

Thomas County Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Baughn called the regular meeting of the Thomas County Board of Commission to order a 9:00 a.m. on November 30, 2018 at the Thomas County Courthouse with Commissioner Byron Sowers and Francis Britton, Linda Sowers, County Clerk Shelly Harms, Layn Bruggeman, Brad Flipse, Tom Johnson, David Becker, Brent Mariman, Tyson McGreer, Don Morton, Marvena Chance, Chelston Ketting, and Lora Volk

**AGENDA:** *Commissioner Bryon Sowers moved to approve the November 30 agenda as amended: approve First Amendment to East Fork Road Maintenance and Repair Agreement and approve Line Item Transfer request; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**RESOLUTION 2018 -16 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adopt Resolution 2018 – 16 a Resolution adopting the Thomas County Solid Waste Management Report as contained therein to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**LANDFILL TIPPING FEES:** With the advice from the November 28<sup>th</sup> Landfill Advisory Meeting the Landfill fees reflect no increase with the exception of a three (3%) percent increase on receiving of bunker tarps and cardboard and no exempt accounts beginning January 1, 2019. *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the 2019 Landfill Fees as submitted by Landfill Supervisor Larry Jumper; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**REQUEST TO SUBMIT BID ON SCRAP METAL:** Leo Stephens has approached the County Clerk a couple times asking if the County would be accepting bids on scrap metal as they have done in the past. Chairman Baughn stated he would defer that to Landfill Supervisor Larry Jumper and he can report back at a later date with his opinion. No action.

**COUNTY BENEFIT PROPOSAL:** Road Deputy Dain Carmen appeared before the Thomas County Commissioners to present them with his proposal to Thomas County in offering family health insurance to the employees of Thomas County. Mr. Carmen provided the Commissioners and all present with a PowerPoint presentation with statistical reports that he gathered from other counties, US Census, BLS.org, and TaxRates.org. Although, Mr. Carmen knows that his presentation is not feasible for 2019 he would like the Commissioners to consider his information for 2020 and as much as he regrets it, he will be leaving the employment with Thomas County because he cannot afford paying the premiums for family and will accepting a position elsewhere. Chairman Baughn thanked Mr. Carmen for presentation and stated that they have some work ahead of them.

**RECOVERY WAY COUNSELING SERVICES F/K/A ADAC:** Wendi Armbruster, Licensed Addiction Counselor appeared before the Thomas County Commissioners to update them on the changes with ADAC and state funding. ADAC closed June 30, 2018 due to loss of funding from the state. Ms. Armbruster purchased ADAC and renamed it Recovery Way Counseling Services effective July 16, 2018. Recovery Way is strictly self-pay, there are no state funds available to the patients, everything is done on a sliding scale.

**COUNTY WEBSITE:** I.T. Director Brent Mariman appeared before the Thomas County Commissioners to let them know that the Thomson Reuters annual maintenance and support for the current county website is due in January for \$5,389.44. Do the Commissioners want to continue using the services provided by Thomson Reuters or move in the direction of the I.T. department creating, maintaining, and providing support of the county website. *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to begin utilizing the County website: <http://thomascountyks.gov/index.php> developed by Information Technologist Director Brent Mariman effective January 2019 or sooner; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**OFFICIAL THOMAS COUNTY LETTERHEAD / STATIONARY:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adopt per K.S.A. 19-212c the official Thomas County Letterhead / Stationary to be used by all county departments as created by I.T. Director Brent Mariman; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**POLICY ON HIRING COUNTY EMPLOYEE MORE THAN 1-1/2 HOURS DISTANCE AWAY:** EMS Director Kevin Gill appeared before the Thomas County Commissioners to request permission to hire an Advanced Life Support (ALS) individual from Leoti, Kansas as she would like to work for Thomas County; but has no plans to move here. Chairman Baughn said there currently is not a 'residential' policy in place, but feels that is something the County Commissioners need to work on. *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to support EMS Director Kevin Gill hiring this individual from Leoti, Kansas; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried with Commissioner Britton and Sowers voting AYE and*

