

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting

October 29, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Mike Baughn called the REGULAR Commissioners Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Thomas County Historical Courthouse on Monday, October 11, 2021, followed by the flag salute (Pledge of Allegiance) with Commissioners Brian Luedke and Brad Flipse, County Clerk Keesa Mariman, County Attorney Chris Rohr, County Treasurer Layn Bruggeman, Building Maintenance Director Josh Faber, Register of Deeds Lora Volk, Road & Bridge/Noxious Weed Secretary Michelle Morris, Deputy Election Clerk Glenita Nodine, Landfill Director Travis Williby, Sheriff's Deputies Caleb Carter and James Giest, Margaret Ellis and Colby Free Press Reporter Sloane Enninga.

AGENDA: *Commissioner Brian Luedke made a motion to amend the agenda to include Justice Center Dedication/Historic Courthouse Open House date, Resolution 2021-19-Judicial disclosure, Digi Tickets, KAC Meetings update, and remove approval of Oct 11th meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

SPEC SHEET FOR VEHICLE BIDS: Sheriff's Deputy Caleb Carter sent out bids to Colby Dodge, Tubbs & Son's, and Herl's in Goodland KS. Tubbs was the only one to provide a bid so far. Commissioners would like to see more bids before deciding, discussion tabled for next month's agenda.

DRUG TAKEBACK BOX – Placement of Drug Takeback Box was never discussed. Chairman Baughn suggested placing it with the Drop boxes by the Justice Center and recommended they get with Maintenance Director Josh Faber.

CANVAS DATE/MEETING CHANGE – It was decided in the October 11th meeting to change the Nov 15th meeting to the 17th as Commissioner Luedke could not attend, however County Clerk Keesa Mariman explained that we need to work out canvassing for the 15th in order to follow statute. Chairman Baughn recommended having a small special meeting on the 15th. Commissioner Luedke made a motion to rescind the previous motion to move the meeting to the 17th, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

AP PAYMENT REGISTERS: *With both Commissioner Brian Luedke and County Attorney Chris Rohr reviewing all the invoices the motion was made by Commissioner Luedke to approve the following AP Payment Registers: Courthouse General - \$2,645,841.51, Noxious Weed \$479.73, Road & Bridge \$37,824.99 the motion was seconded by Commissioner Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

TAX ROLL CORRECTION – Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to approve the 2020 Real Estate abatement for David Zodrow with a refund amount of \$4066.72; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

2022 APPROVAL OF HOLIDAYS – Commissioner Luedke made a motion to approve 2022 Holidays as follows, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

New Year's day - Monday January 3rd

Presidents day – Monday Feb 21st

Memorial Day – Monday May 30th

Independence Day – Monday July 4th

Labor Day – Monday September 5th

Veterans Day – Friday Nov 11th

Thanksgiving Day-- Thursday Nov 24th

Day after Thanksgiving – Friday Nov 25th

Christmas Eve – Friday December 23rd

Christmas Day – Monday Dec 26th

New Year's Day – Monday Jan 2nd 2023

JUSTICE CENTER DEDICATION – Chairman Baughn, Glen Schiffner and Judge Berens recommended having the Justice Center Dedication with a Ribbon cutting Ceremony on November 16th at 1:30 pm at the same time as the Historic Courthouse open house. They will need an approximate number for snacks and refreshments. If cancelled due to inclement weather the backup date is Nov 19th at 1:30 pm. Commissioner Flipse made a motion to approve November 16th as the date of the Dedication/Open House, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

KAC CONFERENCE UPDATE – Chairman Baughn gave an update on attending the KAC Conference. Baughn mentioned 95 out of 105 counties attended the conference. Number 1 issue is trouble staffing the county especially EMT and Fire Departments. The number 2 issue was Home Rule, a bill in the state will be brought up to bring the counties more authority to not look into statutes. This would give the counties the authority to make those decisions. The Dark Store Rule is when large businesses want to pay taxes on a building as if it were vacant, which would be less than what they pay now. Another issue was the Harper funds and how that money is going to be spent and that they are working on a toolkit that counties need to watch for. The tax lid is also an issue. Commissioner Flipse was happy to see that other counties are dealing with the same issues as us and that we have been making the right decisions.

OPENING ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION – Director of Economic Development Vernon Hurd said there is an opening for the County position on the Planning Commission as Mark Miller is leaving. Jeremy Quint, Caleb Mattix and Tuffy Taylor all meet the requirements to serve on the committee. Director Hurd spoke personally with Jeremy and Caleb and they both have an interest and felt they both had good things to bring to the table, but felt that Caleb Mattix would broaden the perspective more. Commissioner Flipse nominated Caleb Mattix, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. County Clerk Mariman will send Caleb a letter letting him know he has been appointed to fulfill the rest of Mark Miller's term.

RESOLUTION 2021-19 – Before County Attorney Rohr can file this resolution the County Commissioners need to approve it officially. Mr. Rohr said the tax sale would take place in the next few weeks. Chairman Baughn moved to approve Resolution 2021-19, a Resolution by the Board of County Commissioners of Thomas County, Kansas Concerning Judicial Foreclosure and Sale of Real Estate Tax Liens, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

IRS VEHICLE TAX – The Commissioners were approached in the last few months that employees who drive to and from work in a Thomas County vehicle are to be accountable for that as a benefit to them. County Attorney Chris Rohr sent out sheets from ABBB on how each employee would need to calculate that. Department heads will be responsible for getting those turned into HR Director Keesa Mariman. Chairman Baughn and Commissioner Flipse would like this to go into effect Jan 1, 2022. Comments were made that the City of Colby currently takes out the benefit quarterly from employee's paychecks. County Attorney Rohr suggested whatever would be easier to manage in house for Human Resources would be his suggested way of doing it for Thomas County Employees.

DIGITICKETS – County Attorney Rohr has been talking with Sheriff Tom Nichols about implementing DigiTickets which is an electronic way of delivering tickets on the road because the Sheriff's office is still issuing paper tickets. This would allow them to be more efficient and increase safety on the road. County Attorney Rohr would like to put \$13,000 from his diversion fund if the Sheriff is willing to supply the other half from the forfeiture fund. Chairman Baughn made the motion to approve DigiTickets and for \$13,000 to come out of the Diversion funds and \$13,000 to come out of Forfeiture funds initially and for \$1,500 out of each of those funds every year after, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

SPEC SHEET FOR VEHICLE BIDS – Deputy Carter received a quote from Tubbs & Sons for a new 2022 Explorer. Commissioner Flipse made a comment about the discussion at the KAC conference about how difficult it is to get vehicles in across the nation right now. Commissioner Flipse made a motion

to accept the bid for \$31,000 for a 2022 Explorer from Tubbs and Son's, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. The Explorer will take about 3-4 months to arrive according to Tubbs and Sons.

ADJOURNMENT: *With no further business Commissioner Brian Luedke moved to adjourn at 9:58 a.m., the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

Keesa Mariman, County Clerk

Dated: _____

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THOMAS COUNTY

Mike Baughn, Chairman

Brad Flipse, Member

Brian Luedke, Member