

January 31, 2023

Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

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

Clint Walker, Patty Ropp, Jason Silvers, Deb McCoy, and Anne Dare were present for some or all of the meeting.

Jim Harris welcomed Jennifer Hawkins who was recently appointed as County Clerk.

Nelson Blythe made a motion to approve the minutes from last week's meeting. Clifton Beth seconded, and all approved.

All three Commissioners signed the report for the accounts payable that were approved last week.

Eric Bailey, Public Works Director, gave an update on the sidewalk and parking project on the north side of the courthouse. The sidewalk is about 2/3 poured and he hopes to complete that and part of the guttering by the end of the week. Eric stated they are battling the freezing temperatures but are moving forward and trying to get more parking opened up. There have been questions about the work being done at the intersection of Jayhawk Road and Liberty Bell Road, the crew is ditching and removing trees to improve drainage and visibility at the intersection. Eric said they are going to continue to open up the ditches down Liberty Bell Road to Niece Products. All Public Works employees are scheduled to attend an annual MSHA refresher course on February 8th so they can obtain the proper training and paperwork to work in the rock quarries. Eric touched on the recent snowstorm, stating they made it through and it was mainly slushy with a few isolated slick spots. On a positive note, all five trucks are now up and going, and they will have plows and salt boxes on all of them so we are ready should we get a big snowstorm. Jim commended the crews and said they did a great job. Eric said they started at 4 a.m. to get out and plow the roads before people left for work and school, and they were able to complete the snow removal without overtime. The ambulance that was sent to Joplin to have the head gasket repairs is now back and will be in service today. The final cost of the repairs was \$6,756.76. Eric thanked Jennifer for the work she did in Public Works and said they will be advertising for the office manager position. Eric requested a 10-minute executive

session. Clifton made a motion to go into executive session KSA 75-4319(b)(6) for the preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property including the three Commissioners, Eric Bailey, and Susan Bancroft for ten minutes and they will return to the Commission room at 9:17. Nelson seconded the motion and all approved. Clifton made a motion resume normal session at 9:17 with no action, Nelson seconded and all approved.

Kathy Brennon, the new executive director of the Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging, introduced herself and explained some of the services they provide. They have a nutrition program which is home delivery of meals and meals in a congregate setting. The congregate setting closed due to COVID, but they are in the process of getting that started again out of the Bourbon County Senior Citizens building. They will provide the space, and the Agency on Aging will provide the staffing and food and manage the program. Case management is another service provided and they provided over 180 hours of case management support in Bourbon County in the last year. Nearly 6,000 hours, which equaled over \$100,000 of in-home care such as cleaning, personal care, and respite services were provided to more than 30 people. There is a Care Giver/Alzheimer/Long Term Care support group that meets in Fort Scott on the third Wednesday of the month at Papa Don's. Legal services through Kansas Legal Aid, Lifeline, and eyeglass repair are some of the other services they provide to residents over 60. Kathy stated Bourbon County Meals on Wheels doesn't exist anymore, so the checks Bourbon County provides monthly go to Bourbon County Senior Citizens. \$53,000 is paid annually to Meals on Wheels but only \$13,200 was sent to the SEK Area Agency on Aging in 2022 for their nutrition program. They asked to be paid directly instead of having Bourbon County Senior Citizens send them a check. Nelson asked if they were the only organization who delivered meals to the elderly in Bourbon County, and Kathy stated she believed so. He also questioned where the remaining \$40,000 goes and Kathy responded it goes to Bourbon County Senior Citizens. Clifton said it has been an ongoing thing to try to find out how the money is being spent, whether it is providing service to all of Bourbon County, or just in Fort Scott. Clifton said he would like to hear from the director of Bourbon County Senior Citizens to explain where the money goes. Kathy stated the SEK Area Agency on Aging provides hot meals to citizens in Fort Scott and Uniontown and a week's worth of frozen meals to others who live in very remote areas of the county who are unable to leave their homes. Jim said he would like to work with both organizations to find out exactly how the funding the county provides is spent to ensure it is being used for residents of Bourbon County.

