

January 3, 2023,

Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

The Bourbon County Commission met in open session with all Commissioners and the County Clerk present.

Anne Dare, Matt Quick, Teri Hulsey, Jason Silvers and Clint Walker were present for some or all the meeting.

Reorganization of Board - Clifton made a motion for Jim Harris to remain as chairman. Nelson seconded. All approved.

Jim made a motion to reappoint Clifton Beth to the REDI Board. Nelson seconded. All approved.

Nelson made a motion that Jim Harris remain on the Landbank board. Clifton seconded. All approved.

Clifton made a motion to approve the minutes from the last two meetings (December 20 & 29). Nelson seconded. All approved.

Eric Bailey presented the culvert approval for December. We had three culverts. Eric presented the monthly fuel report. Eric gave an update on the sidewalk project. We are running a little behind due to weather. We hope to get the ADA painted and opened back up this week. We then hope to get started on the next phase. Chad and his crew are doing an outstanding job and we appreciate that. We received a KCAMP grant for \$2,000 for strobe lights for plow trucks and tarp for the landfill trailer. It was a risk avoidance grant. On the bridge grants that we applied for we did not receive any of those. When it opens back up, we'll apply again. Jim stated it wasn't surprising applying for the first time and not getting it. The big bridge near Clifton and a bridge on Jayhawk Rd and another on Grand. On the off system they received 99 applications for projects totaling 93.2 million and they awarded 20.5 million. On the big one by Clifton's area, they received 114 applications requesting assistance for 160.6 million and they were able to award 21 million to 11 projects. Eric continued we made it through our first winter storm. Temperatures got frigid. We found our weak links in our equipment. We did have a truck or two go down. One was chain on a spreader; the other went into limp mode def issue. We made a couple of equipment purchases; one a side-arm ditcher. This will give us an opportunity to get our ditches cleaned out. Bought the equipment used, but it was never used. We can work when wet or dry. We also bought a small compact roller off of PurpleWave. This will help us do small cuts and repairs in the road. We got a very good deal on this piece of equipment. Eric stated we did a blast at Beth quarry last week with 42,314 tons. We will be moving up there in the next couple of weeks to get started crushing there. We are still at Shephard now crushing the best we can with the material we have there. We've pulled the big rocks out, lined them up and jack hammer them and run them through the crusher. We put some cold patch in the pothole on 225<sup>th</sup>. When the weather gets better, we'll take the patcher out and seal

it up. Eric invited everyone to a retirement party this Friday for Charley Ballou at 11:30am at Public Works. Charley has done a good job for us, and we wish him well. Jim Harris made a motion to allow all three commissioners to attend. Clifton seconded. All approved. Eric stated that 5 of his crew including himself would be attending some training in Nashville. Be leaving Tuesday for our final training on our rock crusher. Jim Harris presented a "wish list" to Eric: Eagle Road; Jim asked Eric to work with Shane to do a grant to ask for a study for an overpass on Jayhawk Rd because those trains are stopping three hours at a time and the emergency vehicles can't get through. We've got to try something there. The metal bridge on 255<sup>th</sup> needs treated with something that would knock some rust and old paint off. I would like to start a study of some type, it will take a grant, on 245<sup>th</sup> that low area is becoming very narrow. The shoulders are slipping out which causes the asphalt to break out. Susan stated that they could combine those 2 studies because they are both truck routes. Nelson talked about tearing up Yale Rd. People are very unhappy about tearing it up. Is there any other option? The people want it left alone rather than to tear it up. Jim stated that this is like Eagle Rd. It became a safety issue. Commissioner Fischer had it reclaimed to make it safe for the school buses and that's about where you're at on Yale Rd. Eric stated to do it right it needs to be tore up, base rock put down and be compacted. Nelson stated if it gets tore up now it will be years before it gets repaved. Maybe we could just patch it up until we can tear it up and repave it the next year. Jim stated that if you want a good road in 10 years Eric has to reclaim it now.

Nelson made a motion to approve Accounts Payable. Clifton seconded. All approved.

