

Thomas County Commission – REGULAR and CANVASSING of NOVEMBER 3rd ELECTION

November 23, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Baughn called the REGULAR Commissioners Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners room of the Thomas County Courthouse on Monday, November 23, 2020 with Commissioner Brad Flipse and Commissioner Francis Britton; County Clerk Shelly Harms; Jim Harms, Travis Williby, Dain Carmen, Clair Schrock, David Becker, Commissioner Elect Brian Luedke, County Attorney Elect Christopher Rohr, Layn Bruggeman, Katina Brenn, Tom Nickols, Ron Alexander and others joining through GoToMeeting.

AGENDA: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve the agenda as amended to remove and / or add the following: remove Willdan transfer of funds /signature with County Treasurer Layn Bruggeman, add Executive Session with County Attorney for Attorney-Client Privilege (legal Advice), courthouse regarding construction, Commercial Lease Agreement and November county payroll; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

BANK RATE BIDS FOR FINANCING 2020 DOOSAN DL300-5 WHEEL LOADER: Commissioner Francis Britton opened the following five (5) sealed bid envelopes:

- Farmers Bank & Trust: 2.30% rate with five annual payments of \$35,450.33
- The Bank: 2.79% rate with five annual payments of \$35,953.72
- Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby: 2.95% rate with five annual payments of \$36,118.56
- Western State Bank of Colby: 2.27% with five annual payments of \$35,451.90
- Wells Fargo: 5.11% rate with \$250 document fee and payments ranging from \$29,951.57 to \$43,128.95

Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to accept the bid from Western State Bank as the lowest and best bid of 2.27% interest rate for five years with payments of \$35,451.90 per year; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

TERESA EGNER PROBATIONARY PERIOD ENDS: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve increasing Teresa Egnor from \$14.42 to \$14.92 per hour effective December 1, 2020 as she has completed her six (6) month probationary period; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.* Landfill Director Travis Williby submitted the appropriate Compensation Adjustment form outlining additional reasons justifying her increase besides completing her probationary period.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 COMMISSION MINUTES: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the Monday, November 16, 2020 as prepared by County Clerk Shelly Harms; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

AP PAYMENT REGISTERS: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the following AP Payment Registers (upon review of invoices): Courthouse General – 4203,498.47 and Criminal Justice Center - \$545,194.23; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

NOVEMBER COUNTY PAYROLL: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the \$407,671.35 November 30, 2020 payroll; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

LINE ITEM TRANSFER: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to authorize transferring \$500 from Fund 209-500-39100 (election order) to Fund 100-228-30011 (van salaries) and \$2,000 from Fund 209-500-39100 (election order) to Fund 100-500-30011 (clerk salaries) as a \$5,000 grant was received to accommodate all election workers with hazard pay due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.* This grant allowed Election Officer Shelly Harms to increase early, advance, election day, audit poll workers with more pay as well as her staff.

LINE ITEM TRANSFER: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to authorize transferring \$2,000 from Fund 101-000-33000 to Fund 100-100-36075 as funds to pay for the Tax Credit (Willdan Project) threw the Historical Society Line Item into a budget violation and this would correct that; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

WILLDAN – CORING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25: Due to major core drilling that would happen on Wednesday, November 25th the Willdan crew is asking that either the Courthouse close completely or at least the Clerk and Treasurer's office as that is where the core drilling will be happening. The work will create a great deal of noise and dust. *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to leave the Courthouse open and having each office determine whether to close completely or not; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse voicing his concern that we were told we would have limited disruption to any of the offices during this energy construction phase; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

ROAD & BRIDGE STARTING WAGES (ALL DEPARTMENT STARTING WAGES): Road & Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock appeared before the Commissioners to provide them with a classified job scale / wage that he provided to Commissioners back in 2012-2013; this is similar to what the City of Colby utilizes. Chairman Baughn reminded those that many years ago the Commissioners did formulate a pay scale and it was utilized for one (1) year and then dropped by former Commissioners. Mr. Schrock will update his spreadsheet (for Road & Bridge) with current employees / accurate numbers and present that to the Commissioners on Monday, December 7, 2020.

REQUEST TO PUT SPEC SHEET TOGETHER FOR SEMI-TRUCK PURCHASE and MOWING TRACTOR (ROAD & BRIDGE): Road & Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock appeared before the Commission to request their permission to put together a spec sheet for review at the November 30 Commission meeting. The spec sheet would be to obtain bids on purchasing a semi-truck and mowing tractor for next season. Mr. Schrock would retire and sell the 1972 Ford truck and move the Volvo up as the back-up truck.

