

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
JANUARY 11, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 –  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
              10:00 – County Discussions

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter with the Hugoton Hermes, was also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	200,329.15
Road & Bridge	\$	44,396.15
Airport	\$	10,140.84
Noxious Weed	\$	3,735.82
EMS	\$	8,476.14
Fire	\$	8,393.61
SPARKS - COVID19 Grant	\$	11,765.55
Community Health	\$	9,553.47
Community Health Grant	\$	4,993.86
Sheriff	\$	37,311.56
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	23.68
Employee Benefits - KWORCC	\$	60,877.00
Fair	\$	36,084.50
Svc. For the Elderly	\$	70,388.00
Insurance Agency	\$	159,277.00
Insurance Agency Damages	\$	2,239.18
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Ambulance Bequest	\$	4,600.00
Highway Improvement	\$	81,654.40
Library	\$	58,627.25
Employee Library Benefits	\$	31,519.00
Hospital Maintenance	\$	548,467.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,393,065.66</b>

Shelby Martin came in and expressed her interest in the position at the Wellness Center when Elaine Rowden retires. She told the commissioners she has worked for the Wellness Center for several years and has received an ISSA certificate. She would like to see the facility become more successful and different classes with different times added to meet the needs of the public.

The commissioners decided to revisit the situation when Elaine does retire.

Discussion about the policy on accounts payable, when they are due to the clerk and how the clerk handles the billing. Amy Jo said if a department head chooses, they may assign an employee to sign the bills to be turned in for payment. Pat said the late fees should not be as frequent as they are.

Kelsee Burnett came in and swore in the newly elected officials: Pat Hall, Commissioner District 3; Tron Stegman, Commissioner District 2 and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk.

Tony Martin and Roger Beesley were in attendance and the commissioners presented Roger with a twenty-five (25) year gift.

Tony said they have been cleaning the landfill and noxious weed departments and wanted to get rid of the large A/C which was on top of the courthouse at one time. He would also like to touch base with Rodney and Paula to see if the items they have stored can be disposed of due to damage caused by mice.

Tony brought in prices of forklifts from United Rental and Van Diest. They range from \$12,000.00 to \$17,000.00. Tony expressed interest in a 2012 forklift with 5,000 hours for \$12,000.00 from Van Diest.

Pat made a motion to waive the policy of requiring bids of items costing \$5,000.00 or more and to purchase the Toyota forklift from Van Diest with 5,000 hours for \$12,000.00. Joe seconded, motion carried.

Road and Bridge will slowly be getting rock in for the summer projects. Tony is hoping to hire someone soon to help at the landfill with the rotating Saturdays so the county will not be paying overtime for employees.

The weed chemical test was given in Garden City and four (4) out of five (5) employees passed. Tony will be sending a few to the school in Manhattan for more chemical education.

Ted Heaton was in and had nothing to report.

Joe made a motion to accept **Resolution 21-01** for the financial statements and financial reports for the year ended December 31, 2020 to be prepared in conformity with GAAP. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Joe made a motion to accept **Resolution 21-02** for participating in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Joe made a motion for the Hugoton Hermes to be the official county newspaper. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Joe made a motion for Citizens State Bank to be the primary depository and Equity Bank to be the secondary depository for Stevens County. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Joe made a motion to keep Tron Stegman as Chairman for the commissioners. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Joe made a motion to place Pat Hall as Vice Chairman for the commissioners. Tron seconded. Motion carried.

Ross Sullivan came in and informed the commissioners the groundhog dinner banquet is on the calendar. He asked if there is still a limit of One Hundred (100) people for Memorial Hall guests or if that has been lifted. The commissioners said the Soil Conservation is limiting to the first One Hundred (100) people for their banquet, but feel the renters should be allowed to decide. The COVID case numbers have gone down and they are hoping people will use their best judgement.

Amy Jo brought up finding someone to replace Marilyn in the future to help clean the Memorial Hall kitchen after events. The commissioners and Ross agreed it would be helpful.

Amy Jo asked the commissioners if they were entertaining a COLA for 2021 or if they were going to pass this year. There was a brief discussion to give \$1,200.00 per year to fulltime employees or just give a straight three percent (3%).

Pat made a motion for all fulltime employees to receive a COLA of \$1,200.00 for the year and all part time employees to receive two percent (2%) COLA's for 2021. Tron seconded. Motion carried.

The commissioners instructed Amy Jo to get Tony Martin a Planning and Zoning board member list so he will know who to contact for meetings.

Brief discussion over the zoning for elections was held to see if there is anything to do for the census. Amy Jo said she will check into it to make sure everything has been done.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
JANUARY 25, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 –  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
              10:00 – Christian Brothers Construction

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter with the Hugoton Hermes, were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	55,694.90
Road & Bridge	\$	36,776.53
Airport	\$	34,352.04
Noxious Weed	\$	1,539.14
EMS	\$	5,692.43
Fire	\$	2,592.63
Building Fund	\$	342.20
Community Health	\$	12,023.04
Road Machinery	\$	12,000.00
Highway Improvement	\$	24,887.86
Airport Grants	\$	11,577.76
911 Wireless	\$	114.40
Sheriff	\$	31,248.33
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	4,023.68
COVID - SPARKS	\$	15,891.61
<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$	<u>248,756.55</u>

During the review of the bills, Pat asked about the CARES funds for the airport. Amy Tharp said the airport received funds from a grant separate from the CARES act the SPARK Committee is delegating. Pat asked about other airport grants. Amy said the airport requests their grants. Some are paid in advance and others are set up as reimbursements. The commissioners instructed her to send the most recent airport minutes to them.

Pat said he would like to get the contact information of the company handling the tax sale because nothing has been done yet. The commissioners stated they will have Paul give them a call and see where and how close to the tax sale the county is.

Rodney Kelling was in attendance and brought up the discussion of a new brush truck. He said he would like to replace the 1980's brush truck with a newer one because parts are hard to find. Rodney would like to get a 1,000 to 1,500 gallon water tank on a freightliner which would cost around \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00. Rodney told the commissioners he believes he has \$190,000.00 in the fire equipment fund and if he has enough left from the fire fund to roll over into the 2021 year, he would have enough for the new brush truck.

Rodney said he would also like to discuss trading in the Emergency Management pickup. It is a 2012 and has 75,000 miles on it which would make it a good trade in. Joe asked Rodney if he would rather trade in the older Emergency Management truck (2003 about 150,000 miles) for a newer one and use the 2012 truck as the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) vehicle, as needed.

Rodney and the commissioners discussed the vehicles at length with possibly looking at smaller models with a smaller tank for the brush truck, leasing the brush truck, trading one (1) truck in at a time and other ideas. The commissioners would like to see the brush truck sometime soon. Rodney was instructed to get ideas of what he would want in spec sheets and what the costs could potentially be. Discussion has been tabled until later.

Tony Martin came in and presented the commissioners with the list of Fair Board members to be accepted for new and/or continuing terms.

Pat made a motion to accept the Fair Board members as listed on Tony's page. Joe seconded, motion carried.

Tony said there is approximately \$53,000.00 left in Noxious Weed Department to help purchase more chemicals and let the employees use it for classes.

There are three pickups, a 1999, 2005 and a 2013, currently at the Road and Bridge department. Tony wants to trade in three (3) pickups for two (2) new ones for Road and Bridge and take two (2) others from Road and Bridge for the landfill. There are currently eleven (11) pickups at Road and Bridge, four (4) for each territory, one (1) shop, one (1) for mowing and two (2) diesel trucks to pull trailers.

Commissioners suggested Tony write up specs to review at the next meeting. Joe asked if Tony is hiring anyone at Road and Bridge. Tony responded he would like to find someone.

Pat asked if it is possible to stop purchasing chemicals. Tony said there are two (2) people who still want chemicals to get rid of rodents.

Tony is sending two (2) employees to weed school to be able to be the director for noxious weed. The license will be good for three (3) years and require eight (8) hours of continuing education thereafter.

Joe made a motion to appoint Jack Rowden to the Eco Devo board. Pat seconded, motion carried.

Pat brought up Paul Kitzke's budget and stated their intent was not to cut his budget along with everyone else and wanted to know what needs to be done. Amy Jo said Paul's budget will come out of the general if he goes over but will contact the auditors to see what can be done about it.

Joe made a motion to decline COLA for the commissioner's pay. Pat seconded, motion carried.

Paul stated he is declining the COLA raise.

Ted Heaton was in and told the commissioners he had to contact Tatro Plumbing to fix the water sprinkler leak at the Sheriff's office. Tatro was the only one able to work with three inch (3") copper.

Jeremiah Johnson and Jan Leonard were in attendance along with Christian Brothers Construction (Zac Carlton and Paul Lehmkuhler). Jeremiah said the county has the Pioneer Lots valued at the agricultural rate of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per lot. He said KSA 19-211 states if the value of the property does not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), a publication in the paper shall not be required prior to the sale of property. The statute also states if the property has a value of more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) but less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), the commissioners must publish as part of KSA 19-227 requirement.

Paul Kitzke said he intended to get the lots to them the best way possible. He asked Jeremiah to come in today to get the title work done and get a clear title. Since the lots are valued under One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), there does not need to be a notice or publication in the Hugoton Hermes for public hearing. Jeremiah said the County Clerk will have an affidavit to comply with the terms of the value not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)

Pat asked if the costs of specials are included in the statutes cost. Jeremiah said no, only the appraised cost. Paul Kitzke said the process has been slowed down to make sure everything is done correctly. Jeremiah did deeds for every half (1/2) block but was not sure how many were being purchased at this time. Paul Kitzke said six and a half (6 1/2) lots is what they are wanting to start at.

Zac asked Jeremiah if the lots are zoned as residential since they are appraised as agriculture. Jeremiah said they are zoned as residential just set at agricultural value.

Jeremiah reaffirmed with the Christian Brothers and County Commissioners the purchase price is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per half (1/2) of a lot and they are purchasing Block 2, Lots 1-3.

Amy Jo discussed with the commissioners the bid opening on the 4-H building. She said several people have called inquiring about the bids. The commissioners set the bid opening to be held February 8, 2021 at 9:00 AM in the Commissioner Meeting Room.

The commissioners asked for the legal on the land, located next to Carter's Grocery Store, that is being discussed by Garnands.

Abatement Orders for taxes 2020, numbered 20 through 28 were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 28,626 with a relief assessment of \$4,130.13

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 – Bid Opening – 4H Roof  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
            10:00 – Chris Landrum – INA Alert  
            10:30 – Jayme Muncy - Employees

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

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911 Wireless	\$	114.40
Sheriff	\$	31,248.33
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	4,023.68
COVID - SPARKS	\$	15,891.61
<u>OBJ</u> TOTAL:	\$	248,756.55

Rodney Kelling came in and told the commissioners he wants to replace the 1965 Ford F660, which holds 1600 gallons of water, with a new fire truck. He plans to take the 1990's model 4x4 fire truck to Moscow. He said the Fire Equipment fund has enough funds.

Joe said he feels the fire truck is a higher priority at this time as opposed to a new first responder truck. Rodney said he will get a spec sheet and bring it in for approval to set up a bid opening date.



Pat made a motion to pay the Attorney and County Counselor fees in 2021 the same as the previous year for the total amount of \$6369.00 per month. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Ron Honig with the 4H was in attendance for bid openings along with Nate Wolters from Wolters Construction. Two (2) bids were presented to the commissioners:

- |    |                      |             |
|----|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Wolters Construction | \$14,230.00 |
| 2. | AK Roofing           | \$31,247.00 |

Nate told the commissioners the bid was without the electrical work. They did receive a quote from Hancock Electric in the amount of \$2,145.12 to run the electric with LED lighting after the roof has been repaired.

Comparing the bids with the spec sheets and further discussion, the commissioner reached a decision.

Joe made a motion to accept the bid from Wolters Construction to repair the 4H roof in the amount of \$14,230.00. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Pat made a motion to accept the electrical quote work on the 4H building from Hancock Electric for \$2,145.12. Joe seconded, motion carried.

Travis Coulter was in attendance representing AK Roofing.

Ron Honig told the commissioners the 4H did receive a grant from Southern Pioneer Electric to help fund the roof repair.

Pat said he would like to see the work completed by May 1, weather providing.

Ron Honig requested approval from the commissioners to make more improvements to the 4H building with private funds. He would like to look at new flooring and making repairs to the restrooms. The commissioners were not opposed to Ron's suggestions.

Tony Martin presented the commissioners with a bid sheet for two (2) pickups and requested to have the bid opening on February 22 at 10:00 AM. Tron suggested Tony send specs and opportunity to bid to more than one (1) car dealer so the bids will be fair. He stated policy asks for more than one (1) company to bid but understands if only one (1) company submits bids.

Tony discussed planning and zoning with the commissioners. He stated the dairy is adding an aerator to their system to trap gasses to haul to California. He asked the commissioners if they will be requiring a permit for the addition. He said some counties do require a permit and others do not. Tony doesn't feel there needs to be a permit for this addition.

Tony told the commissioners Stoppel Dirt Contractors wanted to see about getting a quote to receive 120 loads of dirt for some property. Tony told them the county will need dirt to cap off one of the solid waste pits as well as already promising the Christian Brothers dirt. The commissioners agree with Tony and do not believe it to be feasible to let out 120 loads of dirt.

