

Thomas County Commission – REGULAR and CANVASSING of NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> ELECTION

November 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Baughn called the REGULAR Commissioners Meeting and Canvassing to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners room of the Thomas County Courthouse on Monday, November 16, 2020 with Commissioner Brad Flipse and Commissioner Francis Britton; County Clerk Shelly Harms; Ben Hoeting; Jim Harms; EMS Director Dain Carmen; Chief of Police Ron Alexander; Appraiser Bruce Webb; USD #315 Superintendent Katina Bren; Register of Deeds Lora Volk; and others joining through GoToMeeting.

**AGENDA:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve the agenda as amended to include the following: Break tie for Smith Township Trustee, update on KCAMP insurance with the relocating of Court staff, and Board of Health meet regarding mask requirements; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**SMITH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE – TIE BREAKER FROM NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION:** Both Ben Hoeting and Kyle Spresser received nine (9) write-in votes cast for them for the Smith Township Trustee position that was open. To break the tie Chairman Mike Baughn shuffled a deck of cards and high card would determine the winner. Mr. Hoeting drew the high card declaring him the newly elected Smith Township Trustee. Mr. Hoeting and all other elected officials will be sworn into office on Monday, January 11, 2021 in the Courtroom at 9:15 a.m.

**INSURANCE COVERAGE UPDATE FOR COURTS RELOCATION:** County Clerk Shelly Harms contacted KCAMP and stated that no matter where any county office (Courts included) there contents is covered. KCAMP would like an updated inventory list and a copy of the lease agreement to determine whether or not the building owner will have coverage on the building itself.

**CONVENE AS BOARD OF HEALTH:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to convene as the County Board of Health to discuss mask requirements and passing a Resolution to Thomas County's Second Modification to Kansas Executive Order 20-52; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton to convene as the Board of Health; with no further discussion the motion carried to convene as the County Board of Health.* Chairman Mike Baughn is aware of the concerns in both the medical community and the community concerns itself with the rising COVID-19 numbers in Thomas County. Chairman Baughn's opinion is, "COVID changes daily and read from a prepared statement". Chairman Baughn is suggesting to move to Phase 1 with individuals calling to schedule appointments to access the Courthouse with the doors remaining locked and each office should review their Phase 1 plan and implement it accordingly. Commissioner Flipse stated that he has had a lot of people reaching out / sharing their opinions on do you wear a mask or not, what is the size of COVID-19? Commissioner Flipse is against the mask mandate, our country is based off of freedom and we need to trust our people to exercise their right to those freedoms. Commissioner Francis Britton ask how effective are the masks? Do we require businesses to spray their merchandise? Commissioner Britton doesn't want to shut down schools and businesses, if your sick stay home, and has empathy for the hospitals and clinics. Chairman Baughn added that additional stress to the medical community because hospitals are filled to over capacity and are needing to transfer patients out-of-state. County Clerk Shelly Harms stated that she felt wearing mask is one thing we could all do in keeping one another safe, and if businesses would require masks they shouldn't need to shut down with no economic impact; same with schools, also questioning why our leaders ignore the recommendations made by our Health experts? Health Administrator Emily Strange stated she supports masks, social distancing, hand washing, and limiting gatherings. Lots of information on mask wearing (both pro and con), the Health Department averages thirty (30) cases a day and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up. Chief of Police Ron Alexander spoke both as Chief of Police and citizen, talked about Sedgwick Counties last meeting, offering drive-through testing for everyone not just those with symptoms, there are not enough P.D. officers to enforce the mask mandate, instead he would encourage self-education. The Modification to KS Executive Order 20-52 – Resolution 2020-XX will be put on the Commissioners docket for November 23, 2020.

**ADJOURN AS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adjourn as the Thomas County Board of Health and to reconvene as the Thomas County Commissioners; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 COMMISSION MINUTES:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the Monday, November 9, 2020 Commission Minutes as prepared by County Clerk Shelly Harms; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**TAX ROLL CORRECTIONS:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve the following Tax Roll Corrections: 2020 Real Estate on D. Dennis Preston for an abatement of \$-25.48; 2020 Real Estate on Bainter Construction Co., Inc. for an added of \$2,079.48; and 2020 Real Estate on William Dible for an added of \$55.44; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**COMPUTER PURCHASE FOR NW LEPC:** *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to deny the computer purchase for the NW LEPC as requested by Tim Hansen because of wanting the county to pay for it with NW LEPC reimbursing, the use of EIN, and using the County's I.T. employee to make the purchase; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**AUDIT AND BUDGET PROPOSAL BY ADAMSBROWN, LLC:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to accept the proposal from AdamsBrown, LLC to contract them to audit Thomas County for 2020-2022 and prepare budgets for 2022-2024 based of the fee schedule provided; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**HIGH PLAINS MENTAL HEALTH INVITE:** The Commissioners received an invitation to a Legislative Virtual Coffee Hour on Thursday, November 19, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**THANK YOU FROM LT. GOVERNOR LYNN ROGERS:** Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers thanked Thomas County for hosting a meeting recently with medical, city and county government. The meeting was to help the Lt. Governor and Governor Kelly understand the needs and wants from NW Kansas regarding COVID-19.

**CANVASSING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION:** *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to convene as the Board of County Canvassers with Chairman Baughn stepping down as one of the Board of Canvassers and Appraiser Bruce Webb filling the vacated position to assist with the canvassing process; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**PROVISIONAL BALLOTS:** On Tuesday, November 3, 2020 sixty-six (66) individuals had to vote a provisional ballot for various reasons: failed to register by the October 13 deadline, failed to re-register due to a move or name change, did not provide appropriate photo identification. Of those sixty-six (66) provisional ballots the Board of County Canvassers allowed thirty (30) to be counted and denied thirty-three (33) for reasons that are outlined in the Election Standards which include K.S.A.'s explaining the reason.

ADOPT THE ELECTION RESULTS: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adopt the election results from the Early Voting, Mail Ballot, Election Day, Late Mail Ballots (postmarked with November 3, 2020), and accepted Provisional Ballots and record those results in the Official General Election Canvassing book; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

ADJOURN: *With no further business Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adjourn at 12:42 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

Attest:

Shelly A. Harms, County Clerk

Shelly A. Harms  
Dated: November 23, 2020



Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Mike Baughn  
Mike Baughn, Chairman

Brad Flipse  
Brad Flipse, Member

Francis Britton  
Francis Britton, Member