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTINUING EDUCATION PARAMEDIC PROGRAM / STUDENT CONTRACT: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the Thomas County EMS Continuing Education GCCC Paramedic Program as presented by EMS Director Dain Carmen; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

LINE ITEM TRANSFER: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to authorize the transfer of \$631.56 from Fund 209-500-30011 to Fund 201-562-30011 to reimburse Road & Bridge wages on Clint Jackson for his assistance in stuffing mail ballots and working on the Advance Board; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:52 a.m. for twenty (20) minutes for Attorney-Client privilege (legal advice) with all the Commissioners, Commissioner-elect Brian Luedke, and County Attorney Rachel Lamm and to return to OPEN SESSION at 10:12 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 binding action Commissioner Francis Britton moved to return to OPEN SESSION at 10:12 a.m. in the Commissioners room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

CONVENE AS THE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to convene as the Thomas County Board of Health for the purpose of hearing on mask mandate; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

COMMENTS ON MASK MANDATE: Chairman Baughn stated that he has received letters, emails and phone calls both in favor and opposed to mask. County Clerk Harms stated that she has also received letters, emails and would read them if the Board of Health would like to hear them (has forwarded them to the Commissioners via email), calls and being caught at the Dillons store with everyone in favor. Clair Schrock stated that research study showed those counties in Kansas that passed a mask mandate their numbers of COVID had dropped and those that have not (Thomas County) numbers have gone up significantly. Dr. Dan Kuhlman commented, healthcare system is strained, Kansas hospitals are out of beds. Katina Brenn thanked the Commissioners for their support, asked to not restrict the schools as their modified quarantine has been successful. Commissioner Britton knows cases are increasing, asking everyone to follow business guidelines. Jan Ackerman spoke is opposed to mandating mask. Health Administrator Emily Strange stated that KDHE is showing Thomas County is one of the highest in the State of Kansas, levels present much more elevated than testing percentages, and is in favor of masks for everyone and supports Dr. Kuhlman's statement, the Health Department is running without a full staff for second month and are feeling the strain physically and mentally. Chief of Police Ron Alexander stated the Commission knows his stance. Sheriff Nickols stated lacking staff to enforce the mandate if passed, individuals need to take on responsibility, it's a hot button issue no matter what decision is made. Commissioner Flipse is opposed to masks, it's a fluid situation, all the notifications he's receiving are representation of previous calls (opposed). Linda Ladenburger is in favor of mask mandate. Chairman Baughn said the Governor's order takes effect Wednesday, November 25th with each entity taking one of the following action items: 1. Opt-out of the Governor's Executive Order. 2. Create our own order. 3. Do nothing. Economic Development Director Vernon Hurd shared that revenue has dropped since the spring COVID pandemic and people traveling through Thomas County has reached out to Mr. Hurd stating they won't stop here again because we don't mandate mask wearing. Businesses that have mask required signs posted need to enforce their signs; as there are several businesses not enforcing what they have posted on their business doors.

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

RESOLUTION 2020 – 19 THOMAS COUNTY'S MODIFICATION TO KANSAS EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-68: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adopt Thomas County's Modification to Kansas Executive Order 20-68 – Resolution 2020 – 19 (recommending mask wearing, but NOT enforcing); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.* The Resolution will be posted to the County website and FaceBook page. Commissioners thanked everyone for their participation.

COMMERCIAL LEASE: The pre-approved Commercial Lease between Southwind Plaza, Inc. (Landlord) and Thomas County Board of Commissioners for the re-location of the Courts during the Energy Efficiency renovation of the Courthouse, leasing 4,500 square feet for seven (7) months between December 1 to June 30, 2021 with a base rent of \$10,500 payable on December 1, and \$1,500 payable the first of each month. The Commissioners signed the Commercial Lease Agreement, Linda Taylor will sign for Southwind Plaza.

2021 COMMISSION MEETING DATES: Action will be taken on November 30th; passing Resolution on establishing the meeting dates of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners. Chairman Mike Baughn asked County Clerk Harms to add meeting on March 22 and November 22 to the 2021 schedule.

RESCIND PREVIOUS MOTION: *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to rescind his motion earlier, "Commissioner Francis Britton moved to leave the Courthouse open and having each office determine whether to close completely or not; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse voicing his concern that we were told we would have limited disruption to any of the offices during this energy construction phase; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously."; the motion to rescind was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously and has been rescinded.*


CLOSE TO PUBLIC WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to close the courthouse to the public on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 due to core drilling (noise and dust); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

THANK YOU TO COUNTY HEALTH AND MEDICAL COMMUNITY: County Clerk Shelly Harms wanted to publicly thank Health Administrator Emily Strange and staff, during my stay at home with COVID Emily never missed a day where she didn't call and ask how I was (morning and evenings); Ms. Harms also wanted to thank the Clinics and hospital for everything they do. Chairman Baughn echoed County Clerk Harms' comments and included Emergency Management Director David Becker and the medical community. Commissioners Flipse and Britton appreciate everyone as well.

ADJOURN: *With no further business Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to adjourn at 11:24 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

Attest:

Shelly A. Harms, County Clerk


Dated: November 30, 2020



Thomas County Board of Commissioners


Mike Baughn, Chairman


Brad Flipse, Member


Francis Britton, Member