

December 20, 2022,

Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

The Bourbon County Commission met in open session with two Commissioners (Jim Harris and Nelson Blythe) and the Deputy County Clerk present.

David, Neville, Anne Dare, Mary Pemberton, Clint, and Rachel Walker were present for some or all the meeting.

The Chairman opened the Budget Amendment Hearing for public discussion.

Anne Dare asked for verification of what was printed in the paper. I asked Susan last week because the numbers that they give and the descriptions across the columns are confusing. It's difficult to know if all those figures are over budget and if so, explain again why. Jim stated this is not over budget. This is that revenue exceeded budget authority and by doing this budget amendment it gives budget authority for like the landfill, revenue went up but also did expenses. So, you have to do a budget amendment so they can pay those expenses with additional revenue. No one is over budget, it's just additional revenue that has come in due to the landfill and Road and Bridge has the rock crusher on there which kicked that number way up, but they also spent it; so, you have to do that legally to give us the authority to spend that money. Mary Pemberton stated she finds it somewhat paradoxical that every time there is one of these, the commission, not picking on any one person and this goes way back before this commission, that it's why anybody doesn't show up to these meetings and tell us what they want. People do come and tell you what they want and nothing changes. It's like you don't listen. You still do the same things that's why it's frustrating for people to come and give their opinions and let's face it, we all have other things to do instead of coming to speak with no results. One example of that regarding the budget is when Anne asked the question last week as far as the Road & Bridge why that increased. The answer she was given was sales tax revenue was up. Yes, it was, but Road & Bridge had the majority at 85%. This can be explained with two reasons. One, revenues were and sales tax was up, but again the biggest majority of that was because we got a loan to buy a new crushing machine. Transparency would say if you were asked why we're having to amend the budget over two million dollars would not be to give the only 20% or less answer but to give the 80% reason which was to get a one and three quarter million-dollar loan to buy a crusher. Jim stated when Anne brought that up, I asked Susan if that was the scenario for getting the rock crusher, that's why it went up, and she said yes. Her answer to does the sales tax explain both of those and she said yes. She didn't offer any information if you hadn't had made that little comment. Jim stated that he could have given a little more details. Mary stated Jim could have given more information. It's the transparency thing. It gives the appearance that you're trying to hide what's going on. When you get a loan, government-wise they call it revenue, but everybody knows when you get a loan it's not revenue. You're spending more money than you have. Jim stated he would take the hit for that. I should have asked more questions for more details. I didn't say enough, but that was the loan proceeds for the crusher. Nothing hidden. The sales tax went up because oil went up and sales

tax revenue was up so we spent more money on oil to get overlays done. Mary stated the sales tax increasing is always a good thing. That's our goal to generate more sales tax, more property tax revenue so hopefully it lowers the mill levy. I appreciate the fact that you guys are actually looking at details spending and questioning some items. It seems like previous commissioners didn't think that was their job. You always need to look at the details to know where the money is going. I think, in the near future you need to look at efficiencies. Mary continued, how is it determined that certain department heads need to be attending every meeting. Jim stated that the department heads that are on the agenda work directly for the commission. They report to us. The others do not report to us directly. This gives us the opportunity for them to talk to all three commissioners. Mary asked if it was necessary for them to sit here for the entire meeting? Why not make their comment and leave. The IT department has at least two people here for the entire meeting. That's a lot of wasted hours. I don't care if you pay them salary or on an hourly basis it's wasted hours. There is work they could be doing and if there's not, we need to cut out some of those people that we have in that department. I think we pay the head guy quite a large some of money and if you were to calculate out how many hours he spends in commission meetings versus his salary you would find several thousand dollars that could be saved. He more often than not doesn't have anything to say when he's asked and it's seems like he could easily come in at an appointed time, say what he needs to say, kind of like the Road & Bridge guy does. He doesn't stick around for the entire meeting. He comes in, gives his talk and then he leaves and goes back to work, I hope. Jim states that he sets in the back where I can see him which is ok. Mary stated that some listen to the commission meeting in their office, but at least they are there if someone comes in. I would hope they would divert their attention from watching the meeting to helping them. Jim stated if an IT guy is doing his job well things are going smoothly of a morning. I know Shane works 60 - 70 hours per week because he's been heavily involved with the IT at the hospital, so he's busy. He works with the city because we have a shared services agreement with them. I'm confident that he is busy. Nelson stated that he appreciates Mary's concern. Mary stated optics aren't good. Nelson stated that he has learned not to let optics bother him working in law enforcement. He has been accused of a lot of things but lazy isn't one of them. Mary said she didn't accuse him of being lazy, I'm asking you, as his boss, what is the reason why these people spend 2-3 hours every week just setting in on commission meetings when they don't have anything to say or present. Why don't they work if they have something to be on the agenda, they come and present like any other employee or member of the public would do. Nelson stated that public members often stay for the entire meeting. Mary stated the taxpayers don't pay public members but we are paying for employees. Nelson stated that employees that are department heads or otherwise work for the commission it's probably good for them to have a wholistic idea of what is going on in the organization. It's not necessarily a waste of their time. Mary stated she isn't saying they should watch the meetings but I'm busy too that's why I don't get to come every week but I watch them in the evenings when I'm not at work like most everybody else does. Jim stated that this conversation has nothing to do with the budget hearing. Mary said it does have something to do with a budget because the payment effects the budget. Clint

Walker stated he understands the budget amendment and felt it was well explained the first time. The salaried employees that I know work a lot more hours than the public knows. Three hours here is a pittance to what they actually do. I've been there in the public trough where I come in at 4 in the morning and didn't come home until 2 and didn't get paid extra because I was salaried. Mary stated that her point was that if they didn't set here for 3 hours maybe they wouldn't have to put in all those extra hours.

Jim made a motion to close the Budget Amendment Hearing. Nelson seconded. Both approved.

Jim made a motion to renew the Cereal Malt Beverage Permit for Hidden Valley, 93 Hackberry Rd also known as Sugar Valley Lake Home Association. Nelson seconded. Both approved.

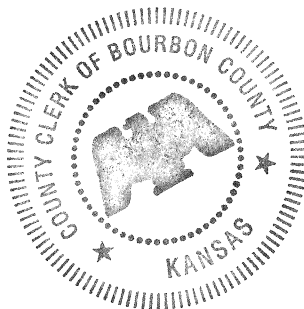
Nelson made a motion to approve the new budget. Jim seconded. Both approved.

Jim announced the next meeting will be on January 3, 2023.

Anne Dare asked why the rest of the agenda was wiped out. Nelson stated that Clifton was out ill. Jim stated that he is feeling ill and didn't want to have a meeting, but Ashley and Susan stated that we had to have the public hearing. Anne stated she understood but that we've had commission meetings before when someone was missing and you didn't wipe the whole agenda away. Jim stated that as of early this morning we weren't going to have a meeting and Susan and Ashley said we had to have the public hearing. Clint Walker thanked the commissioners and wishes them a Merry Christmas.

At 6:20 p.m., Jim made a motion to adjourn. Nelson seconded. Both approved.

ATTEST:



THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS

[Signature], Chairman  
[Signature], Commissioner  
[Signature], Commissioner

Ashley Shelton, Bourbon County Clerk  
1-3-23, Approved Date

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