Jan Crawford spoke with Tony and asked if he could mow the ditches for Stevens County. Tony told the commissioners Stanton County hires out people to mow the ditches but they also have fewer employees. Currently it takes ten to twelve (10 – 12) days with two (2) fifteen foot (15') mowers working Monday thru Friday, eight (8) hours a day. Tony said Jan has two (2) eight foot (8') tractor mowers which will take more time than the county. Tony is not interested at this time due to the possibility of something happening to Jan's mowers because of the ditches, signs and other issues. Paul said if the commissioners become interested in the future, they would need to bid out the work.

Pat came back to the pickups Tony wants to trade in for new. He would like a statement on the spec sheets stating if the commissioners do not like the trade in value, the county will not have to allow the trade. Tony was instructed to bid two (2) bid sheets requesting a bid sheet with trade-in value and a bid sheet without trade-in value.

Joe said the intersection at Road 18 and Road V between the cotton gin and Shaddix stock yard is very dangerous. He said trucks are running the stop signs and will cause a wreck one of these days. Tony said he will check if there is anything he can come up with for drivers to be more careful.

Pat asked Paul about the tax sale and Paul stated the new hire in Tate & Kitzke Law Office has done tax sales in the past and is well versed in such issues. Paul also said the reason it is taking this long is because the Kansas Governor has put a halt to such issues due to COVID19.

Amy brought up the issue of extending COVID leave.

Pat made a motion to not extend COVID leave for the 2021 year for county employees. Joe opposed at this time. Tron tabled the discussion for later. Motion not carried.

Amy introduced Resolution 21-3 adopting the SW Kansas Multi-hazard, Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan which Rodney handed in last week.

Joe made a motion to accept ***Resolution 21-3 adopting the SW Kansas Multi-hazard, Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.*** Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Amy discussed issues with the hospital and trying to grasp a better understanding of the chain of command. She told the commissioners the Sparks Committee had discussed receiving aid for the hospital for uninsured patients receiving COVID testing/treatments at the hospital and clinic. She said there is a government program which pays for the uninsured to receive treatment due to

COVID. At this time the hospital is not participating in the program. She said the SPARKS Committee feels the county hospital should try to help the community. The SPARKS Committee will continue to help uninsured with COVID until February 15<sup>th</sup> when the funds will be spent in full.

Pat asked Amy to have Ross come into the next meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss a possible back up person to help when Ross is unable to fulfill his job duties.

Jayme Muncy, the County Treasurer, came in and requested hiring additional personnel to work in the Treasurer's office. She said she has received several complaints of people having to wait. With only three (3) employees, including herself, she is finding it difficult to keep the public satisfied. She said she is looking at the start pay to be between \$11.00 and \$14.00 per hour depending on the skill level. Pat explained with the cost of benefits, the budget did not allow for an additional employee. Joe asked Jayme, to help with costs, if a part-time person would be beneficial for her office. Jayme said the person would need to be fingerprinted and vetted by the state. She is not sure anyone going part-time would want to go to the trouble to have all that done. Joe said the person could work thirty (30) hours and less a week. The commissioners asked if Donna Norton or Amy Rich from the County Clerk's office would be able to help. Amy said she doesn't see how they could help due to the checks and balances. Meaning the County Clerk is to check the Treasurer's statements and the auditors and insurance company would probably not like the idea.

The commissioners agreed to Jayme hiring a part-time person.

Chris Landrum with INA Alert came in to introduce himself and the company. He told the commissioners they installed the cameras in the courthouse and he has been talking with the Sheriff's office to see if they could be of further assistance. Chris told the commissioners they installed panic buttons and other security measures in buildings as well as key card doors to help with public access. If they choose to lock the building to public access for any reason, it is easier for an employee to swipe their card for entry as opposed to keys. The commissioners thanked him for coming in and later discussed having INA Alert help with the Wellness Center key card system.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 – Elaine Rowden – Wellness Center  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
            10:00 – Road & Bridge pickup bids  
            10:30 – Paula Rowden – 2021 Operational Budget

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter with the Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Pat seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	37,834.87
Road & Bridge	\$	36,867.83
Airport	\$	1,960.46
Noxious Weed	\$	1,719.72
EMS	\$	5,902.21
Fire	\$	1,982.48
Highway Improvement	\$	19,779.00
Community Health	\$	9,548.12
911 Wireless	\$	114.40
Highway Improvement	\$	-
Airport Grants	\$	-
Non-Specific Equipment	\$	19,636.55
Sheriff	\$	34,939.13
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	11.84
COVID - SPARKS	\$	27,865.52
<u>OBJ TOTAL:</u>	\$	198,162.13

Elaine Rowden and Michael Rickman came in to discuss the Wellness Center. Elaine informed the commissioners her last day will be March 31, 2021 and she will be retiring. Elaine and Mike discussed Elaine's replacement with the commissioners so they will know how to move forward and get ready for the change. Elaine was under the impression Ross was going to be taking care of the Wellness Center as far as the bookkeeping, security system and computer knowledge. Elaine spoke highly of Mike and informed the commissioners he is a great employee and takes his job seriously and knows how to run all factions of the Wellness Center. She would like to see Mike keep his job with whoever takes Elaine's position.

Joe said at this time, there was not a formal motion to hire Ross nor Shelby as the employee to replace Elaine. They will need to have more discussion on the subject. Elaine said in October she was under the impression Ross was going to take the position and has not heard any formal decisions. She would like to be kept informed.

Ross Sullivan came in and told the commissioners Wolters Construction completed the window repair in the appraiser's room and it looks good. He also told the commissioners Trane contacted him and said they are trying to make sure Mitsubishi will honor the warranty for the compressor on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor of the courthouse for repairs. Ross said the valve on the north side for the sprinkler system needs replaced and it will need worked on when the water can be shut off for the repair.

The commissioners asked Ross who should cover his position if he is ever out of the office or has issues and can't make it in. Ross said he thought Mike would like to come in as a replacement on certain days. However, Mike does not want to work in the courthouse and likes his hours at the Wellness Center.

Pat said Ross could work the Wellness Center and it would save the county money by not hiring a full-time person. Joe agrees with Pat as far as no full-time person being hired. Although, with summer coming up and ground maintenance to attend to along with building maintenance, he does not feel Ross would have the time to invest in the Wellness Center.

There was discussion of selling the Wellness Center but hating to see it shut down to the county because it does serve a purpose. There was further discussion of the Wellness Center between the commissioners and Ross Sullivan. They discussed how it can be operated while Ross is taking care of the Courthouse building and grounds. Joe said he would like to move Ross to the County Facilities Manager and keeping all the county buildings maintained. Discussion was tabled.

Tony Martin came in to report to the commissioners he had one (1) bid come back for the Road and Bridge pickups. Jim Ghummm was in attendance for the opening of the bids.

1. Ghummm's Automotive – 2) 2020 Chevy 1500 LT Ext Cab 4X4 \$47,195 each
    - a. Discount: \$12,000.00
    - b. 2013 Ford F150, 2005 Chevy 1500, 1999 Ford F 150 trade-in: \$20,000.00
- TOTALING: \$62,390.00

Tron made a motion to accept the bids of the two (2) 2020 Chevy 1500 LT Ext Cab 4X4 with the trade-ins and discounts for the total of \$62,390.00 from Ghummm's Automotive. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Joe made a motion to authorize the County Clerk to write a check for the vehicle tags for the Road and Bridge. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Tony said he will be sending two (2) employees to the Noxious Weed class from March 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup> and verified it was OK to have two (2) separate rooms.

Tony told the commissioners the bridge inspection results are in and the iron under the bridge needs to be painted to cover the rust spots.

Tony Martin found someone to hire for the Road and Bridge Department and he will be getting a new employee package.

Tony said the landfill fence will be ready to install this week and work on a new pit to begin between July and September. The graders are out on the roads grading and will hopefully, get quite a bit done.

Discussion came back to the Wellness Center. Pat said the position should be held at less than thirty (30) hours a week to keep the employee at part-time. Paul said there could be negotiations with insurance and Pat is still adamant about staying under the thirty (30) hours a week.

Paula Rowden was in attendance and asked for clarification on the maintenance of effort being decreased by \$97,000.00. Paula said at the end of 2020 there was \$253,000.00 and beginning of 2021 there was \$41,000.00 and she is not sure how to make that budget work for the Community Health Department. The commissioners assured her there would be funds to cover what is needed at the Community Health Department. They understand her frustrations with the budget cuts but agrees the budget should not reflect being cut so much. Amy Jo looked at the worksheets and noticed there were the two (2) different funds, the one for grants only and the regular operating funds for Community Health. Amy assured Paula the budget for the Community Health Department is \$561,727.00. Paula said she is not sure how the budget will work for repairs on the furnace or maintenance of the boiler and other such repairs. Paula is worried about how the year will end with lack of funds. Joe told Paula to see where the health department funds are in July and revisit the issue where funding is.

Paula said she is working on some grant paperwork and will be in attendance for the March 8<sup>th</sup> commissioner meeting for signatures.

Shelby Martin was in attendance to touch base with the commissioners on the decision for Elaine's replacement. She said she is under the assumption she had the job and wanted to know where she stands with the position.

Joe made a motion for a ten (10) minute executive session over non-elected personnel at the Wellness Center. Shelby Martin was part of the executive session. Executive session began at 10:53 AM and concluded at 11:03 AM. The action was made to offer Shelby Martin the Wellness Center position after Elaine retires on March 31, pending final details of employment. Pat seconded.

Commissioners said they would review all encumbrance and transfer letters at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk


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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
MARCH 8, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 – County Business  
              9:30 – Tony Martin

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter with the Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

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Noxious Weed	\$	3,005.46
EMS	\$	5,530.86
Fire	\$	3,018.94
Highway Improvement	\$	57,495.58
Community Health	\$	13,215.62
Community Health Grants	\$	3,200.00
Road Machinery	\$	62,390.00
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Diversion	\$	276.75
Sheriff	\$	39,867.71
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	13.62
COVID - SPARKS	\$	126,111.21
 TOTAL:	\$	432,591.20

Ross Sullivan came in and told the commissioners the Trane bill for locating the heating issue on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor will be roughly \$2,500.00 on top of the monthly maintenance fee. Pat said he was under the impression there was still a warranty. Discussion ensued and Pat will call Trane and verify if the bill will be part of the warranty.

Tron Stegman said Paula texted him over the weekend and said she is eligible to receive a \$127,000.00 ELC Grant to be used for salary support and discussed she would like to give her staff a \$500 bonus each, with the money. Pat said he didn't see why there should be a bonus since they worked their normal work hours and job duties and the office was closed for four (4) months to



the public. After taking the grant into consideration it was decided that Paula can write for the grant.

Rodney Kelling came in and handed the commissioners the spec sheet for the new tanker fire truck he plans on purchasing. Rodney would like to purchase a Freightliner truck because he can get parts and repairs done in Liberal which is closer than other repair places. Pat said he would entertain bids but does not want to purchase a truck at this time. Joe said by the time the bid is approved and the truck is built it will more than likely be the end of the year before they get the truck. He is satisfied with a purchase since the Moscow truck is in great need of repair and due to its age, parts cannot be found. Rodney said this truck will be as basic as possible to cut costs and is looking to pay around \$230,000.00 for the new truck. Joe said they should take bids and set up the new truck for end of the year delivery or first of next year.

The commissioners asked Rodney about a burn ban and he said at this time the only fires they have been called to are where a chain had been dragged, cigarettes have been tossed out of vehicles or no fault of someone intentionally burning. He did not see a need to have a burn ban.

Hugoton Senior Center sent a letter to the commissioners stating they would be short on funds for the 2021 year. The commissioners voiced some suggestions of possibly applying for grants and seeking funding from the Foundation board, etc. There will probably not be very many funds to disperse this year due to budget cuts.

Tony Martin came in and said there is algae in the diesel fuel on several of the trucks, leading to repairs with fuel filters.

Tony said the Road and Bridge Department will begin their ten (10) hour days on May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 1, 2021. He has sent two (2) employees to weed school for the week. Tony also spoke with John Deere and got a ballpark figure on two (2) mowers for around \$36,000.00 to \$38,000.00. Currently the mowers the county has are 2009 models and run 6,000 miles per year.

The commissioners told Tony to get bids for two (2) new mowers. The bids will be opened on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Pat and Tony discussed the utility bill for the transfer station and deemed the amount includes two (2) buildings, the office and the transfer station.

Tony said he is going to do away with the clear diesel and regular gas pumps out at the landfill. He said he'll keep the dyed diesel for the large equipment and if the other equipment need fuel, they can take the trucks to Road and Bridge for fuel.

Amy Jo told the commissioners the KCAMP insurance pool is substantially higher than last year, roughly around \$20,000.00 due to the twelve percent (12%) increase.

Amy Jo presented the commissioners with department encumbrance and transfer letters.

Joe made a motion to accept the presented encumbrance and transfer letters from GIS, Election, Fire/EMS and Road and Bridge. Pat seconded.