Matt Quick stated that we are at the end of the 5-year cycle on the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. This program needs to be renewed and approved by commissioners. Matt continued that this is a great program, and it really needs to be continued. It's a good thing for the taxpayer and a good thing for the county. The plan is a rebate for improvements on your property. If you build a house, you will get a 95% rebate on the increase of your taxes. If your taxes go from \$1000 to \$2000 you get a 95% rebate back on that \$1000 difference for 5 years for residential. It has to be at \$15,000 improvement to the property. There is a \$50 one-time fee for residential, commercial. It's a great problem and a lot of people have taken advantage of it. Clifton asked why 5 years on residential and 10 years on commercial and also why \$15,000, why not \$7500. Matt stated that he could look at the changes. Matt said we could talk with Justin about making some changes. Clifton stated he would like to lower the \$15,000 and raise the 5 years. Clifton asked if we could table this until next week to make changes.

Teri Hulsey - Kraf Grant through the KS Board of EMS and asking the chairman sign. Dr. Burke has signed, I have signed and we need your signature to finish submittal. We are applying for a Hamilton ventilator and a Lucas CPR device and we also applied for two lifepak-15 monitors for the trucks. I also applied for the Fort Scott Area Foundation grant through them for more equipment. Clifton made a motion to allow

Chairman Harris to sign. Nelson seconded. All approved. Teri reported that we ended the month with 254 calls.

Ashley Shelton presented a resolution for the coming year. The first one is for holidays. I did not include Juneteenth because we didn't observe that last year. There was a poll of Kansas counties and it's about 50/50 of those that observe Juneteenth. I left it the same as last year. The next resolution is the GAP Waiver for Accounting. Another for the Designation of Depositories and Official Publication Carrier; a Rural Opportunity Zone Grant, it is the same as previous, we do not contribute money, but we do participate. Clifton made a motion to approve the 4 resolutions as stated by County Clerk, Ashley Shelton. Nelson seconded. All approved. Ashley presented the commissioners with the KAC renewal which is \$3,304.47. Clifton made a motion to renew the KAC renewal. Nelson seconded. All approved. Ashley stated we have received information KONE (elevator services) that states their prices are increasing due to the price of metal and other materials. Clifton said this is a specialized job and not just anybody can work on an elevator legally. Ashley stated that she received a letter stating the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Coroner is retiring and they have tried to find a replacement and haven't been able to. They are going with Forensic Medical. Miami County gets to make that decision due to population between the counties that are in that district. It is \$21,000 annually. They will ask for 1/3 of this amount later from each county. The amount will be \$7,000. They haven't asked for that amount at this time but wanted to let you know that will be requested. Nelson asked what we paid before. Ashley stated that Miami County paid that because it was part of his health director contract with them as he was also the coroner for the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Jim asked if we would still get individual bills on top of the \$7,000 for autopsies. Ashley stated we would as we have Forensic Medical is who we use as a county, this is just the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court District. Ashley stated that we also received a letter stating the Forensic Medical and their prices are going up as well. Ashley handed to each commissioner reports that were filed in my office by the County Attorney. One is in regard to the investigation, and one is in regard to a response from a letter submitted by Susan Bancroft to you. These will be subject to KORA and public record. Jim asked if this was the letter that was all over Facebook. Ashley stated that she assumed it was. It was filed in my office on December 20<sup>th</sup> but I have not released it with KORA requests because it was not presented in a meeting to you at that point.

Lora Holdridge, as a follow-up meeting from my request a few weeks ago to have my part-time person become full-time. We are only 35 work weeks. My person works 20 hrs/week now. I am providing \$10,000 out of my tech towards CIC so in essence I am paying for that. It would be the cost of the benefits. We will be working on more road records and Matt is doing more work on it as well. Jim asked if we were still a year or two away from new maps of the roads. Lora said it depends how much time we have to dedicate. We are starting in the SW part of the county and work through all of the county. Nelson asked how much money additional are you asking for. Lora stated \$20,000 additional which includes benefits. Susan stated we should be able to cover the wages with General Fund. The benefits are the biggest piece of it that