Sheriff Bill Martin presented to Commissioners Superior Emergency Response Vehicles' proposal for \$53,660.00 per vehicle which includes: cameras, radios, radars, and everything that needs to be taken out of our vehicles and placed in the new vehicles. Sheriff Martin asked for permission to purchase the two 2022 Ford Police Interceptor AWD vehicles that are on the lot. Bill said that Superior Emergency Response Vehicles is holding the vehicles until he could



get approval from the Commission since he had previously obtained approval several months ago, but the deadline had passed and he was unable to order the new vehicles. Bill gathered bids from local banks, but Susan suggested paying cash to avoid paying the interest fees. Jim recommended paying cash to avoid paying interest. A 2014 Sheriff's vehicle was totaled, and KCAMP will be sending a check for approximately \$5,100. Due to the different style of the vehicles now the equipment from the totaled vehicle cannot be put into a new vehicle. Nelson asked if the new vehicles would come with the lights and sirens and Bill said yes, they would be turnkey. Clifton made a motion to allow Sheriff Martin to purchase the two vehicles from Superior Emergency Response Vehicles with cash for a total of \$107,321.00, Nelson seconded and all approved. Jim suggested Bill spend some time with Susan as she found a way to fund two deputy positions.

Jim discussed the Coroner Cost Sharing Agreement between Bourbon, Linn, and Miami counties. The population difference of Miami and Bourbon County was discussed but that will not affect the 1/3 of the agreement we would pay as this is just a retainer fee for the coroner. Nelson asked who the point of contact would be for the coroner for when law enforcement needs them, and Ben Cole stated to call Frontier Forensics who contacts the coroner. Clifton made a motion to accept the coroner cost share agreement and allow Chairman Harris to sign it, Nelson seconded and all approved.

A short break was taken, and Commissioners resumed normal session at 9:45.

The Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission agreement was presented, and Jim explained how they assist in writing grants and helped manage the SPARK grant we received a few years ago. Anne Dare questioned since we have Bourbon County REDI if it was necessary to use this group. Jim recommended to renew the agreement for another 12 months to make sure REDI is getting their feet on the ground since they have a grant writer now. Nelson questioned if we have already agreed to pay SEKRPC this year, Clifton stated we have budgeted for it, but we still have to sign the agreement each year. Susan Bancroft clarified the services provided by SEKRPC, stating the administration of CDBG grants is very rigorous and requires specific guidelines be followed and onsite inspections of some projects that REDI may not have the staffing to be able to do. Clifton made a motion to pay the dues of \$4554 to the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission, Nelson seconded and all approved.

Clint Walker said he had a few questions about taking duties out of the Clerk's office and when the discussion of this took place. He asked if it was in executive session because they were given to a contract employee, but it involved an elected official, and nothing was discussed in

any meeting. He also questioned combining Emergency Preparedness and whether it was discussed with employees in executive session and why they didn't come back into normal session with action taken. Clint discussed the reorganization that took place and again asked when that happened, and Jim explained that non-elected identifiable individuals were discussed in executive session and that they did not make any changes to elected official's positions as they have no jurisdiction over them. Clint said he didn't feel that the public should have to make a KORA request to get the job descriptions and salaries of employees. Clint said the prior Emergency Preparedness Director would write letters to the newspaper and he would like to see those and CODE Red continue.



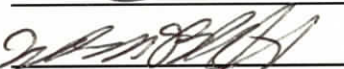
Clifton said he felt that the Commission needed to look at the boards they serve on and reassign members such as the SEK Regional Juvenile Detention Center. He felt since Nelson was in law enforcement, he might be a better fit for that board. Nelson stated there might potentially be a conflict of interest for him to serve on that board. Anne questioned if there are state statutes that require the Commission to be on the various boards. Jim and Clifton explained that in the bylaws of some of the boards such as the Landbank it specifically states one county Commissioner be on the board. Clifton said that a lot of boards ask for a Commissioner because we give them money, but there is no reason we can't appoint private citizens because that has happened in the past, but he does not personally agree with that. Anne Dare said she would like to see citizens take more of an active role. Jim asked if Clifton would like to place the appointment of Commissioners to various boards on the agenda next week and Clifton state he would.

Nelson Blythe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00, Clifton Beth seconded and all approved.



ATTEST:

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS

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

Jennifer Hawkins, Bourbon County Clerk

2-7-2023, Approved Date