

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, KS**

January 23, 2017

Commission met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. Randy Dallke, Comm. Dianne R. Novak, and Comm. Lori L. Lalouette present. Also present were Co. Clerk Tina Spencer and members of the press. Citizens in attendance for portions of the session were: Carl Stovall, Galen Penner, Kevin Suderman, Mike Beneke, Tom Britain, and Randy Crawford.

MINUTES: Dallke moved to approve the minutes of January 17th as presented. Lalouette seconded and motion carried 3-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Change orders affecting the 2016 tax year were reviewed by the Board and signed by Chr. Dallke.
- Insurance premium and dividend information was reviewed.
- Upcoming budget training was noted. Dallke and Novak asked to be enrolled.
- Ongoing and outstanding projects were reviewed and discussed briefly. No decisions were made.

Florence School Demolition: The community development block grant application was not approved for the demolition of the old school building in Florence. The reason stated was that the public hearing was held too late. The consensus of the Board was not to reapply in the next grant cycle. Lalouette suggested retaining the engineer on the project to assist with the demolition process. No decision was made.

CO. COUNSELOR: Counselor Susan Robson presented the final agreement for purchase of the Straub building for signature. The document was signed by the Board. Robson recommended title insurance be purchased after the CUP public hearing.

Robson reported that she is continuing to work on right of way acquisition for the project on 190th and is assisting the Planning/Zoning Department with some documents pertaining to a wind energy project.

Novak asked whether Robson might attend the weekly County Commission meetings. After further discussion, Novak moved to contract with Robson for Co. Counselor services for a period of six months (beginning February 1, 2017) at a flat rate of \$1,800.00 with no hourly limit and to have Robson attend the Commission meetings. After further discussion, Dallke seconded and motion carried 2-1. Lalouette opposed.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Supt. Jesse Hamm reported that the engineering services provided by NRCS for the project on 190th do not include the preparation of bid packets and construction contracts. BG Consultants submitted a written proposal to provide those services on the project at an hourly rate not to exceed a total service cost of \$1,000.00. Lalouette moved to contract with BG Consultants for said services at a total cost not to exceed \$1,000.00. Dallke seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Hamm said the landowner at Goldenrod and 320th is still insisting on placing the driveway for a proposed new home site within a flood plain and in an area that washes out on a regular basis. The consensus of the Board was to view the area at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 31st.

Hamm asked for a R&B work session to be scheduled to develop a project list for 2017. The work session was scheduled for Friday, February 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

Lalouette noted that the pay band for the Bridge/Culvert Supervisor still needs to be determined. No decision was made.

COMMISSIONER STATEMENT/RESIGNATION: Lalouette expressed appreciation for conversations held with many of her constituents and others in the County over the last few weeks, and offered clarification about her reason for running for County office. Lalouette stated that the reason she wanted to become a Commissioner is that she cares about the County - that the decision was not fueled by a desire for money or power. There was no personal agenda. Lalouette said she is the fifth generation of her family living here.

Lalouette also stated that as a Commissioner she did a lot of work behind the scenes, of which the public was unaware – researching issues, developing ideas and taking notes. She demonstrated this by showing several notebooks to those in attendance. She expressed regret that she had not yet had a chance to bring all of her ideas to the Board, but that she has spent a good deal of her term learning the many layers of all the issues and analyzing information to find solutions. She said that she spent a lot of time on the County budget, particularly on the EMS department, and that she has not been afraid to take a stand when representing her district.

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January 23, 2017, Continued

COMMISSIONER STATEMENT/RESIGNATION, CONTINUED: Lalouette acknowledged that she has demonstrated weakness in the area of communication and forming relationships. She expressed concern that any decision made about her position affects future plans, department heads, employees and the public. She said that recent events may send the message to employees that they will be scrutinized for taking time off; and that a change in power/leadership might affect their jobs. Lalouette encouraged everyone to keep an open mind and be open to working together.

Lalouette said that after thinking at length about what is best for everyone involved she has decided to resign from her position as County Commissioner effective March 20, 2017. She stated that she feels she will be better off helping the County as a citizen and would like a chance to present the information she has gathered to help the County move forward. She expressed the intent of working with her replacement to help bring them up to speed on issues and share the knowledge she has gained. She encouraged the Board and the public to treat her replacement with an open mind and to get to know the person before issuing judgment.

Chr. Dallke opened the floor for members of the recall committee to speak.

Kevin Suderman said he recognized that Lalouette had made a difficult decision and thanked her for her service. He wished her well in her future endeavors noting that there are many opportunities for leadership in the background that not everyone can see.