you'll need to cover from the Employee's Benefit Fund. There is some cash available there but that's kind of been held back for increases or changes. Lora stated that we are working on getting one map as you requested, and I need someone to be able to read that map. Nelson stated that since we stayed revenue neutral and we have the sheriff's office that has three positions that are no longer being funded by grants so we're going to have to get those funded somehow. The SRO position, we are still trying to figure out. They have to have benefits. I'm trying to figure out how to justify making a full-time employee there in mapping which has typically not been a job of Register of Deeds office and take that away from the sheriff's office that I think is in a bad spot right now. Jim stated the SRO and U235 is funded for the remainder of the school year with the MOU and a grant. There is no money budgeted for next fall. We also got a request for U234 and we didn't fund them either at the discretion of the sheriff who said we had no money. I agreed with him that there was no money. Nelson stated that Lora is doing a good job and there is no drama coming out of your office but where you're getting it done slowly. Is there a hurry on getting the mapping done that it would take priority over the sheriff's office. Lora stated are you wanting to tell the surveyors that are sending in more documents because they can't make it into the office, I'm sorry but you're going to have to make that trip into town. It's not just for mapping it's also taking the time to look at the maps, looking at the surveys because they are out in the field trying to do a survey and they're about 4 months behind and they are e-mailing us to go to the book and send this or look at this because I can't find a corner point and take a picture and e-mailed it to me real quick. Jim made a motion to move the part-time employee to full-time since you have the money for the salary and Susan said we have the money for the benefits. Clifton requested that it be tabled for 1 week. Jim seconded. All approved.

Susan Bancroft - CFO stated that she would allow Clifton Beth to talk about the bank bids. Clifton stated it's pretty simple, they're all pretty close at the end of the day. Landmark's is close to the same as last time. They are going to have to pay us 90% of the fed rate but not sure that is happening today. I think it's something we need to look into. According to something I saw it looks like they are only paying us about 10% of the fed rate. They are charging fees. Citizens Bank is pretty simple. They are going to pay 2.25% that was at the old 3.83 fed rate in November that was fed fund rate for November. I'm not sure where the fed funds rate ended in December, but that would be calculated off of that and no fees. It's as simple as it gets. UMB was very similar to Landmark, but it was a little more difficult to figure out. They will charge fees also. I like the KISS method, keep it simple stupid. It doesn't get any simpler than that I'm going to pay you X and we're not going to charge you any fees and there you go. Clifton stated that Citizens is a smaller bank, much more hometown bank in my opinion. My vote is to change. We haven't changed in 5 years. Susan stated that what she likes about the no fees is you potentially can have stop payments often and there's no dollar amount you can put on that other than they charge a \$25 fee at the other banks. Clifton stated at the end of the day they are all really close. One is going to pay you interest everything else is just there and the others are a whole heck of a lot more complicated. My vote is pretty simple. I want to go with the simpler solution which is Citizens Bank. Clifton made a motion to move

our accounts to Citizens. Nelson seconded. Clifton stated it will take some time and will be very, very important that Patty and Susan and Ashley work extremely close together to get this done in a timely manner. My opinion is this should be looked at every three years. Susan stated there will be a couple of months that there will be several accounts open to get everything shifted over. All approved. Susan talked about Section 2 of the employee handbook. It really talks about the at-will employment. Clifton made a motion to accept Section 2 of the employee handbook that we are an at-will. Nelson seconded. Nelson asked if all department heads received a copy for review. Susan said yes. All approved. Susan next spoke on broker selection. Assured Partners was the group we recommended. They sent us a serviced timeline. We have been approached by a local vender asking that we give them an opportunity to come in so the chairman has asked that we interview them. Susan stated that Diehl, Banwart, Bolton sent a letter stating that they will no longer be doing audits so we'll need to search out an audit firm for the 2022 audit. Probably need to do that sooner rather than later. Clifton asked Susan reach out to firm out of Chanute that DBB recommended. Susan stated that November financials will be on the next meeting. Susan stated that we've been holding REDI payments and would like to discuss how you want to handle this. As we close down the year that will be important that we get that in the current fiscal year. If we are not going to pay them then we need to discuss that as well. Clifton asked it be tabled for a week. I hate to talk about an entity that isn't here to defend themselves. Susan asked Ashley how long before you close down the year as far as accounts payable. Clifton stated we should probably go ahead and make the last payment. Ashley stated the last of January. Jim stated that if we made a commitment we should go ahead and make the last payment.