Paul said the Garnand property purchase was in the newspaper March 1 for public hearing and no one had come in to object of the sale. Paul will move forward with the contract.

Amy Jo said July 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM is the scheduled Budget Workshop. The commissioners agreed that would be a good date.

Tron asked about the tax sale and Paul stated the Kansas Governor has a hold on tax sales and delinquencies.

Joe asked Paul if the courts were slowed down. Paul said the DOC has slowed down and most cases are thirty to sixty (30-60) days out and are slowly getting caught up.

Ross came back in and said Trane is going to see if Mitsubishi will cover the majority of their labor costs on the HVAC unit.

Abatement Orders for taxes 2020, number 32 was reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 37,464 with a relief assessment of (\$6,128.80).

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
MARCH 22, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 – County Business  
              9:30 – Tony Martin

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	89,669.65
Road & Bridge	\$	91,108.15
Airport	\$	2,608.60
Noxious Weed	\$	7,939.29
EMS	\$	11,594.73
Fire	\$	11,012.73
County Building	\$	3,637.84
Community Health	\$	14,280.31
Community Health Grants	\$	28,996.22
Employee Benefits - KWROCC	\$	277.00
Diversion	\$	108.00
911 Wireless	\$	115.84
Sheriff	\$	57,076.13
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	27.24
Special Law Enforcements	\$	999.98
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>319,451.71</b>

Amy Jo brought up a discussion about Gilmore Solutions and how the employees are dissatisfied with their services. Many concepts were promised but not kept. The commissioners discussed personal IT person for the county or if it would be better to go through other IT companies such as Nex-Tech or PBS.

Shelby Martin came in.

Tron made a motion for executive session to discuss non-elected personnel on employment. Joe seconded. Executive session began at 8:37 AM and concluded at 8:46 AM. Tron said there was no action taken and there will be another ten (10) minutes needed for executive session. Executive

session continued from 8:47 AM to 8:55 AM. Action was taken to hire Shelby Martin as Wellness Center Director starting at \$20.00 per hour as a salaried position (\$41,600.00 annually), working forty (40) hours per week beginning April 1, 2021.

The commissioners were presented with a letter from the Stevens County Library recommending Wanda Shaddix to replace Theresa Gerrond. Theresa will have completed her second (2<sup>nd</sup>) four (4) year term on the library board in April, 2021.

Pat made a motion to approve Wanda Shaddix as Library board member replacing Theresa Gerrond. Tron seconded. Motion carried.

Ross came in and told the commissioners AK Roofing repaired the roof of the courthouse. A corner had popped up and started a leak on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor. He told them the other corner has popped up on the opposite side and would like to get someone to repair that as well before it leaks with the upcoming rain and wind. Pat told Ross to call AK Roofing and have them come and make necessary repairs.

The commissioners asked Ross if he would like to oversee a part time employee to help clean the courthouse when Ross is on vacation or gone for other unforeseen reasons. He said he is not interested in someone working under him. Amy Jo suggested someone on days Ross is not able to be in to clean but doesn't have to be under him. Pat said to contact Tammie Peterson and see if she would be interested. If not, they will look at other ideas.

Tony Martin came in and presented the commissioners with a copy of the annual Road and Bridge report for the state. He said Stevens County is in District 6 with nineteen (19) other counties.

Tony provided the commissioners with costs of two (2) new mowers for the county. The cost with a trade-in of the two (2) current 2007 mowers (\$13,000.00) would be \$37,266.00. Tony requested the commissioners wave the bids and allow him to purchase the two (2) John Deere mowers. Payment will be out of the equipment fund.

Pat made a motion to wave the bid process and accept the amount from John Deere in the amount of \$37,266.00. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tony requested an executive session over non-elected personnel for Noxious Weed Director changes and other personnel changes.

Tron made a motion to go into executive session over non-elected personnel for Noxious Weed Director changes and other personnel changes for twenty (20) minutes. Executive session began at 9:34 AM and ended at 9:54 AM. Action was made to approve Brent Shelman as Noxious Weed Director. Commissioners accepted.

Tron made a motion to go into executive session over non-elected personnel for Noxious Weed Director changes and other personnel changes for ten (10) minutes. Executive session began at 9:55 AM and ended at 10:05 AM. Action was taken to approve Jeff Cox a \$0.75 raise; Koda Rich, Brent Shelman and Jesse Eckert all a \$0.50 raise. Pat abstained.

Tony Martin presented the commissioners with the Noxious Weed Directors job description for approval.

Tony asked the commissioners to agree adding handling fees to the Rodent Control Chemical purchases by citizens.

The Pioneer Lots were discussed as Amy Jo stated she had some people call and inquire about purchasing a lot. She was under the impression the county still owned all but four (4) of the lots and was not sure how to address the situation as it was also implied the Christian Brothers Construction owned them. There is no deed or proof of purchase. Paul said he would talk to Jeremiah Johnson and find out what can/needs to be done to solve the problem and get the lots into the Christian Brothers Construction name. At this time, if anyone inquires about the Pioneer Lots the County Clerk was instructed to give them the Christian Brothers information.

Abatement Orders in 2020 for tax numbered 33 was reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 1,540 with a relief assessment of \$325.94.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
APRIL 12, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 – Richard Vertrees – AK Roofing  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
            10:00 – Fire Truck Bids – Rodney Kelling  
            10:30 – Matt Green – Kansas Land and Feed

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter with the Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	89,368.46
Road & Bridge	\$	61,236.02
Airport	\$	7,239.10
Noxious Weed	\$	1,924.42
EMS	\$	8,622.84
Fire	\$	11,407.02
County Building	\$	976.52
Community Health	\$	11,646.51
Community Health Grants	\$	3,200.00
Library	\$	58,627.25
Diversion	\$	(108.00)
Sheriff	\$	39,098.80
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	1,007.70
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$	<u>294,459.14</u>

Commissioners received a letter by a Moscow resident concerning the Fire and EMS department.

Bill Patrick with Seaboard came in and gave an update to the commissioners and discussed their employees to make sure there were no issues with the community. The commissioners said they feel comfortable with the progress and have not heard of any issues within the community and the construction workers at the plant.

Richard Vertrees with AK Roofing came in and discussed the issue with the courthouse roof. He suggests the commissioners repair the two (2) corners of the roof which became unsecured due to the ISO board not being screwed down. With the strong winds it caused issues. He said to fix the

corners, he would remove the damaged section of the roof, screw a base sheet with fiber board down and apply a layer of tar. The cost he presented for the work would be \$3,275.00.

Richard said they could do a complete roofing job and it would be a substantial cost around \$19,650.00.

Pat made a motion to accept AK Rooking's roof repair for \$3,275.00. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Amy Jo presented the commissioners with the Noxious Weed request to carry over funds from 2020 to 2021 in the amount of \$55,410.58.

Joe made a motion to accept the carry over/encumbrance of \$55,410.58 for Noxious Weed. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Amy Jo asked when the commissioners would like to have budgets in for review. The commissioners said June 1 is the deadline for budgets since auditors will be doing the budget workshop in July.

Amy Jo presented the commissioners with the Old Republic Aerospace, Inc letter about renewing insurance. She was instructed to pass the letter on to the airport board members.

Amy Jo presented the commissioners with information from the Moscow Senior Center. They stated they were able to gain funding from the Parsons trust to help with operations for the 2021 year as well as funding to help with feeding the needy.

Tony came in and brought annual Noxious Weed reports from 2019-2021 to be signed. He told the commissioners the new mowers will not be in until the first part of August. Tony said he is receiving applications but is being reserved on who he hires. He is considering a part-time person to help mow.

Tony said he is waiting on the accident report from the truck wreck from two (2) weeks ago.

Tony said they are getting the asphalt plant ready and will be working on overlaying Washington Street from the City Limits to the race track. He is hoping to get two (2) miles of overlay done near the NexGen plant which will leave one (1) mile left to do next year. By the end of summer, he said there will be three (3) miles of overlay and ten to fifteen (10-15) miles of chip/seal completed.

Tiffany with Cimarron Basin came in to get approval and signatures from the commissioners to continue having them do work in Stevens County. The commissioners approved and Tron signed the approval sheets.

Rodney Kelling and Bailey Eseray with the fire department was in attendance along with Mike Weis and Tim Lewis with Weis Fire Equipment and Terry McConnell with Hays Fire and Rescue.

1. Weis Fire Equipment	\$222,164.00	1500 Gal Tank Freightliner
2. Danko	\$229,864.00	1300 Gal Tank Freightliner
3. Hays Fire & Rescue	\$224,070.00	1500 Gal Tank Freightliner

Commissioners discussed the purchase of a new tanker truck for the fire department and asked the vendors who were in attendance how long their bid was good for. The vendors stated thirty to sixty (30-60) days.

Pat said he would like to know how the valuation is going to look before committing to the purchase. Joe said the funding is available in the fire equipment fund for the new truck but understands the reservation.

The commissioners tabled the fire truck bid decision until they speak with the appraiser later today. They did say Weis would get the bid as it is the lowest and meets all the specs.

Tron made a motion to go into a fifteen (15) minute executive session over legal consultation with trade issues. Pat seconded. Executive session began at 10:33 AM and ended at 10:43 AM. No action taken.

Matt Green with KDI called in and informed the commissioners he had sent Amy Jo and Paul the most current documents for signatures and acceptance this morning. The commissioners asked several questions about this new phase with KDI and was told they will be producing cheese and butter with the idea of having forty (40) full-time employees as a permanent position and will have roughly 80-100 contractors on site probably the first part of June.

Pat made a motion to adopt ***Resolution 21-04, Authorizing the county to consent to the subordination of its leasehold interests.*** Joe Seconded, motion carried.

Angela Eichman, the county appraiser was on conference call and asked for the commissioners approval to allow Lynne and Lori to work overtime to get the Oil and Gas renditions in by May 1. The commissioners approve of the overtime.

Pat asked Angela if there was any idea on the valuation at this time. Angela said she is not sure at this time but expects it to be the same as last year or close to it.

Commissioners discussed the City of Hugoton's issuance of \$44,225,000.00 of Taxable Industiral Revenue Bonds - exemption from ad valorem taxation of property constructed or purchased with the proceeds of such bonds. Commissioners were not in the understanding that the city could override the county and take away the county and the school's property taxes incoming from KDI. They really did not agree with this decision.



The commissioners made a decision to table the firetruck bid until April 26, 2021 at the next commissioner meeting.

The commissioners discussed Ross's position as maintenance and said he has been with the county two (2) years and has only received a COLA and no merit raise. Amy Jo said Ross is unable to be in today but would like to discuss his position with the commissioners.

Pat made a motion to give Ross Sullivan a \$1.00 merit raise. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Amy Jo gave the commissioners a letter from Susan Schulte, GIS Coordinator concerning her budget for the 2021 year. They reviewed her information and has taken it into consideration and do not see any issue with what she has put down.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
APRIL 26, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Tony Martin – Road & Bridge  
              9:00 – Scott Kedrowski - RCDC  
              9:30 – Mark Hinde - SDSI  
              10:00 – Charissa Lamberson-Bradford – City on a Hill

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Tron seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Tron seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	63,452.77
Road & Bridge	\$	62,865.95
Airport	\$	6,279.27
Noxious Weed	\$	1,914.59
EMS	\$	6,242.21
Fire	\$	3,408.06
County Building	\$	5,652.64
Community Health	\$	17,148.59
Community Health Grants	\$	208.35
911 Wireless	\$	115.84
Diversion	\$	333.10
Sheriff	\$	37,442.78
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	25.46
TOTAL:	\$	205,089.61

Tony Martin told the commissioners the insurance is paying for the repairs on the truck less the deductible. He said another employee was injured repairing tires. We are just waiting to see how long both employees will be off work due to injuries.

The overlay of roads will begin in a couple of weeks as they are getting the oil heated up now. The state EPA will be out to view the asphalt plant to make sure it is up to code.

Tony discussed the backhoe at the landfill and said it is never used and would like to list it in the newspaper for sale. The commissioners agree.

Scott Kedrowski with RCDC (Russell Child Development Center) and board member Nancy Honig were in to discuss the Tiny-K program for children with developmental delays and

disabilities. Scott said it is a non-profit organization and completely free for families to help get children school ready and empower parents' confidence. Nancy said she has been on the board for over a year and is in full support of the work the RCDC does. She has seen how beneficial a program like this is for the county. RCDC is requesting \$25,500.00 for the 2022 year.

Mark Hinde with SDSI (Southwest Developmental Services, Inc.) came in and informed the commissioners the state of Kansas must have the ability to provide services for those individuals and in an emergency, it takes precedence over those on the wait list. He said the wait list is very long and some people are on it for nine (9) years. The SDSI is requesting \$39,517.00 for the 2022 year.

Mark also said there is no one on the board from Stevens County and would like to have someone from the area. He said there are four (4) meetings a year with free meals and paid mileage to and from Garden City. The meeting can also be joined by ZOOM.

Bailey Eseray was in attendance, in place of Rodney, to hear if the commissioners have made a decision on the fire truck. Tron said he is in agreement with obtaining a fire truck because the costs are only going to go up and it might be harder in years to come to save up for one.