Galen Penner thanked Lalouette for her time and for making a good decision in the best interest of the County. He encouraged her to continue to be involved and supportive in other ways.

Chr. Dallke spoke to Lalouette's stated concern for the well-being of County department heads saying that department heads have already been affected at times by current circumstances affecting the Board. He encouraged Lalouette to offer input in the future.

Comm. Novak had no comments.

Randy Crawford said he can attest to the amount of time Lalouette spends researching and looking at projects.

Mike Beneke invited Lalouette to join him on the other side of the table to help shape positive changes for Marion County.

Crawford mentioned problems with 330th and said his company would be willing to assist with finding a solution. Lalouette said she would like the opportunity to present information about her ideas for the road.

DEPT. ON AGING: Dir. Gayla Ratzlaff reported that she is preparing for tax season and United Way has loaned the department a laptop computer and copier to use during tax season. Dallke asked how Ratzlaff offers these services to citizens outside of Marion. Ratzlaff said she often picks up information from people in other areas. To qualify for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), the income must be less than \$55,000.00/year.

Ratzlaff plans to lead a chronic disease class and is working to be qualified to train other volunteers to lead classes.

CO. TREASURER: Co. Treasurer Jeannine Bateman presented financial reports for the end of 2016. Cash on hand as of December 31, 2016 was \$28,533,664.51. FDIC and pledged security coverage was reviewed. Interest earned in 2016 was \$42,925.11. There was a total of \$53,274.36 in the motor vehicle operating fund.

- Bateman said the first-half tax collections as of December 20th were 58% and the first distribution for 2017 has just gone out to all taxing entities.
- The municipal investment pool was discussed briefly. Some funds are kept in this fund and are covered by state pledging. In addition, they are readily available to be used for bond payments when they come due.
- Dallke asked about upcoming training for department staff. Bateman said that several are going to training in February and March.
- Bateman asked what information the Board would like for her to be providing. Dallke noted that she should look for the best way to earn money on idle funds and also provide a list of the duties of her office along with deadlines so they are aware of any pending issues and to be sure that deadlines are met and no penalties are levied for being late with reporting.

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January 23, 2017, Continued

BOARD OF HEALTH: The Board convened as the Board of Health. Health Officer Diedre Serene presented a power point discussing the duties of the Board of Public Health and said that the main function is to protect the County as a whole and make decisions in a manner that benefits the overall health of the entire County.

Serene encouraged the Board to continue to offer flu shots to County employees. An invoice will be presented for the most recent round of shots in the amount of \$3,130.00. Dallke asked about flu clinics offered by the Health Department within the County. Serene said that they try to hit all the communities. For northern communities, the clinic is offered through the Centre School.

Dallke asked whether Serene will be hiring additional staff. Serene said that she is still waiting on some applications, but will report back at a future meeting.

Board of Health adjourned.

CITIZEN ROAD CONCERNS: Dana Gleason expressed concerns about the condition of Chisholm Trail between 90th and 120th in West Branch Township. R&B Supt. Jesse Hamm and Bridge/Culvert Supervisor Larry Cushenbery were present for this portion of the session.

Gleason expressed concern that debris still remains from tree side-trimming that was done several years ago. In addition, there is a plugged culvert in the area and they have not received rock or sand. There are several families living in the area, and Gleason said it seems that their area has been neglected. Some recent attempts by the department to clean up tree debris have caused damage to the roadway. Gleason said that he visited the R&B office several times and got no results until he scheduled time to speak to the Board.

Dallke said that Gleason's concerns are valid and apologized for the delay in action.

Hamm apologized for the department not getting the debris cleaned up and said that this area of roadway is on his list for rock and sand, weather allowing. He said that he is working very hard to be sure that no one in any corner of the County is neglected.

Novak said that County crews need to do a better job following through with projects until completion and to take pride in their work. She asked Hamm what the expected time frame would be for completing the clean-up in the area. Hamm said that he would like to have the sand completed within the next two to three months. The debris removal could be taken care of within the next few weeks.

REGISTER OF DEEDS: Register of Deeds Rebecca Wingfield let the Board know that the part-time staff person in her office has resigned and she will be seeking a replacement.

A continuing project in the office is to convert old documents to digital format. Record retention was discussed. Records regarding land transfers must be retained indefinitely.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Novak moved to enter executive session for 10 minutes to discuss personnel/performance. Dallke seconded and motion carried 3-0. (11:43 a.m. to 11:53 a.m.) Open session resumed with no action.

Dallke moved to adjourn. Lalouette seconded and motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Randy Dallke, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk