

April 15, 2024
Unofficial Minutes
Russell County Commission Meeting

At 9:00 am Duke Strobel made the motion to open the meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. County Attorney Dan Krug, County Clerk Kristi Whitman, and Kevin Mravinec were also present for the meeting.

Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024, meeting and the minutes of the April 9, 2024, special meeting. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

The Commissioners had their review.

At 9:00 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Sheriff Andrew Van Der Wege, County Attorney Dan Krug, and County Clerk Kristi Whitman. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:05 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

At 9:06 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session attorney-client privilege with County Attorney Dan Krug and County Clerk Kristi Whitman. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:11 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Duke Strobel made a motion to add Ethan Dickerson to the Paradise Waldo Natoma Fire Department pending all paperwork being turned into the payroll office. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

Daron Woelk stated he received a complaint about a pothole on Amherst Road and if there could be a reduced speed sign placed before a bridge.

County Clerk Kristi Whitman had to leave the meeting. County Clerk Deputy Ronnie Gideon took her place.

Members of the City of Bunker Hill council requested approval to install Welcome to Bunker Hill signs in the city. They will call Dig Safe and install the signs. Duke made a motion to approve the installation of the signs. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. Also, the City of Bunker Hill will be holding their annual clean-up days on May 10th, 11th, and 12th.

Justin Mermis Road & Bridge Mechanic presented the Certified factory rebuild quotes for the trac loader from Murphy Tractor. Depending on the options we chose it would cost between \$267,347 and \$337,000 to rebuild.

County Clerk Kristi Whitman rejoined the meeting.

Duke Strobel stated he thought it best to repair the loader for \$20,000.00 and keep it as a backup and purchase a new loader. Discussion was held on what brand to purchase. Alan Kuntzsch presented the County Engineer's Report for 2023. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the County Engineer's Report for 2023. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. Lincoln Road was completed on April 9, 2024, but needs to have more gravel added to it. There is no speed limit sign on Luray Lane until you reach Luray City limits. Alan would like to see the road and recommend a speed limit sign. Once he has a recommendation, County Attorney Dan Krug will draw up a resolution for a speed limit. The State is done milling Highway 281 and Alan would like to purchase 8,000 tons of millings for about \$8.00 to \$10.00 per ton. They are already located at the landfill. Duke Strobel made a motion to purchase 8,000 tons of millings for about \$8.00 to \$10.00 per ton. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Alan has hired two new employees to fill the landfill and road and bridge positions.

Duke Strobel made a motion to approve half-price landfill fees for the Cities of Luray and Lucas for their annual clean-up day. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Duke Strobel made a motion to allow half-price landfill fees for one day per year for cities in Russell County for their annual clean-up day, as long as they inform Public Works Director Alan Kuntzsch. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Julia with the Central Federal Land Highway Division asked if Russell County Road and Bridge could provide flagmen during the inspection of Hell Creek Bridge. The commissioners agreed to provide flagmen for the inspection. Alan stated he is losing a blade operator and is assigning this position to someone else so the equipment will be parked in Paradise.

At 9:41 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Public Works Director Alan Kuntzsch in attendance. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:46 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, stated Mike Parsons, Executive Director Russell County Economic Development and Convention and Visitors Bureau, informed him there are federal grants that are 20% matching by the state. Alan would like permission to apply for the grants. The commission agreed to apply for the grants.

Lundy Settle, District Court Administrator; Judge Carey Hipp, Chief Judge; Heather Schlochtermeyer, Court Service Office; and District Court Clerk Carla Miller presented the 2025 District Court budget request of \$95,280.00 and an update of the district court system and future expenses.

Don Rivera, Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, presented an update on services and the 2025 budget request of \$7,000.00 to continue to provide support to Russell County.

County Attorney Dan Krug presented the order to vacate. Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, stated there were no issues associated with vacating this road. Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the road vacation described as that portion of Paradise Road lying between the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section 13-11S-12W and the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section 24-11S-12W, Russell County, Kansas, also described as that portion of Paradise Road lying one half (1/2) mile West of 199th Street. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.
(insert order to vacate)

Midway Extension District Representatives: Clint Laflin, Karrie Van Winkle, Jessica Kootz, and Craig Dinkel gave an update on Stay Healthy, Cancer research meeting, crop and horticulture, 2024 Russell County Fair, predator management, weed control, YQCA training, and livestock.