Joe made a motion to accept the Weis Fire Equipment bid for \$222,164.00 for a 1500 gallon water, Freightliner firetruck. Tron Seconded. Pat Opposed. Motion carried.

Charissa Lamberson-Bradford, Director of City on a Hill, came in and discussed with the commissioners the benefits of the program. She said there are outpatient services for women, men and juveniles along with in house services designated for women. In the past, Stevens County has appropriated \$2,550.00 and City on a Hill is requesting \$3,000.00 for the 2022 year.

Ted Heaton came in and discussed a phone system for the sheriff's office stating theirs is outdated and can't be repaired due to the age. He said 911 Wireless fund might be able to help pay for a portion but not all of it as it is not all for 911 services. He will get a cost sheet to the commissioners.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
MAY 10, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 – Tony Martin – R&B  
              9:30 – Shelby Martin – Yoga class Wellness Center  
              10:00 – Ron & Nancy Honig – 4H Building

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter, Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Pat seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	47,486.85
Road & Bridge	\$	48,445.94
Airport	\$	6,849.21
Noxious Weed	\$	1,461.69
EMS	\$	6,881.87
Fire	\$	2,494.58
County Building	\$	3,275.00
Community Health	\$	14,016.07
Community Health Grants	\$	3,278.87
911 Wireless	\$	18,000.00
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Sheriff	\$	36,284.74
WEKANDO	\$	500.00
Special Law Enforcement	\$	4,320.00
Fire Equipment	\$	58,470.00
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	29.24
TOTAL:	\$	252,006.56

Rodney Kelling came in and stated there was nothing to report. He did appreciate the farmers who helped with the fire May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There was discussion about the fire truck and looking at the Foundation Board for possibly receiving a grant to help pay for the fire truck.

Tony Martin came in and told the commissioners he will be ready to open bids for the backhoe on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. He will be putting an ad in the Hugoton Hermes for 2 weeks to advertise the bid opening.

The road and bridge department have started their ten (10), four (4) hour days this week. They planned on doing overlay today but with the wet weather this week they will be starting next week.

The landfill dozer was sent to Murphy Tractor for repairs. Repairs are estimated to cost around \$6,000.00.

The engineers will be out some time within a couple weeks to do core drilling to see how deep to dig the new pits at the landfill. They will be checking several areas to see how deep the clay is.

The commissioners and Tony discussed the intersection on Highway C and State Highway 51. Tony told the commissioners the State of Kansas is responsible for any of the signs along the highway including “Stop” signs going to the state highways. Pat asked about rumble strips on that intersection as well as several other places and Tony said he wants to see what the state has planned first before spending money on those areas.

Saturday a Oneok gas line was leaking along Road 14 near Sunbelt Feeders. He said the repairs were made by Sunday afternoon.

Joe asked Tony how the planning and zoning was going and he said it was busier than planned. There have been septic and building permits given out. There is still some confusion on the three (3) mile radius, the City of Hugoton is doing good on handling those zoning areas.

Shelby Martin came in and said she is making some changes at the Wellness Center. She is finding ways to allow people to pay their membership online, as well as new reports through software to show revenue and expenses. She has replaced some of the ceiling tiles and is looking at replacing the fan in the women’s bathroom. Shelby informed the commissioners she is cancelling the rag cleaning that was started due to COVID. She has received a lot of wipes within the last week and would like to use those before the rags. She is also cancelling the Post Office box and second (2<sup>nd</sup>) phone line to save money.

Shelby said she would like to hire Erin Gerrond as a contract laborer to teach Yoga classes. She said the classes if not a member would cost per class and if a member would be included with the membership fees. Amy Jo said the county requires a Certificate of Liability to be a contract laborer. Paul said he will talk with Erin and Grant County to see what is needed.

Ted Heaton came in and said he has two (2) vehicles which have less than 100,000 miles and would like to trade them in for one (1) new vehicle. He said the 2017 Chevy needs a new transmission and has around 80,000 miles and the 2018 Ford F-150 has 55,000 miles and has been in the shop more than it has been used.

Commissioners agreed to let Ted trade in the two (2) vehicles for one (1) and will need to put out specs for bids.

Ron Honig and Nancy Honig were in to discuss the 4H building. Nancy said they have managed to receive \$45,000.00 in grants and donations from various places to help with phase two (2) of the remodeling process. Ron said they will be writing a check for \$9,000.00 to pay Wolters for the roof repairs. They received funding through a grant from Pioneer. Nancy said they are wanting to get bids for remodeling the bathrooms and floors. Hopefully, they will have a spec sheet soon to go over with the commissioners with possible bids the first commissioner meeting in June. She hopes the remodeling will be able to begin after the fair in July.

The commissioners and Ross Sullivan reviewed an anonymous letter sent in to discuss the courthouse.

Paul said the Garnand Funeral Home contract is signed and just need to do the closing on the property. Jeremiah Johnson is getting the title work for the rest of the properties the county is selling to Paul so it can be put into the newspaper.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
MAY 24, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
                  9:00 – Paula Rowden  
                  9:30 – Tony Martin  
                  10:00 – Backhoe Bid Opening  
                  10:15 – Marty Long – SB13  
                  10:30 – Rachel Crane – Soil Conservation

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter, Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Pat seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	42,438.59
Road & Bridge	\$	44,589.36
Airport	\$	9,480.98
Noxious Weed	\$	1,569.35
EMS	\$	8,889.90
Fire	\$	1,911.82
County Building	\$	11,973.88
Community Health	\$	9,711.15
Community Health Grants	\$	3,050.00
911 Wireless	\$	115.84
Sheriff	\$	33,571.48
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	627.24
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>167,929.59</u>

Camille Peterson was in attendance to observe.

Rodney Kelling came in and said he needed the commissioner's approval to reapply for the Incident Management Team. The commissioners approved and Tron signed the approval.

Joe asked Rodney if he was at the scene of the wreck this past Thursday on Highway 56 and Road Y. Rodney said he was out of town, so he was not there but heard about it. Pat suggested rumble strips be installed.

Ted Heaton came in and said he was at the wreck and it was due to a blind spot. The person traveling did stop at the stop sign and proceeded, not seeing the person traveling on the highway until it was too late.

Ted said Trina Young has been with the Sheriff's Department for over twenty-five (25) years and would like to get her a gift for her service. The commissioners agreed and told Ted to find out if she would like a watch or something else.

Amy Jo said the Moscow Senior Center sent a letter stating they are having AK Roofing do some work and would be sending a paid invoice for work done.

Amy Jo told the commissioners she filed for the ARPA and Tron Stegman signed paperwork so the county will be receiving \$1,065,397.00 by 2024 as part of an extended CARES Act. There was discussion about having a CARES committee and how money should be spent. This was tabled until later.

Paula Rowden came in and said she is formulating a plan for retirement at the end of 2022 and will discuss with the commissioners more about the details. She said Gilmore Solutions is charging to have the controls set to wireless settings on the HVAC system so she can remotely run the system.

There is an alarm system on the vaccine refrigeration NexTech put in and is currently no longer in use. The State has given her some information and software to put into place free of charge for the alarm system.

The crown molding in the atrium area of the Community Health building has fallen and she has an estimate of \$400.00 for repairs.

Paula said there is a grant for Public Health in the amount of \$127,300.00 she applied for and was awarded, which is specifically targeted for staffing and personnel. She stated the health department could use another nurse and she could use half the funding for the nurse. She would like to use the other half for another full-time employee in the middle of the year or beginning of fall.

Paula feels it is important for the Community Health Director to at least have a bachelor's degree. Cammie Heaton, the current nurse, is currently working on a bachelor's degree and Yesica, the front desk clerk, is currently planning to go to school for a nursing degree.

The State of Kansas is pushing the health departments to be testers for COVID. Paula stated she did not want to compete with the hospital on testing. The health department will have free COVID testing and is looking at doing the tests one (1) day a week, mainly for those wanting to travel that need to prove they are COVID negative. The state has organized couriers to take the tests one (1) day a week to the labs for results.

Commissioners tabled the new hire decision until a later date.



Tony Martin came in and said the dozer was diagnosed and is needing a long block which will cost about \$26,000.00 for repair.

Tony reminded the commissioners there is a road safety plan meeting on this Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at the fair office.

Tony presented the commissioners with the budgets for Noxious Weed, Solid Waste, Road and Bridge and Planning and Zoning. He stated he took the salary out of Noxious Weed and added it to Road and Bridge and moved Brent Shelman's salary into Noxious Weed. More funding was added to Solid Waste for repairs.

Currently the Road and Bridge department is mowing and trying to get caught up on the dirt roads to get a few miles of overlay done. They will be doing chip seal from the Oklahoma state line on Highway 51 and will be putting new rumble strips.

Joe asked Tony about the City of Moscow using the Moscow runway to shoot off fireworks for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Tony said he will check into it but believes it would be fine as the county owns the runway.

Backhoe bids were opened at 10:00 AM:

1. Rob Crane	\$2,150.00
2. Jake	\$3,500.00
3. Roy Stoddard	\$2,000.00
4. Darroll Munson	\$1,200.00
5. O.D. Littrell	\$3,205.00
6. Larry Clark	\$2,510.00
7. Koda Rich	\$3,000.00
8. Warren Willis	\$10,079.99

Pat made a motion to accept the bid from Warren Willis in the amount of \$10,079.99. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Marty Long, Kansas State Representative, District 124, came in and discussed the new Senate Bill 13 (SB13). He said the bill was going to pass whether anyone wanted it to or not, so the Southwest Kansas Representatives tried to amend it to make it more universal for Kansas. The SB13 is to maintain the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) and make entities more transparent on why property taxes are being raised, by whom and how much. If the RNR is exceeded, there will need to be a public hearing and the County Clerk must inform the taxpayers of such hearing. All taxing entities are required to follow this bill. Marty said there is a sister bill, House Bill 2104 (HB2104) which changes a few dates on the matter.

Luke Grubbs and Rachel Crane with Soil Conservation came in to discuss the 2022 budget with the commissioners. Rachel said they are requesting \$32,020.00 for the 2022 year. Due to COVID

in 2020 they were unable to do several activities, but the state did give the soil conservation \$22,000.00 for the 2021 year which has helped tremendously.

Angela Eichman came in and requested a twenty (20) minute executive session over legal matters concerning a taxpayer.

Pat moved to go into executive session for twenty (20) minutes over a legal matter concerning a taxpayer. Joe seconded; motion carried. Executive session began at 10:44 AM and concluded at 10:55 AM. Joe seconded. No action taken.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 14, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              8:45 – SWKCAC – Tony Burnett & Layla Mumgaard  
              9:00 – Stacey Strickland - Library  
              9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works  
              10:00 – Angela Eichman – Contract for McCully & Assoc  
              10:15 – SW Guidance Center - Budget (No appearance)  
              10:30 – Sarah Foreman – Grant Writer  
              11:00 – Jan Leonard – EcoDevo Budget  
              11:30 – Jim Bell/Millie Heger – Moscow Sr. Center

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter, Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Joe moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Pat seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Tron seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	106,684.87
Road & Bridge	\$	139,285.71
Airport	\$	43,485.80
Noxious Weed	\$	6,822.74
EMS	\$	11,893.43
Fire	\$	7,376.19
Road Machinery	\$	21,255.16
Community Health	\$	21,891.36
Community Health Grants	\$	3,465.83
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Fire Bequest	\$	97.98
911 Wireless	\$	1,558.75
Sheriff	\$	69,762.24
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	78.48
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>433,871.04</u>

Rodney Kelling was in attendance and told the commissioners he is having the A/C unit repaired for the ambulance bay as it needs a new condenser. The cost for the repair is around \$3,300.00. He told the commissioners the transmission went out on one of the tankers and he had it repaired. Rodney said the new firetruck will not be built until the first quarter of 2022 due to lack of chassis.

Tony Burnett and Layla Mumgaard, Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, came in to request funding for the 2022 year. Tony said they are requesting \$5,000.00 in appropriations for 2022.

He stated the WKCAC helps many children and families who have been abused by investigating, counseling and therapy.

Stacey Strickland with the Stevens County Library came in and told the commissioners the library has been doing many community activities and has had a very good turnout. She said the LED lights they put in a few years ago has helped lower the cost of utilities and she was able to lower the budget some but not much. The library is asking \$429,981.00 and she understands the library is held by a mil levy. She is hoping the mil levy will give at least the requested amount to adjust for minimum wage in case it increases. Joe asked Stacey about the library building fund. She said she did not bring any of that information but will check to see where the library stands.

Tony Martin came in and told the commissioners the overlay project is done except for fixing a few spots. He said KDOT will start doing some studies on intersections within Stevens County to see what can/needs to be done. Joe said he is frustrated with the speed limit going into the City of Moscow stating it is too fast. Tony said they will be catching up on dirt roads and patching a few holes. He said the airport asked about using county asphalt for repairing the runway instead of hiring out due to cost. Chip and seal will begin the first of July.

Tony requested an executive session over non-elected personnel.

Pat made a motion to go into a fifteen (15) minute executive session over non-elected personnel. Joe seconded. Executive session began at 9:29 AM and concluded at 9:43 AM. No action taken.

Tony said the permits are doing well and was surprised at the amount planning and zoning has been required to hand out. He said the landfill's permit is due July 1 and is confident the paperwork will be done and received in time. Tony has a concern with the junk iron and is looking where to take it or how to dispose of it.

Angela Eichman, County Appraiser, came in and presented the commissioners with a contract for McCully and Associates to be signed. She showed the commissioners a table informing them what part of the valuations went up and down.

Sarah Foreman with the Liberal Area Coalition for Families came in and informed the commissioners she would like to help Stevens County with writing grants. She is hoping to extend out to Morton and Haskell Counties as well. Her non-profit organization would start by doing an assessment and meet with the different departments to see what is needed. This is at no cost to the county, and she feels Stevens County could benefit from their services.

Amy Jo told the commissioners Ted Heaton agreed to be reappointed to the Southwest Kansas Regional Detention Center advisory board. Tron signed the reappointment letter.

Jan Leonard came in and said the theatre is short \$150,000.00 to get tax credits. With the new people/employees coming in, he is trying to find a way to open a daycare within the county. Jan presented the commissioners with the EcoDevo and Chamber budget for their review.

Jan said Todd Johnson recently opened a chiropractic office in Hugoton and is there every other Friday. He also said Amanda Mangles and Carol Anderson has set up a room for massage therapy.

Jim Bell with the Moscow Senior Center came in and presented the commissioners with the requested budget. Jim said food delivery cost was \$5.00 and now the Hugoton Senior Center is requesting \$12.75 for food delivery. Joe told Jim the Stevens County Senior Center is allotted 1.5 mils and then it is split into a percentage for Moscow and Hugoton. If Moscow needs more funding, the commissioners suggested talking to the County Senior board to see if the percentage could be raised for Moscow.

Millie Heger came in and discussed the meal plan for the Senior Citizens of Moscow. She is on the Moscow and county senior board. The commissioners explained they do not know when or what caused the percentage split of the mils but needs to be addressed with the county senior board to try for more money for Moscow. They also suggested asking Parsons and Foundation for assistance.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 28, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
                  9:00 –  
                  9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works  
                  10:00 –  
                  10:30 –

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Joe moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Pat seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	69,614.61
Road & Bridge	\$	58,709.51
Airport	\$	1,960.34
Noxious Weed	\$	5,439.07
EMS	\$	4,285.12
Fire	\$	1,692.33
Building	\$	8,822.19
Community Health	\$	21,243.83
Community Health Grants	\$	1,907.00
Wellness Bequest	\$	6,187.72
Diversion	\$	134.55
Reg of Deeds Tech Fund	\$	73.24
Sheriff	\$	43,080.51
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	15.62
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>223,165.64</b>

The commissioners started the meeting by discussing the remaining balance owed on Pioneer Manor.

Rodney Kelling came in and said the Code Red is due and he is letting it drop due to the cost and lack of use. He is looking into a paging system that will send Fire and EMS pages to the volunteer's cell phones which costs about \$1,200.00 per year.

Discussion about fireworks came up and Rodney said the city of Hugoton requires permits for those selling. They will allow fireworks to be shot from July 2<sup>nd</sup> thru July 4<sup>th</sup> ending at midnight. The commissioners agreed to follow that rule for the county as well.

Ross came in and told the commissioners the riding lawn mower is old and not running well. He received permission to purchase a new riding lawn mower when he finds a suitable one. Ross asked if he needs to mow the fire department's lawn. The commissioners said he did not need to mow it that whoever is currently mowing can continue.

Tony Martin arrived, and Tron asked him about the lots by the airport. Tron said they are ready to start building houses there and asked if they need to put in a temporary or permanent access road at this time. Tony said it would be nice to do the permanent access road but there is a gas line from Abengoa (now Seaboard) that is non-functional, and they wish to take it out. So, at this time a temporary road would be best.

Tony said the cat crawler has a piston missing so the engine had to be pulled for repairs. This will be costly but not as much as the purchase of a new one.

Tony asked the commissioners to close the landfill on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> due to park day and the holiday. The commissioners agreed to have the landfill closed on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with pay for the employees assigned to work as well as Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> the county's recognized holiday.

Chip seal will be attempted next week and should take no more than seven (7) days, weather permitting. Tony asked about mowing the lots around Pioneer Manor and the commissioners said the only lot needing mowed out there is the one (1) lot south of the Pioneer Manor. They said the other company can mow the lots they have purchased.

Tony said he purchased reflectors and will be bolting them on some of the county stop signs in hopes it will get driver's attention.

Tony said the funeral home is going to be hauling dirt to the lot they purchased getting it ready to start building.

Sheriff Ted Heaton checked in.

The commissioners assigned Pat Hall as the spokesman for Stevens County for the SWKAC zoom meeting. They will decide if the county wants to agree to dissolve or try to keep SWKASC.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
JULY 12, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 –  
              9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works  
              10:00 – Shelby Martin – Wellness Center  
              10:30 – Southwest Guidance – Leslie Bissell

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and RoGlenda Coulter, Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Joe moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Pat seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Pat seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	122,415.60
Road & Bridge	\$	116,215.09
Airport	\$	11,062.35
Noxious Weed	\$	3,583.98
EMS	\$	7,696.80
Fire	\$	14,989.50
Building	\$	2,108.82
Community Health	\$	12,943.58
Community Health Grants	\$	3,600.00
Fair	\$	36,084.50
Elderly Services	\$	70,004.00
Reg of Deeds Tech Fund	\$	53.69
Sheriff	\$	44,115.46
Library	\$	58,627.25
Hospital	\$	548,467.00
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Airport Grants	\$	12,836.64
Library Employee Benefits	\$	31,519.00
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	198.96
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,096,734.72</u>

Amy Jo told the commissioners she spoke with the auditors last week and was informed the county budgets that were turned in are higher than the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR). Commissioners discussed the budgets and will be prepared for the budget workshop tomorrow morning at 8:30 AM.



Rodney Kelling came in and Tron asked if he had heard about Seaboard Energy possibly helping with the purchase of a fire truck. Rodney said it was brought up a few years ago and he is just waiting to hear more from them.

Rodney said there was a fire Sunday resulting in a house being a complete loss and a gas leak in another area as well, due to digging without consulting DigSafe.

There was discussion about a command truck replacement and the need for SCBA equipment. Rodney said the tanks do expire and at this time, he is trying to find someone to come at least once a year to inspect the SCBA.

Amy passed the sign sheet for approval to sign checks for the bank. The county abatements were also passed for signatures.

Amy discussed the courthouse credit cards stating it would be beneficial if each department were in charge of their own. The commissioners asked what the difference would be, and Amy stated it would help the billing get done in a timely manner and each department would be responsible for turning in their own Visa bill. She did state it would be helpful if they choose not to go that route, to just have the Accounts Payable Clerk receive the bill and each department hand in their receipts.

Pat made a motion to have the courthouse credit cards be under one department and have the Accounts Payable clerk take care of the bill and receive receipts as needed to verify the bills on the credit card statement. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Amy gave the commissioners KCAMPS interlocal agreement and resolution to review, motion and sign.

Joe made a motion to accept KCAMPS interlocal agreement and the ***Resolution 21-05 The Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws and Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool (KCAMP)***. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Tony came in and said the engine on the crawler must be rebuilt which will be costly but not as bad as having a remanufactured one put in. Only problem with the rebuild is the time it takes to get parts due to age, COVID or other demands.

Tony said he has some applications in for landfill but has not had the time to review them. He said it is hard to cover Saturdays during the summer since Road and Bridge does ten (10) hour shifts and landfill is eight (8) hour shifts. He has found someone to come in and haul off the junk iron to get that cleaned up.

Tony said someone is planning on putting in a dairy. To qualify for this they will need permits, own the land, go in front of planning and zoning commission, notify surrounding farmers of intent, and inform the commissioners.

The Road and Bridge Department started chip sealing last week and broke down on the first day, so they are waiting on parts.

The Stevens County Fair is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> thru the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Shelby Martin came in and Tron asked her questions on the Wellness Center budget. Shelby said she put money in for insurance even though she has no plans to accept insurance and told the commissioners she can take that amount out. She told the commissioners she has cancelled some subscriptions such as the post office box and is just using a mailbox out at the Wellness Center. Tron said the budget needs to be what it was last year and said she should show up to the budget workshop. Paul said some things need to be clarified when putting in budgets such as what the building fund is for. Shelby said the repainted tiles she put in are showing water spots and believes the roof has leaks.

Leslie Bissell came in from the Southwest Guidance Center and said due to COVID they have seen an increase in suicides and people needing mental health help. They are now able to go mobile and see people remotely which has helped immensely. Several Mental Health issues and guidance was discussed. Leslie said the Southwest Guidance Center requests \$41,772.00 for the 2022 budget year to help with funding.

Abatement Orders for taxes 2020, numbered 34 through 74 were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 176,856 with a relief assessment of \$28,174.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
JULY 26, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
                  9:00 –  
                  9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works  
                  10:00 –  
                  10:30 –

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Joe moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Pat seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Pat seconded. Motion carried. The deputy clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	56,322.03
Road & Bridge	\$	49,751.59
Airport	\$	20,725.12
Noxious Weed	\$	9,030.74
EMS	\$	5,683.66
Fire	\$	2,441.30
Building	\$	2,523.62
Community Health	\$	17,655.64
Community Health Grants	\$	809.04
County Equipment Fund	\$	3,187.50
911 Wireless	\$	238.64
Reg of Deeds Tech Fund	\$	150.03
Sheriff	\$	31,997.60
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	16.75
Diversion	\$	50.84
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>200,584.10</b>

Willie Newton and Bill Patrick arrived at the start of the meeting to give the commissioners updates on the Seaboard plant's progress. They provided some details on current and future employee count, estimated completion dates of certain phases of the plant, and how the railroad is coming along. Rob Schladetzky with Fagen, Inc. also stopped in to see if there had been any concerns expressed regarding Fagen employees who are working at the Seaboard plant. He assured the commissioners the company wants their employees to make a good impression on the community and he would like to be informed if any issues arise.

Tony Martin was up next to give updates on his departments. He reported a blade had hit a water riser so there will be a bill coming soon for that. He was happy to share some iron from the landfill has been sold and he is confident more will sell. He said the landfill's dozer engine repair is almost done. The oil distributor is still down, so the road department is a little behind on chip sealing. The computer chip in the distributor had to be sent in to determine the problem.

Tony wrapped up with a reminder it is fair week and encouraged the commissioners to take in some of the fair activities.

Rodney came in to inform the commissioners he is waiting to hear back from Code Red about the cancellation of the service. They said a 30-day notice was required before the end of the 3-year contract, so they are charging for another year. Paul is going to look over the contract for some clarity on the renewal terms and cancellation requirements.

Ted popped in to express his discontent of continually having to cover costs for inmates whose felony case(s) the city is working. He strongly feels if the city chooses to work felony cases, the city should be responsible for costs those inmates incur. He relayed to the commissioners several bills will be coming in for medical treatment on an inmate. He said it will consist of emergency flight evacuation to an E.R. in Wichita and several follow up treatments. He said he and one of his deputies spent the whole week in Wichita because they are required to accompany the inmate. Including the costs of all the medical expenses involved, it also becomes very costly considering the overtime compensation to a sheriff department employee who is working those kinds of hours. Ted feels, in this particular incident, he should also be compensated either for a set amount that equates to the number of hours spent with the inmate outside the county (in addition to his salary) or be given a raise in his salary. He expressed his concern that it leaves his staff short-handed when he must travel with an inmate. Paul said the law states any case filed in district court, whether it is worked by the county or the city, is the county's financial responsibility. Ted said he realized he has voiced his issue with this several times, but this case is going to cost the county a lot of money and should be taken into more serious consideration as to who is paying for it. Paul said it is up to the city council whether the police department works felony cases or not. The commissioners suggested maybe Ted should speak with the city council regarding his concerns. Ted finished with a request for the Sparks fund to cover a blood pressure machine for the sheriff department.

Last in was Ross Sullivan. He informed the commissioners the sound system is out in Memorial Hall and asked if he should purchase a new one. He said it would be more expensive to fix the current one and it is a very outdated system anyway. He had received some information on the one from the school and even borrowed it to use at a recent event in Memorial Hall. The one the school has was purchased for about \$1,300. Pat doesn't feel it is used enough to justify purchasing another one. Tron and Joe both agreed if Memorial Hall is being offered as a venue for the community to use for various events, it should provide certain amenities such as the projector and the microphone / sound system. Tron told Ross to get estimates on three different types and bring them in for review.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
AUGUST 9, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:00 – Cornelius Wiebe - Acres  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
             10:00 – ARPA Discussion  
             10:30 – Susan Schulte – IT for county

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	76,102.53
Road & Bridge	\$	70,549.75
Airport	\$	2,810.11
Noxious Weed	\$	1,410.28
EMS	\$	8,527.51
Fire	\$	3,214.21
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Community Health	\$	11,540.40
Comm Health Grants	\$	3,315.50
Diversion	\$	1,606.90
Sheriff	\$	35,128.12
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	31.14
R of D Tech	\$	61.48
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TOTAL:	\$	214,510.43

Bailey Eseray and Rodney Kelling were in attendance. Rodney said he will be listing the old ambulance for bid sometime within the next week. He informed the commissioners there is a company who has offered to purchase the fire department a new fire truck. That would be very beneficial. Rodney said Moscow will need a new pumper truck and brush truck. Pat asked why if no one in Moscow goes out and Rodney said he would send Hugoton's to Moscow and use the new ones for Hugoton.

The ARPA funds were discussed with Rodney. He said he figured the COVID pay for EMT's from June of 2020 thru August of 2021 would roughly cost around \$56,000.00. He is currently

working on estimates for the defibrillators and said the company he is purchasing from will pay \$6,500.00 each for the old ones.

Rodney asked Paul Kitzke if he was able to look at the emails and communications pertaining to CodeRed. Paul said the contract is clear about needing a thirty (30) day notice to opt out. He is still assessing the e-mails and other info and asked if Rodney has paid yet. Rodney said he has not paid for the services. He said in the beginning the idea was for the city, school and other places use of the service to inform people when power is out, school is cancelled, water line breaks, etc. No one has used the service, so it is not worth the cost.

The commissioners discussed ARPA funding and tabled the decision whether a committee needs to be set or if they should handle the funds.

Carla Amador, Tacho Amador, Frankie Thomas and Tony Martin were in attendance. Carla presented the commissioners with a map of the lots North of town between Main Street and Washington just south of the Eagle RV Park. She said they would like an access road to be put in. The commissioners and Tony agreed an access road needs to be put in for when the lots are sold, and people start building. Tony said he would like to start the access road this winter. Commissioners like the plan for the access road and told Tony putting one in closer to winter would be reasonable.

Ted Heaton and Duane Topliss were in.

Tony Martin said someone purchased around forty (40) acres south of town to build a house. At this time, the person would like to move a 2000 model single wide mobile home in until they get a home built. Tony stated the regulations for Stevens County is nothing older than twenty (20) years. He told the commissioners he was unsure if the commissioners could change that ruling or if it would be through the planning and zoning commission. Paul said at this time if the county regulations are twenty (20) years then it is set. If someone wants to change the regulation, they should come before the commissioners and see about getting it changed.

Tony said the landfill had the first control burn since last year and everything went well. He also stated there will be random drug testing today as well. There have been no hires to replace landfill employees yet and he is still looking for some.

Tony stated he has an employee retiring in November of this year and a mechanic possibly retiring in May of 2022. He asked the commissioners if he should start advertising for a mechanic in the next several months to find someone with the appropriate skills.

Amy Jo informed the commissioners Cornelius Wiebe was unable to be reached to see if he was still coming in.

Tron said Cornelius wanted to discuss cutting five (5) acres in half (1/2) to sell them but needs to find out regulations on septic tanks/lines. Also, if there needs to be a discussion on the changes.

Sheriff Ted Heaton said there is an inmate currently in the jail and will probably be headed for open heart surgery. The inmate is currently on Medicare which will help with the costs.

Thea Schnittker came in and brought information about the ARPA funds and some of the requests that have been received. The commissioners discussed a separate board for the ARPA funds or if they should handle it.

Joe said he spoke with Marcus Howe and Don Beesley about being on the committee and they said they could if they are needed. Pat said he would be the commissioner on the committee. Until the committee can get together, he feels the commissioners could make some decisions today on the requests. Amy Jo said she will contact Don and Marcus, then inquired who else should be on the committee. The commissioners said Gabe Baeza if he would like to be interested.

Amy and Thea shared a letter from Carrie Baeza, the Hugoton City Clerk about ARPA funds asking if the county would consider helping fund the water tower project. The commissioners said they will help with the request but will hand out the funds with the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) half (1/2) of the ARPA funds which will be received around June of 2022.

Pat made a motion to approve the following ARPA requests:

1. City of Moscow Water Well - \$125,000.00
2. Hospital/Pioneer Manor COVID Testing - \$20,000.00
3. Western KS Child Advocacy Center - \$10,000.00
4. Blood Pressure Monitors for Sheriff - \$3,750.00
5. EMS replacement Defib Machines - \$87,000.00
6. Wellness Center towel cleaning 1 yr contract - \$2,454.80
7. Wellness Center lost revenue due to closure of 2020 - \$4,937.67
8. Wellness Center lockers and cleaning stations - \$1,918.10

Joe seconded, motion carried.

The other requests were discussed and the commissioners decided the ARPA Committee will have to approve them and all others after today.

Amy Jo told the commissioners AK Roofing repaired the leak on the Moscow Senior Center and helped immensely.

Susan Schulte came in and said she has been doing research on IT since Amy Jo asked her to back in June. There have been many issues with Gilmore Solutions and the requests the offices have, Gilmore can not comply with. Susan has received estimates from NexTech and said by going with them the county will be saving over \$10,000.00 per year with IT.

Pat made a motion for the switch from Gilmore Solutions to NexTech for IT for the county. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tron said Jan Leonard is discussing with some companies about wind energy and is hopeful there will be a good turnout. Paul told Tron to make sure Jan understands the contracts they will be offering farmers for their land on the costs and who will be in charge if the windmill needs to be taken off the land or what will happen if the company goes bankrupt. Paul also asked, if a company comes in, finishes a portion of the project then they quit for whatever reason, what issues will this cause.

There was discussion of the foundation board and how much money they need to spend and receive each year.

Ross Sullivan came in and showed the commissioners ideas for the sound system in the Memorial Hall. They decided getting two (2) Evo Sound Systems would be very beneficial.

Amy Jo shared a letter with the commissioners from KCAMP explaining an increase in insurance rates of up to fifteen percent (15%) for the 2022 year.

Pat Hall made a motion to accept ***Resolution 21-06, Appointing Angela Eichman as County Appraiser.*** Tron seconded. Motion carried.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman



COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
AUGUST 23, 2021 – RNR HEARING

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in special session for the 2022 RNR Hearing with Pat Hall and Joe D. Thompson present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk were also present. Tron Stegman was absent. Pat called the meeting to order.

No public comment.

Pat moved to approve ***Resolution 21-07 to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate***. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk

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Joe D. Thompson

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
AUGUST 23, 2021 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in special session for the 2022 Budget Hearing with Pat Hall and Joe D. Thompson present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk were also present. Tron Stegman was absent. Pat called the meeting to order.

Jeff Cox was in attendance with public comment. The commissioners explained the reasons for property tax increases.

Stevens County Treasurer, Jayme Rich attended to ask the commissioners for an increase in her budget for employees. She currently has two full-time employees and one part-time employee. She asked for her budget to accommodate transitioning the part-time position to full-time. Pat said she could possibly hire an additional part-time employee to work through the busy times, but a full-time employee is a large cost, and the commissioners are trying to stick to the budget cuts. Joe reminded that other departments have made cuts to their staff as well and have had to make it work. She relayed to the commissioners she had obtained 123 signatures on a petition from the public who support the transition. She said her concern is being able to keep a part-time employee without the incentive of benefits, as a part time employee is still required to go through all the same training as a full-time employee. Joe stated he has not been contacted by anyone with issues regarding the treasurer's office. Pat said the only feedback he has received is why a poll was put on Facebook and why no one comes out from the back office to assist up front when it's busy. Jayme said since there was only 13 days until the Budget Hearing, she put the petition on Facebook (as well as paper copies in the office), to reach more of the taxpayers. It wasn't possible for all the taxpayers to trickle through the treasurer's office in time to see the petition before the hearing. She felt it would also give the commissioners a visual of the public's input. She stated when she is in the middle of certain tasks at her desk in the back office, in which she cannot be interrupted, she is not able to come out and assist. She said she does try to bring a customer back to help them when she can.

Pat said he is not in support of three full time employees. Joe said as long as Jayme can submit and process things to the state in a timely manner where there are no issues or penalties, etc., he does not feel at this time, there is a big enough issue to change his mind. He added that he is not opposed to revisiting the subject in the future if circumstances are different. He said he always welcomes a phone call or communication from the public with concerns. He told Jayme to feel free to post his cell phone number in the treasurer's office.

Pat moved to approve the 2022 budgets. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk

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Joe D. Thompson

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
AUGUST 23, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – RNR Hearing  
              8:45 – Budget Hearing  
              9:00 – Bills  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
              10:00 – Cornelius Wiebe – Lots

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with Pat Hall and Joe D. Thompson present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk were also present. Tron Stegman was absent. Pat called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	45,205.81
Road & Bridge	\$	62,739.49
Airport	\$	25,476.92
Noxious Weed	\$	7,261.52
EMS	\$	5,178.08
Fire	\$	1,738.68
Road Machinery	\$	37,266.00
Community Health	\$	16,352.72
Wellness Center Bequest	\$	649.90
911 E Wireless	\$	112.31
Sheriff	\$	53,438.93
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	31.14
ARPA	\$	2,757.90
R of D Tech	\$	94.77
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>258,304.17</b>

Tony Martin had a few things to go over with the commissioners. He presented for signature, a covenant from KDHE, allowing access to the landfill so they can assess things and approve the digging of the new pit. The covenant will need to be filed in the Register of Deed's office. He also presented an agreement to sign from Kirkham Michael and Associates for inspections of the box culvert on Washington street. Tony reported the oil distributor is still down, so he will be checking on the progress of the pump repair. The landfill tracker is being worked on and the dozer that received a new engine is back in for oil leaks. He said that should be covered by warranty.

Bryan Duer stopped in to ask the commissioners to allow him to put a 21-year-old trailer house on the property he purchased. He relayed his plan of eventually building a house on the property. As the head of Planning and Zoning, Tony had told Bryan the federal rule is 20 years or newer and if the commissioners make an exception, he needs to understand if the trailer is moved, it will have to be relocated outside of Stevens County. Discussion was had about the condition of the trailer house. Bryan assured them it is in good condition but understands if they choose to have a professional confirm this. He said the only reason he settled on this trailer is because it is in good shape, and it has been very difficult finding other housing in Hugoton. Tony stressed he prefers not to bend the rules and he will not be inspecting the trailer, or any trailer older than 20 years. Paul was asked what his opinion is on the matter. He said he totally understands Tony's position but also feels it is very important to try and support people who are moving into the community. If Bryan is building a house, that is contributing tax dollars to the county. Paul suggested after Tony informs a resident of the federal rule on the allowed age, if that resident would still like to see if an exception can be made for an older model, refer them to the commissioners to make the decision. Ted Heaton had arrived at the meeting so he was asked if he would be willing to inspect the trailer house upon its arrival. Ted said he would be happy to.

Joe moved to allow the trailer house on the property, contingent upon verification of the VIN number. Pat seconded. Motion carried. Paul said he would draw up an agreement, once the VIN number has been verified and inspection is complete.

Next on the agenda was Cornelius Wiebe and Jacob Neufeld. They purchased two 5-acre lots and would like to change the property line, transferring a small amount of acreage from one to the other. Tony said the recommendation for Stevens County is one water well, one septic system and one house per 5 acres. Cornelius said they will not be adding anything additional; each property will only have one each of the above mentioned, so the commissioners said they do not have a problem with that.

Paul said he will have Jeremiah Johnson email him the exact amount of acreage that is being transferred and any additional information required.

Tony and the commissioners held further discussion about access roads and some of the other planning and zoning rules, wondering if some things need to be re-evaluated / updated.

Ted inquired about a bill he received from Emergency Management for a transport of an inmate from the jail to the airport. He said he had not received a bill for transports in the past. Pat said one county department should not bill another county department.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk

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Pat Hall

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:30 – Tony Martin

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	56,866.95
Road & Bridge	\$	146,322.21
Non Specific Equipment	\$	42,774.70
Airport	\$	14,814.11
Noxious Weed	\$	1,331.21
EMS	\$	9,568.35
Fire	\$	8,187.23
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Community Health	\$	23,255.19
Comm Health Grants	\$	3,200.00
Diversion	\$	4.32
Sheriff	\$	36,510.36
911 Wireless	\$	115.89
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	46.68
County Building	\$	2,837.14
ARPA Grant	\$	79,774.49
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>425,821.33</u>

The Commissioners began the meeting by discussing dress codes and asked if the county had a policy for it. Amy said there is no policy for dress codes in the employee handbook.

Pat made a motion to add policy A-6 to enforce dress codes for the courthouse office staff. Business casual attire must be worn Monday thru Thursday and Friday is reserved for casual day. Business casual is no T-Shirts and no jeans with holes. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

There was discussion of mobile homes, which are older than twenty (20) years old, moving into the county. Paul suggested making a motion for the variance.

Joe made a motion granting variance to Bryan Duer. Considering the circumstances surrounding the trailer house, they have found that this variance is warranted due to the overall condition of the trailer and the fact it is only one year outside of the time limit. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Amy asked if any of the commissioners were going to attend the Kirkham Michael and KWORCC appreciation dinner in Overland Park. The response sheet needs to be turned in. All commissioners declined due to the distance and cost.

Tony was in attendance and brought in materials to discuss wind energy (windmills) in Stevens County. He stated most of the issues were not good and he will not allow unconditional use permits.

Paul said he had heard it costs around one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to retire a single windmill. He also stated if the commissioners were going to look in that direction to get feedback from other counties with windmills as well as investigating the company wanting to put them in. Paul also stated there should be a removal fund in the agreement, but they can change to another entity and not have to follow the agreement.

