

**September 18, 2023**

**Unofficial Minutes**

**Russell County Commission Meeting**

At 9:00 am Duke Strobel made the motion to open the meeting. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved. Others present for the meeting were: County Attorney Dan Krug, Administrator John Fletcher, and County Clerk Kristi Whitman. GIS Director Chris Brown and Jeannine Byers Long attended parts of the meeting.

Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023, meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded, and Daron Woelk approved.

At 9:00 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with John Fletcher in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded, and Daron Woelk approved. At 9:05 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

The Commissioners had their review.

Steve Reinhardt stated Randy Kilian called and asked the commission to consider reopening the bridge at 196<sup>th</sup> and Stickney Road. The commissioners discussed the bridge, and no decisions were made. The commission discussed changing the completion dates for haying next year.

At 9:15 am Duke Strobel opened the bids for the sale and removal of the white goods/ metal stockpile located at the Russell County Landfill. Daron Woelk made the motion to approve the bid from Pfeifer Recycling at \$130.00 a ton for the metal pile at the Landfill. Steve Reinhardt seconded, and Duke Strobel approved. Duke Strobel made a motion to close the bids. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, stated we were denied assistance by the state for the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Off System Bridge Program for OS84 on 185<sup>th</sup> Street and I-70 Road. We were awarded \$900,000.00 for the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program for the

FSA470 structure at 182<sup>nd</sup>, 11 miles south, and 2 miles west of Russell over Landon Creek. The track loader should be ready this week with repairs being made consisting of a new pump, reprogramming the computer, and replacing a roller. The commissioners discussed options of purchasing a new loader, leasing one, or finding a used one. No decisions were made. The chip spreader will be ready by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Then they can get as much done before it gets cold.

At 9:40 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Alan Kuntzsch and John Fletcher in attendance. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:45 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

David Gillmore, the Appraiser, stated he received his annual statistical and procedural compliance review for the 2023 appraisal year, using 2022 values. Russell County has met the criteria and is determined to be in substantial compliance. He received 91.1 out of 100, but he still has concerns about the commercial value ratio with the median at 64.6 and wants it to be at 90. Commercial is more difficult to value because of the lower number of sales. David reviewed the maps provided to County Clerk Kristi Whitman by the State of Kansas Property Valuation Division for the overall value changes from November 2022 to July 2023, broken out by overall, agriculture, commercial, oil and gas, and residential. Values continue to rise, and he is doing his best to be fair, equitable, and stay in compliance with the state.

At 10:15 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 15-minute executive session for attorney-client privilege with Dan Krug and John Fletcher in attendance. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved. At 10:30 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Sheriff Fred Whitman and Undersheriff Andy VanDerWege came in to discuss the car camera server. Andy stated the server for the in-car camera system with Safe Fleet/COBAN needs to be updated. There are two options. To replace the in-house server for around \$47,090.00 or move to a cloud-based system for around \$14,721.00 with a \$700.00 annual fee per vehicle for server, maintenance, and storage. They can use existing car cameras and if they decide to implement body cameras, the cloud-based system will integrate the body cameras easier. Duke Strobel made a motion for the Sheriff's Office to go to the cloud-based server for the in-car camera system in the amount of \$14,721.00 with the \$700.00 annual fee per unit with Safe

Fleet/COBAN. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved. Sheriff Fred Whitman presented his letter of resignation with a retirement date of January 1, 2024, and last day of December 15, 2023. The letter also stated his recommendation of Undersheriff Andy VanDerWege for the appointment as Sheriff.

Stephan Coleman, Maintenance Engineer, stated the cooling and heating system in the District Court area of the courthouse needs the manifold replaced, like what was done in the front area of the courthouse. The part will need to be built and this can take up to six weeks to do. The commission agreed to get the part ordered and get the repair done as soon as possible.

At 11:10 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for attorney-client privilege with Dan Krug and John Fletcher in attendance. Steve Reinhardt seconded, and Daron Woelk approved. At 11:15 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Checks were approved and signed to be deducted from the following funds:

100	GENERAL	\$ 70,099.87	290	GORHAM FIRE	\$ 156.23
110	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 50,980.12	300	LUCAS FIRE	\$ 988.90
130	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 1,284.80	310	WAL-PAR-NAT	\$ 804.79
140	4H	\$ 932.21	320	DORRANCE FIRE	\$ 271.60
150	CVB	\$ 762.76	328	RS CO FIRE #5	\$ 2,096.42
155	ED	\$ 2,455.30	330	APPRAISER	\$ 422.11
180	ELECTION	\$ 270.55	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 896.44
190	AMBULANCE	\$ 5,715.20	360	SOLID WASTE	\$ 1,397.71
260	HEALTH	\$ 76,649.89	718	CIT. RVW BRD	\$ 1,018.32

At 11:15 am Duke Strobel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Daron Woelk seconded, and Steve Reinhardt approved. The next meeting for the Russell County Commissioners will be Monday, October 2, 2023, beginning at 9:00 am in Commission Chambers, Courthouse.