JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

OF THE CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 30, 2023

November 30, 2023 at 9:00 am; Anthony Hazelton-Chairman, Matt Miller-Vice Chairman, Alan Phipps-member and Connie Pretzer-County Clerk assembled in the Chase County Commission Chambers. Hazelton called the budget amendment hearing to order. No comments were noted.

***Motion to approve the Budget Amendment for Services for the Elderly and Detention Facility*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to adjourn budget hearing and call regular session to order*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 11/30/2023 warrants*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 10/25/23 to 11/24/23 payroll*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve 11/14/2023 minutes*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Transfer of funds (Detention Facility 200 to Services for the Elderly (045)*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve CMB license for Cottonwood Falls Country Club*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to approve Change Orders 2023-19 & 20*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to sign LSSE monthly report*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion on purchasing banners/wreaths for the light poles in between towns resulted in more information being needed and available funds.

Department heads met with the BOC to discuss the following employee benefits.

1. Referral bonus. The current policy is only available in Sheriff and Detention departments but will now be available for all county departments. Under the referral policy, if a referred employee was hired and still employed after 90 days, the referring employee would get a $500 bonus from the department that received the new hire. An additional $500 bonus would be awarded to the referring employee after 1 year’s completion by the hired employee.
2. Longevity pay. For 5 years of service, 50 cents would be added to the hourly wage for non-exempt employees on their anniversary date.
3. Vacation leave. 10 hours of leave awarded for years 0-4 of service and eliminating the 8 hours personal day.
4. Sick leave was discussed but no changes will be made at this time.

***Motion to begin Referral Bonus on 1/1/2024*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0

***Motion to begin Longevity pay 1/1/2025*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion to change vacation leave 1/1/2024 to 10 hours per month and eliminate the personal day*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

Addendums will be prepared and added to the County Handbook at the December 11th meeting.

Darren Booth representing Freedom Claims presented the current renewal for County Health Insurance with United Healthcare. Blue Cross was also considered and will be considered next year. ***Motion to renew County Health Insurance with United Healthcare*** by Miller was 2nd by Hazelton. Motion carried 3-0.

Chasity Zeckser of Crosswinds and Jacob Welsh spoke to the BOC about the “Stepping up” initiative that provides county leaders with resources to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders in local justice systems to better connect them to treatment and services. A proclamation will be drafted by the Clerk for Commissioner approval at the next meeting.

Trisha Purdon and Sheena Thomas of Kansas Department of Rural Prosperity/Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) spoke to the Board about services offered through ROZ including work force recruitment to our community. A $15,000 student loan forgiveness over a five-year period is offered through the program as well as a tax credit for State Income tax for 5 years. ***Motion to approve Resolution 2023-13 to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone with zero funding for 2024*** by Miller was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Welsh visited with Commissioners regarding the high school shadowing program, replacing body cams for deputies and transport and the length of time when ordering a new patrol vehicle. The last vehicle purchased took 8-9 months and is currently at the upfitter. Welsh explained there was a dealership in Hutchinson that has 2024 vehicles on order and only needs Commission approval to order the vehicle for 2024. The quoted price for a 2024 Dodge Durango is $40,500. It was noted that this vehicle was not **appropriated** for in the 2024 budget and will be paid from several funds to be determined (ARPA, county equipment). ***Motion to move forward with the 2024 purchase of a $40,500 2024 Dodge Durango from Alan Samuels dealership in Hutchinson, KS*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0.

***Motion at 11:00 for 5 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel with Welsh and Clerk*** by Miller was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 11:05 with no action taken.

Welsh reported the Detention Facility had an issue with one of the freezers. Services Unlimited made repairs for $1400. A 2023 transport van was ordered from Bolton in Council Grove earlier in the year and a $1000 deposit was made. Total invoice price for the van is $77,644 and will need to be paid for this year. The van it is replacing will go to the maintenance department. Advantage Computer has been contacted about a server for the detention facility. Transport officers will need vests at around $550 each. Welsh has been in contact with maintenance about moisture damage and other issues at the jail.

***Motion at 11:22 for 15 minutes of executive session for matters relating to security measures with Welsh and Clerk*** by Hazelton was 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting resumed at 11:37 with no action taken.

INA Alert representative Jacob Winget spoke to the Board about his company and a new intercom and control board system.

In further business, the commission approved a new intercom system for the detention center to replace the current, aged system. The system can be installed by INA Alert Inc. beginning in as little as two weeks. Inmates will be moved from pod to pod as the intercom is installed.

The project will cost $290,383.59 to be paid over two years starting in Jan. 2024

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 on a motion from Hazelton, 2nd by Phipps. Motion carried 3-0. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 11th at 9:00 am.

ADOPTION OF ABOVE MINUTES

STATE OF KANSAS

COUNTY OF CHASE

NOW ON This 11th day of December, 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

SEAL

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Matt Miller, Vice Chairman

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Alan Phipps, Member

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

Connie M. Pretzer, County Clerk