Tony said zoning rules for the windmills have to be in the paper for public knowledge. The windmill company must go in front of the planning and zoning board for approval then in front of the commissioners and must have an unconditional use permit. He said the tax revenue is zero dollars (\$0.00) and will shorten the life span at the landfill by having damaged windmills deposited there.

Joe said there are already some farmers who have received contracts and questioned about those that signed the contracts. Paul said they can't go against the regulations the county sets. Tony agreed and said it all must go through the county. Joe said there is an out of county landowner whose attorney told him to sign the contract and send it back to the company. He asked if that made the contract null and void. Paul said it depends on what the contract states whether it is in compliance or violation with the county codes.

Pat said he is not for the windmills because it opens a list of issues.

Amy asked if the county is responsible for the fire extinguisher inspections for the county owned extension building. She said CF Service and Supply did an inspection and the cost was \$34.00. The commissioners agreed that would be part of the building cost the county is responsible for.

Tony discussed Road and Bridge stating they will be starting on patching and overlay. He told the commissioners he plans on attending the KAC conference which is coming up on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Tony said the crawler at the landfill was back after repairs and only worked a total of six (6) hours before it broke down. They noticed no anti-freeze in it. He spoke with the repair company, and

they said they had filled it even although Tony didn't see it on the repair ticket. Shortly after that crawler broke down, the other broke down on the junk pile so the Road and Bridge brought out the front- end loader. Tony said it broke down out there too.

Tony said the landfill receives money for tires, tipping fees and the sale of iron which should keep them out of the red. He hopes someday the landfill will have enough funds to look at a new tractor.

Joe told Tony that sometimes you must cut your losses with all the cash absorbed going into repairs which could cost as much as new or good used equipment. Tony said he agrees but the costs are too high. He said a new tractor is around \$400,000.00. Sometimes the repairs are cheaper and more affordable.

Tony informed the commissioner the KDHE has postponed landfill training for now due to COVID.

Tony said he received a call over the weekend about missing stop signs on Road D and Road 20. He said both stop signs and posts were gone so they had to put new ones up.

Sheriff Ted Heaton came in and said there was no problem with the Music Fest and he had nothing else to report.

Amy informed the commissioners there were issues pertaining to employees and department heads making employees use sick time in non-compliance with company policy. She states MBE leave (sick leave) can only be used for specific reasons related to health and well-being so such employees should have used personal or vacation time. Paul suggested sending out a policy reminder with pay checks about sick time. Further discussion over county policy issues and labor laws were discussed.

Pat said Dana Clinesmith will clean the kitchen in Memorial Hall and can come in and do necessary cleaning in the courthouse when the Maintenance Supervisor is gone. The commissioners discussed pay and are agreeing on \$318.26 per month for services and will revisit pay later if needed.

Joe called Angela Eichman and asked if wind farms lower property values. Angela said she is unsure and will need to contact another county with wind farms, as the three (3) counties she appraises for do not have wind farms. She stated cell phone towers do not drop value but isn't sure if wind farms are considered the same thing. Joe said he wants to protect the values as much as possible.

Amy brought in the Sirius Computer Solutions proposal for the IBM three (3) year maintenance contract with the proposed amount of \$8,734.31.00.

Pat made a motion to accept the Sirius Computer Solutions proposal for the IBM three (3) year maintenance contract with the proposed amount of \$8,734.31.00. Joe seconded; motion carried. Susan Schulte with GIS came in and stated her plotting machine is old and parts can no longer be found for it. She said the only place she can find to purchase a new or used one is with Salina Blue. She said Salina Blue has two (2) different machines, one is the Canon TX-4000 Plotter for \$5,495.00 and the other is the Canon TX-4100 Plotter for \$6,495.00. She said she can use the Canon TX-4000 Plotter which is the cheaper of the two (2). Total cost for ink and the machine is \$6,265.00.

Joe made a motion to bypass bid requirements and agreed to purchase the Canon TX-4000 Plotter with ink from Salina Blue for \$6,265.00. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Angela Eichman called back and said so far it has never been proven, one way or another, if wind farms affect property values. She will continue to get more information and pass it along.

Amy was instructed to request Jayme Rich attend the next commissioner meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Abatement Orders for taxes 2020, number 75 thru 76 was reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 6,201 with a relief assessment of (\$1,312.46).

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman



COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
              9:30 – Tony Martin  
             10:00 – Jayme Rich

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Joe moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Pat seconded. Motion carried. Pat moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	50,344.15
Road & Bridge	\$	77,271.53
Airport	\$	2,316.81
Noxious Weed	\$	2,700.31
EMS	\$	63,338.33
Fire	\$	3,544.91
Community Health	\$	17,752.86
Sheriff	\$	42,387.38
Special Law Enforcement	\$	1,449.90
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	31.12
County Building Fund	\$	2,783.02
<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$	<u>263,920.32</u>

Tron talked about windmills coming to Stevens County. He said a Haskell County Commissioner and the Road Supervisor told him Haskell County had the windmill company use Kirkham Michael to engineer the project.

Joe said the biggest issue is if the windmill company abandons or goes bankrupt causing millions of dollars for clean-up and there is no room at the landfill for the parts. The blades can't be scrapped, burned, or torn apart so finding a large enough place to dispose of them would be difficult. Pat said the liability for the windmills would be large in itself. Pat also stated he didn't know how it would be sustainable for the taxpayer. Joe said if they come in and have to put up transmission lines, they have the right to enforce eminent domain. This would give them the right to take over private property to create a right-of-way for these lines to be put in. This would possibly mean huge towers to support the transmission lines even if the property owner is opposed.

Tony said Angela hasn't heard anything on the windmills.

Joe said he would agree to the windmills if they were in the right place, right number of setbacks and something to reimburse for costs. Pat feels the windmills are not a good idea for Stevens County.

Tony said he is short some workers as one (1) resigned, one (1) is out for another week or so due to Workman's Comp and a third (3) is going to be retiring in November.

The oil distribution truck for Road and Bridge broke down again after the recent repairs. Tony mentioned the truck is a 1996 model and he would like to look at something more dependable for next year. He said a new oil distribution truck is around \$230,000.00 and hopes to get around \$30,000.00 to \$60,000.00 for a trade-in. Joe asked if the tank can be replaced, and Tony said the truck is so old and having other numerous issues as well.

Tony was approved to get specs drawn up for a new oil distribution truck.

Tony said a property owner called him with complaints about the mobile home which was approved to move into the county. Tony drove out to the mobile home and said it looks nothing like what was presented or represented at the past commissioner meeting. He distributed pictures he took of the mobile home when he went out to inspect it. The commissioners were stating the home has several issues and looks in bad shape compared to the pictures they had seen and wondered if it was even the same mobile home.

Due to the weather, the roads are not very well maintained as there has been no moisture, causing issues with blading. Tony also stated an area on Road V between Road 21 and Road 23 is starting to get a bunch of holes. He is unsure why, but they are repairing the road as the holes appear.

Joe said he spoke with Grey County Public Works Administrator and was told the whole county is on a program where the residents are charged anywhere from \$400.00 to \$500.00 per year on their taxes for sanitation services. Tony and Joe said one (1) company goes around and gathers trash for disposal and takes it to Seward County's landfill. The commissioners were all in agreement it would not be beneficial for Stevens County at this time.

Amy reminded the commissioners their next meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup> instead of Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> due to Columbus Day holiday.

Amy addressed the issue of department heads not getting bills signed and stated they will probably see some late fees and other issues as time goes on. The auditors have stressed the department heads or someone of their choosing need to sign invoices before any bill is to be paid.

Amy asked the commissioners if they want to approve the Community Health bill for sprinkler and lawn repair to come out of the building fund, as it came out of the department fund in the past. The commissioners approved the cost to come out of the building fund.

Jayme Rich, County Treasurer, came in as requested. Tron said there were several allegations made about her through formal written complaints.

1. Instructing employees to clock out at a certain time but employee continuing to work until work tasks are completed. This violates wage and hour laws under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Regardless of whether employer instructs employee to work past clock-out time or employee voluntarily decides to continue working to complete assigned work duties, the reason is immaterial. The hours are work time and are compensable.
2. Derogatory comments made in the workplace. This could potentially create what employee may consider a hostile work environment.
3. Instructing employee to take time off and use MBE leave as compensation when the policy only allows specific MBE related reasons.

Jayme responded to the commissioners by stating these accusations were false. She claimed she only told her employees to clock out no later than ten (10) minutes past five (5) and they knew better not to work after clock out time. She also stated she did not instruct employee to use sick leave as compensation but decided to have employee use that when she discovered later in the week there was a need to care for a sick relative. Jayme said an employee requested two (2) days off due to a family medical issue. She said the employee used those days as sick time, following the MBE policy. Jayme then stated the employee did not show back up to work or call in for 3 days so she assumed the medical issue was still going on and needed to get time cards to payroll so she put it down as sick pay.

The accusation of derogatory comments was also labeled as false by Jayme because she said her employees need to see her as a leader and who they can respect to keep a healthy workplace

Pat asked Jayme if she had any paper trail to support her decision of transitioning an employee from full time to part time. Jayme said she did an evaluation six (6) months ago and explained to the employee what they needed to improve on and based her decision on what would be best for the county residents.

Amy said evaluations or such paperwork pertaining to employees needs to be turned in to the HR Department to put into the employee personnel file. Jayme said she will get copies to HR of the evaluations or write-ups in the future and that she did not realize a copy needed to be presented for the personnel file. Pat agreed to why a paper trail is necessary in case any accusations arise, or someone wants to file charges so there is some sort of evidence supporting or debunking such claims. The commissioners summarized when it comes to county rules and regulations, everyone needs to be mindful of them to avoid costing the county money in the long run. Joe encouraged seeking counsel from the county attorney if there are questions concerning issues with employees. Joe said he would like to investigate more human resource training for the department heads and commissioners.

Pat told Jayme he understands having three (3) full time employees, excluding the Treasurer, would be beneficial but the county can't afford another full-time employee, which would have to include benefits.

Shelby Martin with the Wellness Center came in and said with the grant money received she had purchased a water bottle filler, had the hot water heater moved and Alfaro construction stayed within their bid amount. She said there is still money left in the grant and plans to purchase new equipment. Revenue is higher and Shelby is hoping to break even.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
OCTOBER 12, 2021

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills  
9:00 – Don Esarey – Relay information on Windmills  
9:15 – Bryan Duer – Mobile Home  
9:30 – Tony Martin  
9:45 – Maryann Willoughby – Mobile Home (Cancelled, came in at 9:15)

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney and Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Pat seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	122,618.98
Road & Bridge	\$	57,217.88
Airport	\$	10,606.08
Noxious Weed	\$	2,823.47
EMS	\$	11,195.08
Fire	\$	17,537.87
Community Health	\$	12,470.94
Sheriff	\$	40,481.30
Library	\$	58,627.25
Alcohol Treatment	\$	212.50
Wellness Bequest	\$	9,606.59
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	2,597.14
Community Health Grants	\$	3,200.00
County Building Fund	\$	211.86
TOTAL:	\$	349,406.94

Rodney Kelling came in and said he is hoping to be back working full-time in the office beginning next week after dealing with pneumonia. He handed the commissioners the Emergency Operating Plan to be signed for the state review.

Rodney asked Paul Kitzke if he had heard anything back from Code-Red and he stated he has not heard back at this time.

Rodney asked for an executive session over non-elected personnel to discuss employee behavior.

Pat made a motion to go into an executive session for fifteen minutes to discuss non-elected personnel over employee behavior. Joe seconded. Executive session began at 8:43 am until 8:56 am. No action taken.

Maryann Willoughby, Darrell Willoughby, and Jay Henson were present.

Matt Petti and Samuel Graham with Van Keppel were in attendance with Tony Martin.

Don Esarey came in to give the commissioners information he researched about wind energy. He stated the 2013 statistics for Cheyenne Wells, Colorado shows 229 towers giving the county one million dollars per year on taxes and has around twenty-seven (27) full-time employees making around \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per year without overtime. He said he worked for the County Road and Bridge Department and when they were first discussing the wind turbines, he had reservations about the road repairs. The wind company has rebuilt and widened some roads due to the deterioration caused by their trucks moving the windmills in. He also stated the company gave the county the dirt and gravel for the Road and Bridge Department.

The commissioners questioned the possibility of the turbines falling apart or the company going bankrupt. Don said to make a bond before they do the project to cover any of those expenses. He also suggested hiring an attorney that specializes in wind energy farms to make sure the county will be protected. Don said landowners allowing windmills on their property were getting anywhere from \$3,500.00 to \$10,000.00 per year per tower.

Joe said the commissioners want to get more information to the public about the windmills. Don said some people do not like the site of the windmills or the red lights, but it has helped increase county revenue. He said in Cheyenne County, the wind company built a large shop which helped with taxes as well.

Tron asked if the windmills caused any issues with irrigation. Don said he was not sure, as the windmills were not located on irrigated land in Cheyenne County since there really is not much need for irrigation.