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR AGREEMENT:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the 'First Amendment to Road Maintenance and Repair Agreement' by and between East Fork Wind Project, LLC and the County of Thomas County, Kansas; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to go into executive session at 10:32 a.m. with Commissioners Sowers and Britton, and HR Director Shelly Harms for the purpose of discussing employee-employer matters with the justification for closing the meeting is personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel for a period of fifteen (15) minutes and to return to open session at 10:47 a.m. in the Commissioners room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**OPEN SESSION:** *With no action taken Chairman Mike Baughn moved to return to open session at 10:47 a.m. in the Commissioners Room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to go into executive session at 10:47 a.m. with Commissioners Sowers, Chairman Baughn, and HR Director Shelly Harms for the purpose of discussing employee-employer matters with the justification for closing the meeting is personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel for a period of ten (10) minutes and to return to open session at 10:57 a.m. in the Commissioners room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**OPEN SESSION:** *With no action taken Chairman Mike Baughn moved to return to open session at 10:57 a.m. in the Commissioners Room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**ESTABLISHED 2019 COMMISSION MEETINGS:** The Commissioners reviewed the proposed Resolution for establishing 2019 Commission meeting dates adding some additional dates. The Commissioners will approve Resolution 2018 – 17 on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**NOVEMBER COUNTY PAYROLL:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the \$371,203.04 November Thomas County Payroll; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

AP PAYMENT REGISTERS: Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the following AP Payment Registers: Road & Bridge - \$7,148.59, Noxious Weed - \$305.19, General - \$163,482.64, and December 3 General - \$15,574.97; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Francis Britton had concerns over one invoice going to Jana's Campaign (concerned it was going to someone's campaign fund). County Attorney Lamm explained it was a donation for gender relationship violence prevention.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19 COMMISSION MINUTES: Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the Monday, November 19, 2018 Commission minutes as prepared by County Clerk Shelly Harms; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

TAX ROLL CORRECTIONS: Commissioner Byron Sowers moved to approve the following Tax Roll Corrections: 2018 Personal Property to Eric Smith for \$185.92 abatement; 2018 Severed Minerals to Kenneth Knudson for \$135.94 and \$67.98 abatements; 2018 Real Estate to Meadow Lake, Inc. for \$8.40 abatement; 2018 Trucks to Jerry Baird for \$811.88 abatement; and 2018 Personal Property to Gary Bird for \$20.08; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

LINE ITEM TRANSFER REQUEST: Commissioner Byron Sowers moved to approve the \$484.01 transfer from Fund 100-100-30071 to 100-520-30071 as was submitted to AP Clerk with wrong Fund / Line Item numbers; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

KDHE AFTER-THE-FACT APPROVAL OF OFF-SITE DISPOSAL OF DEMOLITION WASTE WITHOUT A PERMIT (DWOP): The Commissioners discussed the letter from KDHE to Stan Kauk with no action needed.

OFFICE COMPLEX 2019 RENTAL RATES: Commissioner Byron Sowers moved to authorize the office rental rate increase of two (2%) percent; bringing the rate from \$6.04 to \$6.16 per square foot; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

CHRISTMAS COMMISSIONER DRAWING: Commissioner Francis Britton moved to hold the annual Commissioner drawing on December 7<sup>th</sup> in which six (6) lucky county employees will receive \$50 from a drawing; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron Sowers; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: With no action needed the Commissioners reviewed the items as listed in the miscellaneous section of the agenda.

ADJOURN: With no further business Commissioner Byron Sowers moved to adjourn at 11:42 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

Shelly A. Harms, County Clerk

*Shelly A. Harms*

Dated: December 10, 2018



Thomas County Board of Commissioners

*Mike Baughn*  
Mike Baughn, Chairperson

*Byron Sowers*  
Byron Sowers, Member

*Francis Britton*  
Francis Britton, Member