

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting

October 31, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Mike Baughn called the REGULAR Commissioners Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Thomas County Historical Courthouse on Monday, October 31, 2022; followed by the flag salute (Pledge of Allegiance) with Commissioner Brian Luedke, Commissioner Brad Flipse, County Clerk Keesa Mariman, County Attorney Chris Rohr, Treasurer Layn Bruggeman, Landfill Director Travis Williby, Emergency Management Director David Becker, Paul Steele, Ron Alexander, Sonia Lopez, Michelle Morris, Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock, and Colby Free Press reporter Sloane Enninga (via Zoom).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: County Clerk Keesa Mariman introduced a new employee, Sonia Lopez, who will be working in the Clerk's office.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No announcements.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/REVISIONS: Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to approve the agenda as prepared; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

2023 LANDFILL FEES APPROVAL: Landfill Director Travis Williby talked about the annual Landfill Advisory meeting that was recently held at El Dos De Oros on the 21st of October. It was discussed that the City of Colby wanted a break on the fees as they are tearing some houses down to aid in the housing crisis we are currently in. Director Williby explained that they discussed tipping fees and they agreed to move the current fee of \$48/ton to \$50/ton in 2023 and are recommending that to the Commission. It was also agreed to raise the \$4 minimum amount fee to \$5. City Manager Ron Alexander explained that the City only budgeted for a \$1 increase on tipping fees rather than the \$2 recommendation. He also explained that the City of Colby is already looking at changing their own tipping fees in 2023 due to this big expense. They are partners with Thomas County and wish they could have had this conversation in January or February instead of now since the 2023 budget is already set. Paul Steele explained that the city can republish their budget for \$250. In his opinion on the committee and that \$1 equals 2% and from \$2 is equal to 4%. Steele explained that the goal is for the Landfill to stand on its own which it is projected to do in 2023. City Manager Ron Alexander explained to all citizens as the goal is for the Landfill to stand on its own which it is projected to do in 2023. City Manager Ron Alexander explained he isn't worried about republishing the budget, but that he would just like them to explain this ahead of this time instead of so late in the year with their budget in the future. Commissioner Brad Flipse wants to bring up that the Landfill is self-funded and it has been difficult to get to this point and he would like to sustain this going forward. Commissioner Brad Flipse also agrees that we are in this together with the City of Colby. County Attorney Chris Rohr stated that the statute doesn't say when you can meet so maybe the committee could meet earlier to try and work with the City of Colby on it in the future. Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to approve the Landfill Advisory Committee's recommendation to \$50/ton fee and the minimum fee to a \$5 minimum; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

RECESS: The commission stood at recess for six minutes and returned to Open Session at 9:25 a.m.

Landfill Director Travis Williby would like to implement a reprint ticket fee. He is getting a lot of requests for reprinting tickets and it is a big added expense each time. He would like to put a \$5 fee on it to try and avoid this from happening. Commission believes this is an administrative issue and Director Williby is a department head and he can adjust those rates as needed.

STATE TREASURER LETTER: Chairman Mike Baughn received a letter from the Coffee County Commissioners to the State Treasurer regarding KPERs. He would like to send a similar letter to the State Treasurer from Thomas County. Chairman Mike Baughn made a motion to send a letter to the State Treasurer in this regard; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

2021 TAX ROLL ENDING ABSTRACT: Treasurer Layn Bruggeman explained the abstract is just to show final numbers for 2021. She explained that Thomas County actually collected a little more percentage wise so she feels good about this. It ended up being a little over 1% of overall uncollected taxes. Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to accept the 2021 Tax Roll Ending Abstract; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE OCTOBER PAYROLL: Commissioner Brian Luedke made a motion to approve the October Payroll in the amount of \$388,826.01; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

APPOVE AP: Commissioner Brian Luedke made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Payment Registers as follows: Road and Bridge in the amount of \$153.75 and \$24,882.62, Noxious Weed in the amount of \$19,346.42, and Courthouse General in the amount of \$173,898.80 (as reviewed by both County Attorney Chris Rohr and Commissioner Brian Luedke); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

MISC: Commission received Treasurer reports, an invitation to the Rotary Veteran Luncheon on November 8th at noon at City Limits Convention Center, and an invitation to join Citizens Health at their groundbreaking November 2nd at 11 a.m.

RESOLUTION 2022-13-2023 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-13-Schedule of Meetings for 2023; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to adjourn at 9:47 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Keesa Mariman
Keesa Mariman, County Clerk

Dated: 12-12-2022

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THOMAS COUNTY

Mike Baughn
Mike Baughn, Chairman

Brad Flipse
Brad Flipse, Member

Brian Luedke
Brian Luedke, Member