LaDana Seirer, Luray Senior Center, presented the 2024 annual report, 2025 funding request of \$11,962.00, services they provide, groups they support, and groups that support them.

Neal Unrein, Smokey Hill Trail Associates Board of Directors, presented a plan to replace markers and add some that are missing in Russell County along the trail.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, presented the Juvenile Block Grant Program with a budget of \$839,854.94 and gave an update on Juvenile Intake & Assessment, Prevention, Immediate Intervention Program, and Juvenile Intensive Supervised Probation/ Case Management. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented and authorize its submission to the Kansas Department of Corrections Juvenile Services. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. Brooke Hallmark, Central Kansas Community Corrections presented the Comprehensive Plan and Adult Agency Case Plan for the Fiscal Year 2025 for Central Kansas Community Corrections. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan and Adult Agency Case Plan for the Fiscal Year 2025 for Central Kansas Community Corrections and approve its submission to the Kansas Department of Corrections. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

Stephan Coleman, Maintenance Engineer, brought in a quote for the commission room remodel from Gruber Cabinets and Woodworking, LLC to add 2 desks and replace the countertop for \$4,650.00. The second quote request was never received. Duke Strobel made a motion to accept the quote from Gruber Cabinets and Woodworking, LLC to add 2 desks and replace the countertop for \$4,650.00. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

At 11:49 am Duke Strobel made a motion to adjourn the meeting until 1:00 pm. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved.

At 1:00 pm Duke Strobel made a motion to open the meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved.

At 1:01 pm Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel for an employee evaluation with Jennifer Buzzell, Noxious Weed Director, in attendance. Daron Woelk seconded; Steve Reinhardt approved. At 1:06 pm the meeting resumed with no action taken. Discussion was held on the age and condition of vehicles and equipment.

Friday Otuya with Nex-tech was late. He gave a quick introduction and rescheduled his appointment for May 6, 2024.

Kristi Whitman, County Clerk, presented the Cereal Malt Beverage license for Paige Kraus/ Lake Wilson Marina. Duke Strobel made the motion to approve the Cereal Malt Beverage license for Paige Kraus/ Lake Wilson Marina. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. Kristi also presented the March 19, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary Direct Expenses to be certified and approved by the commissioners. The expenses will be reimbursed by the State of Kansas in the amount of \$13,261.36. The commissioners certified and signed the direct expenses.

2023 Tax Corrections- 2024000048 through 2024000063 with a tax decrease of \$89,404.06.

2023 Tax Corrections-Trucks 2024000064, with a tax decrease of \$1,102.08.

2023 Tax Correction-Real Estate 2024000065 through 2024000070 with a tax decrease of \$3,209.22.

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

100	GENERAL	\$ 20,469.71	290	GORHAM FIRE #1	\$ 366.54
110	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 32,322.88	300	LUCAS FIRE #2	\$ 1,471.24
130	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 78,243.35	305	LUCAS FIRE #2 SPECIAL EQUIP	\$ 47,980.35
140	4-H	\$ 6,773.46	310	WAL-PAR-NAT FIRE #3	\$ 664.07
150	CVB	\$ 2,102.90	320	DORRANCE FIRE #4	\$ 223.74
155	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 3,002.61	328	RUSSELL CO FIRE #5	\$ 2,682.23
170	SPECIAL MACHINERY	\$ 45,000.00	330	APPRAISER	\$ 1,128.37
180	ELECTION	\$ 277.97	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 1,741.58
190	AMBULANCE	\$ 8,583.99	360	SOLID WASTE	\$ 7,266.26
260	COUNTY HEALTH	\$ 7,676.52	380	EMER. TELEPHONE	\$ 2,220.96

At 1:49 pm Duke Strobel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Reinhardt seconded; Daron Woelk approved. The next meeting for the Russell County Commissioners will be May 6, 2024, beginning at 9:00 am in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse.