

December 21, 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, December 21, 2020 with Commissioner Brad Flipse and Commissioner Francis Britton, Commissioner-elect Brian Luedke, County Clerk Shelly Harms, Jim Harms, Emergency Management Director David Becker, Landfill Director Travis Williby, Freedom Claims Representative Julie Yarmer, Road & Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock, Register of Deeds Lora Volk, Sheriff Tom Nickols, EMS Director Dain Carmen, County Attorney-elect Chris Rohr, Deputy County Appraiser Kathy Cunningham, County Treasurer Layn Bruggeman, and Stephen Shull.

**AGENDA:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the agenda as amended to add the following: 2021 Landfill fees and proposed presentation of Road & Bridge wages by Road Foreman Bill Mariman; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**FREEDOM CLAIMS AND BCBS OF KANSAS PLAN:** Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims Representative and BCBS of Kansas liaison appeared before the County Commissioners and department heads at their request to discuss the current plan with BCBS of KS and the difficulty some employees are having in gaining insurance for their families through the MarketPlace. Mr. Yarmer explained that although Thomas County offers family insurance, but pays no portion of that particular premium there should be no reason why any employee couldn't get insurance for their families on the MarketPlace and if they've had difficulty with that they should reach out to Freedom Claims for assistance. The current Reserve Fund has approximately \$146,406.40 that could be used in paying a portion of the family premiums but not 100%, which is the goal of the current Commission Board. Ms. Yarmer has requested that County Group Administrator Shelly Harms conduct a survey of county employees to find out how many would be interested in family insurance if and when Thomas County can help with the cost of the premiums. The survey will be put out today to department heads with a return date of January 15, 2021.

**THOMAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD & THOMAS COUNTY RACING ORGANIZATION AGREEMENT:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to adopt the 'Agreement' between Thomas County Racing Organization (TCRO) and the Board of Directors, Thomas County Free Fair (Board) this 21<sup>st</sup>, day of December, 2020 for the 2021 season; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**2021 LANDFILL FEES:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adopt the 2021 Landfill fees as recommended by the Thomas County Landfill Advisory Board; 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 after thoroughly reviewing the invoices: Criminal Justice Center - \$409,757.08 and Courthouse General - \$483,592.72; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.*

**DECEMBER 14 COMMISSION MINUTES:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve the Monday, December 14, 2020 Commission Minutes as prepared by County Clerk Shelly Harms; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**WESTERN STATE BANK SIGNERS:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved authorize that Chairman Mike Baughn, County Treasurer Layn Bruggeman, County Clerk Shelly Harms, and Deputy County Treasurer Jessica Ashford through the November 30, 2020 Resolution 2020-21 will be the signers at the Western State Bank in regards to the purchase loan of a Doosan Loader for the Thomas County Landfill; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**INVENTORIES:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to accept the following county department inventories: Register of Deeds, County Health, and Elections; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:** With no action the Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following materials: KDOL findings on complaint of asbestos in the Courthouse (no violations found or health concerns), KCAMP 2021 premium of \$232,038, MILCO Environmental Services, Inc. Semiannual monitoring report for Permit #0748 at the Landfill, iSi Environmental – Asbestos NESHAP Survey, NW KS Community Corrections thank you to County Attorney donating \$8,500 to help with the impact of COVID-19.

**AUSTIN PETERS GROUP WAGE STUDY PROPOSAL:** Elizabeth Tatarko submitted a similar proposal to the March 2018 proposal of \$19K to conduct a wage study for Thomas County to set fair wages for county employees. With no action taken the Commissioners will not proceed with Austin Peters Group; but rely on the department heads to submit their recommendations of wages.

**TREAT NOXIOUS WEEDS AGREEMENT:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the Eradication of Noxious Weed Agreement as provided by Noxious Weed Director Clair Schrock and a fully-executed copy is to be provided to the County Clerk for filing; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**MOWING TRACTORS:** *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to accept the recommendation of Road & Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock with the option to purchase one of the other at the end of lease – Case IH – 2020 Puma 150 PowerDrive with list price of \$187,681, less gov't discount of \$77,681, net difference of \$110,000 and 2020 Puma 150 CVX Drive with list price of \$262,284, less gov't discount of \$106,284, net difference of \$156,000; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**RECESS:** Nine (9) minute recess, returning at 10 a.m. in the Commissioners room.

**KBS CHANGE ORDER #63 and #13:** *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to approve Change Order #63 and #13 – Street Paving Connecting East Parking Lot to 4<sup>th</sup> Street; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried with Chairman Baughn and Commissioner Britton voting AYE and Commissioner Brad Flipse voting NAY.* Loren Dekat with KBS Constructors appeared before the Commissioners to explain the Change Orders, cost difference and to answer questions of the Commission.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER – JAIL MOVE IN DATE:** February is the new date to move into the new jail; if the date changes Mr. Dekat is to notify the Commission.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 10:16 a.m. for ten (10) minutes for non-elected personnel matters (staffing) with Health Administrator Emily Strange and HR Director Shelly Harms with all the Commissioners to return to OPEN SESSION at 10:26 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

OPEN SESSION: *With no official action taken Chairman Mike Baughn moved to return to OPEN SESSION at 10:26 a.m. in the Commissioners room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

ROAD & BRIDGE WAGE PROPOSAL: Road Foreman Bill Mariman appeared before the County Commissioners requesting the Commissioners reconsider last recension of starting wages and increases for Road & Bridge employees, only considering those that must have a CDL license to perform their duties. Mr. Mariman provided the Commissioners with a handout, discussed Mark Boeger retiring in March, another employee that is on personal medical leave, new employee needing hired to replace retiring Mr. Boeger. *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to approve the proposal as submitted effective January 1, 2021; the motion was seconded by Chairman Mike Baughn to get the motion on the table; Commissioner Brad Flipse commented that we are piece meal and this will continue for the next six (6) months, Commissioner Flipse was prepared to pass for employees with CDL licenses, no vote took place. Commissioner Francis Britton moved to withdraw his motion; the motion was seconded by Chairman Mike Baughn; with no further discussion the motion to withdraw carried unanimously.*

ADJOURN: *With no further business Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adjourn at 11:01 a.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: January 4, 2021



Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Mike Baughn  
Mike Baughn, Chairman

Brad Flipse  
Brad Flipse, Member

Francis Britton  
Francis Britton, Member