Scribner’s Insurance.

***Motion to approve 01/31/2023 Warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 12/25/2022—1/24/2023 payroll*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0

***Motion to approve 1/9/2023 Minutes*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller***.*** Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Change orders 2022-12 through 2022-17*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve EMS request from ARPA funds in the amount of $2079.45 for EMT training*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

Kirk Engle of Scribner Insurance met with the Board to explain the increase in the County’s liability insurance. The blanket policy covering the County’s buildings went from $18.1 million to $22.6 million or a 24% increase in coverage mostly due to what construction costs are today. Kirk provided spreadsheets showing the building coverages. Costs for vehicle and County equipment insurance have also increased. Commissioners thanked Kirk for his information and service.

Jamie Johnson of Morris County Hospital answered questions from the BOC for the Chase County Health Department. Johnson explained that testing for strep, flu, covid and RSV are done at the Health Department at no charge. This could change if the state runs out of supplies. ***Motion at 9:20 for 5 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel with Johnson and Pretzer*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 9:25 with no action taken.

County Fire Chief Steve Fillmore along with City fire chief Mike Cahoone spoke to the Commissioners about the fire station in Cottonwood Falls. Fillmore noted concerns with the building such as termite damage, water damage and inadequate size of the building. Fillmore recommended a tour of the facility which Commissioners were agreeable to. Miller asked to have historical utility data for the last 3 years for the fire station, weed building and County shop.

Representatives from SEMA and Road & Bridge supervisor Thom Kirk updated the Board on the progress of BNSF within the County. The railroad will be laying track around Norton Creek and T Road beginning February 7th moving toward Sharp’s Creek around February 13th. The track crossing will be closed there about one week at that location. Message boards will be installed and Kirk will also notify local patrons of the closing. A detour route will be set up from Sharp’s Creed Road to County Road 50.

County department heads assembled in Chambers for a brief introduction of newly elected Commissioner Phipps. The departments were asked to concentrate on their budgets this year and reminded that extra meetings have been scheduled to review budgets on a one-to-one basis in June and July.

Kirk introduced Joe Johnson, a fuel representative for Mid Kansas Coop, who spoke about a new shared fuel source which would allow the county to increase its storage capacity, as well as track how much fuel is withdrawn by each department. The tanks would be supplied by the co-op at no cost but there would be a monthly cost yet to be determined. Commissioners gave approval for Kirk to move ahead with the proposal.

Sheriff Welsh presented his budget worksheet to the BOC to explain how he would potentially go over his allotted budget amount this year. Miller noted that the current budget that Welsh was working with was submitted by previous administration and not his own. Since the Sheriff’s budget is in the general fund, adjustments can be made to cover overages and will need to be watched. The Sheriff’s department currently has 5 sworn staff plus dispatch. Overtime should go down with new hires. Miller encouraged the idea of hiring a 6th deputy. Miller also commented that he had heard positive comments from constituents noting the increased presence of law enforcement.

Kirk presented a contract and warranty deed for the 170 bridge project. ***Motion to sign the conveyance of right-of-way for $500 with PB&J Farms*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0. ***Motion to sign the contract for conveyance of real estate for roadway purposes of $1 for the 170 Road bridge with Jim Fink Family Farms LLC*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

Kirk presented an agreement between the County and Flying W Ranch for auto gates to be placed on Coyne Creek Road. ***Motion to sign the agreement*** by Phipps was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

Kirk also presented a request for signature on the bridge replacement project with KDOT for the Cedar Point Bridge 19-A2. ***Motion to sign the document*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

And agreement for engineering and design with Cook, Flatt & Strobel also required signatures for this project. ***Motion to sign the 19-A2 agreement with CF&S and the County in the amount $78,400*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

Finance rates from 3 institutions for the 2 motor graders to be purchased by the County in the amount of $321,344 were reviewed by the Commissioners. ***Motion by Phipps to accept the low bid of 5.420% from Cottonwood Valley Bank*** was 2nd by Hazelton. Motion carried 3-0.

Bid opening from contractors for the 170 Road bridge resulted in 5 bids. CF&S will review the bids and Kirk will have recommendations from the firm at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm on a ***motion from Phipps 2nd by Hazelton***. Motion carried 3-0. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 13th @ 9:00 am.

 ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

 STATE OF KANSAS

 COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 13th day of February, 2023 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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 Matt Miller, Vice Chairman

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Alan Phipps, Member

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

 Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk