

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

February 19, 2019

Commission met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission chambers at the Marion County Courthouse with Chr. Kent Becker, Comm. Randy Dallke, and Comm. Dianne R. Novak present. Also present was Co. Clerk Tina Spencer. Present for portions of the meeting were Yvonne Cushenbery, Henry Ethem, Tom Britain, Dave Crofoot, Galen Eitzen, Ben Busenitz, Glenn Litke, Robert Sellers, Clarence Busenitz, Ron Redman, Ty Schreiber, Robert Loewen, Jim Ratzloff, James Loewen, Buddy Eitzen, Charlie Loewen, Russell Funk, Troy Wiebe, Eldon Wiens, Beverly Coover, Larry Coover, Larry Larsen, Staci Janzen, Steve Hanneman, Steve Gann, Chase Gann, Michelle Timmermeyer, Jeremy Loewen, and Collin Quiring, other members of the public, and members of the press.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

- Becker moved to approve the minutes of February 11<sup>th</sup> as written. Dallke seconded and motion carried 3-0.
- Budget reports for the month of January were reviewed.
- Change orders affecting 2018 and prior years' tax rolls were reviewed and signed by the Board.

**ROAD & BRIDGE:** Supt. Jesse Hamm was present for department business.

- The purchase of crushed concrete and millings, and stockpiling of road materials were discussed for future consideration. No decisions were made.
- Hamm requested an executive session to discuss personnel/performance for five minutes. Becker moved to recess into executive session to discuss personnel/performance pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319b (1) for matters of non-elected personnel for five minutes (from 9:37 a.m. to 9:42 a.m.) with the Board, Hamm and Spencer present, with open session to resume in the Commission room following the closed session. Open session resumed with no action.

**MARION COUNTY FOOD BANK UPDATE:** Gerald Henderson and Gene Winkler provided statistics on the number of Marion County individuals served, and thanked the Board for their support.

**FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER:** Dir. Ashlee Gann presented an overview of services and the financial structure / financial statements for the organization.

**AMBULANCE:** Dir. Travis Parmley presented statistics for the month of January. Proposed write-offs were reviewed. Dallke moved to write off \$8,892.02 in uncollectable accounts. Becker seconded and motion carried 3-0.

**WIND TURBINE DISCUSSION:** Planning/Zoning/Environmental Health Dir. Sharon Omstead and Jesse Hopkins-Hoel and Blake Johnson of National Renewable Solutions were present for this portion of the meeting. Several members of the public spoke, including Staci Janzen, Jeremy Loewen, Randy Eitzen, Larry Larsen, Chase Gann, Yvonne Cushenbery, Glenn Litke, Collin Quiring, and Charlie Loewen. Janzen and others encouraged the Board to initiate a moratorium on wind energy projects until several issues can be studied and to be sure that the Board has all of the necessary information. Some topics of concern raised by those in attendance included:

- New State legislation currently in committee (HB2273) regarding potential setback changes;
- Potential health concerns relating to turbines;
- Agricultural concerns, including the impact on aerial crop spraying and other issues impacting farming operations;
- Potential decline in property values;
- Preservation of farms and farming practices for future generation farmers;
- The need for proper decommissioning agreements to include footings;
- Increased / potentially unhealthy noise level;
- Possible disruption of emergency communication signals;
- Protection of non-participating landowners within and adjoining the project footprint;
- Effect on area wildlife / birds;
- Energy generated may not be available in Marion County;
- Aesthetics;
- Whether the area is appropriate for wind development (re: population / current agricultural use).

Hopkins-Hoel addressed some of the concerns, and clarified that no turbines are planned in the area South of Highway 50 and East of Highway 77 in the tallgrass prairie preservation area. He also urged the Board to consider both sides of the issue, remembering that numerous landowners have already chosen to participate in the project.

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February 19, 2019, Continued

**TRANSFER STATION PROJECT:** Dir. Bud Druse and Randy Purdue of Kaw Valley Engineering were present for a project update. Soil contaminants at the site are being tested and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will issue guidance on remediation. Depending on the extent of the problem, the project may be reconsidered.

- Dallke moved to approve pay estimate #1 in the amount of \$12,960.00. Novak seconded and motion carried 3-0.
- Purdue indicated that to-date time and materials above and beyond the bid are \$11,844.25. The cost is likely to rise dependent upon KDHE requirements.
- A potential HVAC change – eliminating/changing the heating system in the storage and bathroom areas for a savings of \$2,850.00 was discussed, but was not recommended by Kaw Valley. No decision was made.

Session recessed until 1:00 p.m.

**PAY PLAN WORK SESSION:** The proposed pay plan developed by McGrath Human Resources Group was discussed. Costs and different potential strategies for implementation were discussed. Pay plans from other Counties were discussed. No decisions were made. The topic was set for additional discussion on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** The Board instructed Spencer to schedule a special meeting with the County Counselor to discuss the issues raised earlier in the session regarding a possible moratorium on wind energy projects.

Dallke moved to adjourn. Novak seconded and motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

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Kent Becker, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina D. Spencer, County Clerk