Shane Walker - CIO stated the hospital is halfway to transitioning them to their own systems and we will remain in the building with infrastructure due to EMS. Probably another week or two and then we'll start upgrading in here. We'll have to run fiber between offices and switches. That will be a twenty-year upgrade that we won't have to touch for a long time.

Jim called 5-minute break.



Clifton made a motion for Executive Session KSA 75-4319(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of individual nonelected personnel to protect their privacy job performance and job duties including 3 commissioners for 20 minutes returning here at 10:25am. Nelson seconded. All approved. Clifton made a motion to return to normal session with no action. Nelson seconded. All approved.

Public Comment: Clint Walker stated that the county needs to look forward and I've set through meetings and our county Register of Deeds has told you that she will be retiring and her second in command retire there's going to be nobody in that office that's trained. I've seen instances where people get into positions that don't have the experience and the county has had issues ever since. Clint continued that when he moved to his current residence a culver was put in they put in road rock and so

what happened was in three to six months they came back and put gravel over the top of it and it's now smooth as a babies behind. The same thing when talking about Yale Rd. You are wasting your money if you don't go all the way back. Jim stated Yale Rd is a project I hope we start someday because those folks deserve a good road but there are steps, we have to take during the process to make it work. Clint stated that he used to drive Yale and his wife drove it while doing health care and you could drop a wheel in one of those potholes and take your whole front end out. Jim stated that as Eric mentioned you patch one week and the next week the pothole is next to the patch. Anne Dare stated the county committed to help fund REDI for three years. When will that be up? Clifton stated this year. Anne continued some of that money came from pilot funds remind me what the total pilot payment is. Clifton stated \$375,000. Anne continued with \$125,000 should be available if we don't pay REDI I would caution you to use that money for current needs not new projects.

Commission Comment: Clifton stated that nation-wide our economy is changing significantly. I know from a sales tax standpoint, from multiple things with interest rates now at 7 or 8 percent or more and a mortgage at 25% on credit cards or more. Ashley had letters from several that their rates are going up. We don't have revenues going up, we could actually have revenues going down. With that I would like to make a motion to do a temporary hiring freeze for Bourbon County. Until we have more knowledge of our financial situation. Jim asked when we get our first tax distribution. Susan stated January. Clifton stated that we have to tighten our belts and we'll now actually mean it. Nelson seconded. Susan stated that by the end of January we should know if we hit our targets for budget. If we don't then there will have to be cuts made in the current year. Nelson stated that they are looking at hiring an SRO since the school district is paying for it. I don't want to put a stop to that. Jim stated that we didn't not budget for SRO. If the schools have one it would not be a county employee because we are the only one who can enter an MOU with the school board for an SRO or any other position. Clifton stated he would like to revisit this the first week of February. My opinion is things are not going to be rosy. I know things cost more at my house and I would be really shocked if it doesn't cost more in this house. All approved. Jim stated there is a town-hall meeting at the Empress Center on January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. One of the things on the agenda is housing. We need to make a plan or quit talking about it. The second part of the agenda will be opened up to the public and have a real town-hall meeting discussion with the public with their concerns and questions. Jim made a motion to allow all commissioners to be there. Clifton suggested we have a meeting in the NE part of the county either Fulton or Hammond Community Center in February. Clifton asked Susan to reach out to Fulton and Hammond to see about availability. Clifton seconded. All approved. At 10:39am, Jim made a motion to adjourn. Nelson seconded. All approved.



 , Chairman  
\_\_\_\_\_, Commissioner  
 , Commissioner

Ashley Shelton, Bourbon County Clerk  
1-10-23, Approved Date