Pat did not think wind farms were property taxable because it is like the PILT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) plan. Don said he was not sure and should contact the state taxing authority to find out more information.

Bryan Duer and Denise Spence came in to discuss the mobile home they purchased that was approved at the 8/23/21 commissioner meeting. Bryan stated he would have liked to have received a request to come in if the commissioners had an issue with the mobile home instead of hearing about it from other people and reading it in the paper (from the 9/27/21 commissioner meeting minutes). He said he had called Pat several times and had not received a phone call back until recently. Bryan informed the commissioners the mobile home was VIN checked by Ted Heaton and Pat talked to Wayne Harrison who had confirmed to Bryan the mobile home was in good shape.

so he would like an explanation as to why the commissioners have issues with it. Denise said they did not hear about any issues until after they purchased the mobile home. They would have liked to have been informed there was discussion at another meeting about issues with the mobile home, so they would know not to purchase it and to keep looking. Bryan asked who stated the mobile home was misrepresented.

Tron said he was not at the meeting where the mobile home was approved and said from the information he received, it was misrepresented. He was under the impression the home looked good from the pictures, yet when Tony went out and brought pictures in at the last meeting Pat and Joe thought it was a different house. Tron said the county has a twenty (20) year rule and should have stayed with it.

Bryan showed the same pictures to the commissioners he brought of the mobile home to the original meeting, pointing out where the siding had come off and informed them, he has made all the repairs. He also brought in plans for the house they intend on building. They were going to begin building soon but wanted to wait until spring to see if costs would go down. Denise and Bryan said they moved here to retire and do not want to cause any issues. Bryan said he has received rude phone calls at his place of work informing him they are blocking views, which he feels is very unacceptable.

Pat said he wants to make sure the plans are carried through for building a home, as was stated. He informed Bryan and Denise the variance has not been revoked.

Bryan said Tony refused to sign the permits, so the commissioners must sign. He reiterated he would have liked to have been requested to be put on the agenda so he could be present to represent himself and his supposed intentions before the commissioners had their discussion about the matter.

Paul said the commissioners and Bryan should have a contract stating the house will be built within two (2) years. Pat said if the house building is started within two (2) years he does not have an issue with that ruling. Bryan asked about hardships if the house cannot be built within a certain amount of time but can get started within two (2) years.

Tony said there is a hardship rule within the zoning regulations. He said the variance on a mobile home being removed can be extended by one (1) year, at the homeowner's expense. Tony suggested if the house is not being built then Bryan must remove the mobile home within three (3) years from November 1, 2021.

Bryan asked the commissioners to give him the common courtesy to call him in if there are any other issues about his property instead of having to read it in the paper or hearing about it around town.

Pat made a motion to request Bryan and Denise build a home on the property within three (3) years from November 1, 2021, and to remove the mobile home at that time. Tron seconded. Motion carried.

Tony Martin presented a permit for the landfill to the commissioners to be signed.

He reported the new policy for CDL Licenses requires either automatic or manual and with the manual license, a person can operate both types of vehicles.

Tony said the oil distributor truck is not worth a trade-in like he had planned. Matt with Van Keppel said it is better to put the truck in an auction, as the county would make more money from it. Pat asked if it would be better to keep the truck instead and Tony told the commissioners the truck itself is in good condition as it only has around 65,000 miles, but the oil distributor tank does not work properly and will take more money to fix. Matt suggested the county take the tank off the truck and use it as oil storage and put a dump bed on the truck for more use. He stated there are many other options the county can do with the truck.

Tony wrote up the specs and gave them to Matt and Samuel for review. Matt said the new truck will be a Kenworth chassis with an automatic transmission with a two (2) speed drop box, which is a little different from Tony's specs.

The new oil distributor truck by Van Keppel will cost \$258,825.00. Tony suggested ordering the new truck which would give the county time to decide what to do with the old one. He said the new truck will not be ready until spring which will be just in time to chip and seal.

Paul asked if there were any other vendors who sell these trucks in Kansas and was told Mauldin sells them but has been in lawsuits and other counties have had continuous issues with that company.

The commissioners said they like the idea of pulling the tank off and using it as storage at the asphalt plant but do not feel the truck will run well with a dump bed on it.

Tron suggested putting the truck on PurpleWave.com and if it does not sell then the county would have an extra truck. Tony said there is plenty of time to decide on it.

Matt said with a new truck from Van Keppel they will send two (2) trainers down to spend two to three (2-3) days training the drivers on how to use the truck and sprayer. They will also help re-train chip spreading.

Tony informed the commissioners the special highway fund has around \$572,000.00 which is enough to purchase the truck with money left over.



Pat made a motion to wave all bid requirements and purchase the 2023 Kenworth with auto transmission with a drop box – 3500-gallon Etnyre Centennial oil distributor from Van Keppel for \$258,825.00. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tony said he is attending the KAC (Kansas Association of Counties) meeting next week and will have more paperwork from the state on the landfill pit.

Joe asked Tony about his employees. Tony said he has two (2) that will be retiring soon, one (1) on November 1, 2021, and the other in May of 2022. He said the new hire had resigned and went somewhere else. Joe said the county needs to address the money issues of what is being paid to the Road and Bridge employees. There was discussion about changing the starting wage between \$17.50 per hour to \$18.00 per hour. Amy said she will send the updated wage information to the commissioners.

Ross came in and said he is wanting to get rid of the old riding lawn mower and asked what should be done with it. The commissioners told him to take it to the junk yard and get rid of it.

The commissioners discussed the wind farms and stated they are not opposed to anti-wind energy but have concerns about the value to the county including causing a microclimate which would bring cooler temperatures. They suggested having the County Appraiser come to the next meeting when the wind farm company will be here.

Added and Abated Orders were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer. The Added Orders for tax year 2017 number 116 total valuation added 72 and tax assessed \$12.71; for tax year 2018 number 165, total valuation added \$12.85; 2019 number 265, total valuation added 72 and tax assessed \$11.96; 2021 number 78, total value added 2852 and tax assessed \$600.45. Abated Orders for tax year 2017 numbers 114 thru 115, total valuation removed 13,308 and tax assessed -\$2,145.60; for tax year 2018 numbers 162 and 164 total valuation removed 14,625 and tax assessed of -\$2,387.50; tax year 2019 numbers 262 thru 264 total valuation removed 28,941 and tax -\$4,363.13; tax year 2021 numbers 77, 79 thru 80 total valuation removed 21,857 and tax -\$3,709.51. Total valuation of -75,663 and total tax assessed -\$11,967.77.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS  
OCTOBER 25, 2021

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills  
9:00 – Karen Vines w/ HUB – BCBS Renewal  
9:30 – Tony Martin  
9:45 – Invenergy – Meredith Jeffrey

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in a regular session with all members present. Paul Kitzke, County Attorney, Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk and Ruthie Wingett with the Hugoton Hermes were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Pat seconded. Motion carried. The Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	43,963.50
Judicial District	\$	915.93
Road & Bridge	\$	114,058.07
Airport	\$	4,684.36
Noxious Weed	\$	4,701.65
EMS	\$	7,234.56
Fire	\$	1,665.24
Community Health	\$	17,867.51
Sheriff	\$	31,645.39
Building	\$	9,613.86
Fire Bequest	\$	1,939.19
911 Wireless	\$	115.84
Emp P/R Misc W/H	\$	33.14
Reg of Deed Tech	\$	3,375.00
ARPA	\$	225.55
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>242,038.79</b>

Rodney was in and notified the commissioners the state changed the template for the radios. To update and optimize all the county radios including Fire, EMS, Sheriff, City of Hugoton Police, Stevens County Hospital and the Road and Bridge Department to the state's new regulations will cost \$5,200.00. Rodney said it adds 800 megahertz of backup to also be able to contact other counties in the mutual aid system. If a person wants this update on their radio, it will cost over \$100.00 to do this. Plans are for each department to split the cost depending on how many radios they have.

The grant for the new firetruck had issues going through one company, as they could not get a chassis, so after looking they found another company with a Kenworth truck that can get a chassis. This firetruck will not have all the specs on it but will have the important ones.

Richard Claggett was in attendance.

Amy Jo said the library contacted her to inform Carol Swinney has resigned from the Stevens County Library Board and they received interest from Pam Moore to serve as her replacement.

Joe made a motion to replace Carol Swinney with Pam Moore on the Stevens County Library Board. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Karen Vines with HUB came in to discuss 2022 Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) insurance renewal for the county. The increase for insurance is 4.21%, which is better than some of the other insurance plans. She stated Etna does not help with tax-exempt entities at this time and United Healthcare has its pros and cons.

Pat asked Karen how many different counties HUB represents and how many counties pay entire insurance versus employee only. Karen said there are eighteen (18) counties, and the southwest part of Kansas usually pays more than the employee insurance compared to the northeastern part of the state.

Karen informed the commissioners there was a two percent (2%) decrease on dental due to the amount of the claims and HUB asked for the full four percent (4%) decrease. She said they pull the utilization report from Blue Cross to see if any possible changes give insight on claims and other information. She said the dental plan is the same design as the previous year and will have a 3.9% decrease. The vision has the same premium and coverage and will not change until January 24, 2023.

Pat made a motion to accept the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan for 2022. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tony Martin, Gina Payne, and Jimmie Cerecero were in attendance.

Tony and the commissioners presented Jimmie with a retirement gift and thanked him for his eighteen (18) years of service.

Joe asked Tony why there was forty to fifty percent (40-50%) of the Noxious Weed fund left. Tony said they are in the process of taking fuel out to reimburse Road and Bridge. Tony also informed the commissioners the road striping company completed twenty-eight (28) miles.

The commissioner meeting moved to Memorial Hall for Invenergy. The following were present: Ron Martin, Cynthia Martin, Ralph Bane, Julie Kinser, Martha Thomas, Ron Thomas, Connie

Thomas, Bob Thomas, Mary Gail Thomas, Tony Martin, Gina Payne, Neal R Gillespie, Jim Ghumm, Paul Nordyke, Josh Grubbs, Richard Claggett, Alex Kinser, Jan Leonard, Jonathan Percy, Corey Hunt, and Invenergy representatives; Meredith Jeffrey, Bob Brunson, Bud Jordan, William Davidson, and Paul Henderson.

Meredith explained to the commissioners and citizens that Invenergy is based on innovation and energy for a clean resource along with partnering with utility companies and landowners. She said there is an office in Hugoton at 516 South Main Street if anyone would like to go in and discuss more about the wind turbines or get more information on what they do. Currently, the project is in the early stages and will take a few years before anything is completed. Invenergy is all about answering questions and concerns truthfully and honestly.

Joe asked how many wind farms they have. Meredith said there is one (1) in Ellis County, producing 200 Megawatts, which is their largest, and they currently own over 100 windfarms which produce roughly 17.2 Gigawatts of power. Bob Brunson said there are three (3) windfarms in Oklahoma that produce two (2) Gigawatts of power combined. Meredith stated Invenergy builds, develops, and operates all their wind farms.

Joe asked the size of the wind farm in Stevens County and Meredith replied it is too early to tell as they are still gathering data on wind resources, wind speeds, engineering, and environmental impacts. Tony asked about transmission lines and Meredith said they look to see where they can interconnect lines. Meredith said Bob and his team will need another year to be comfortable before moving forward.

Ron Martin asked how many acres are needed to set up a wind farm. Meredith stated anywhere from hundreds to thousands of acres or more to continue the benefits of agriculture. Another question asked was what kind of revenue that brings in. Meredith said it depends if the line crosses your land or you have a windmill. Ron questioned the effects on CRP land and if it absolves the criteria the FSA has. Meredith said they will engage with CRP and will pay for the CRP land to come out of CRP. Bob said if there are 160 acres of CRP land and Invenergy only needs one quarter (1/4) of an acre they will buy that amount out of CRP.

Jim Ghumm asked what hurdles or concerns the landowners have asked about. Bob said the concerns they have heard was the lengthy contract. Invenergy must educate landowners and landowners must have the resources and ability to support a wind turbine. Jim also asked what the minimum amount needed of wind turbines is to get a job started or completed. Bob said the project must be large for the pipeline and depends on how much power can be sold.

Ron Martin said there were issues with a wind farm south of Guymon, Oklahoma and it is all deserted now. Bob said the developer was foreign, had no contracts and ended up bankrupt. Meredith said out of 3,000 turbines they have only replaced three to four (3 – 4) blades per year. Ron also asked who foots the bill if a windmill were to break or needs taken down. Meredith said Invenergy puts money into a decommissioning bond and the cost will never come from the

landowner. Ralph Bane asked if there was a deadline. Meredith said they are looking at larger projects and stated it will be in or after 2025 before anything gets completed or close to completion.

Bob said the market is huge and they sell chunks of power. He insisted people look at their portfolio and compare it to other wind energy companies. It takes at least three (3) years for the project to get ready and roughly one and a half (1 1/2) to two (2) years to acquire the real estate. Ralph asked if they keep the landowners who sign a contract in the loop of the windmill production. Bob said they stay in communication with the landowners.

Jim asked what the wind farms will bring to the community and how they help. Bob said it brings people into the community through jobs, wind techs, full-time operational staff, construction, etc.

Tron asked if the wind farms bring in any revenue to the county. Meredith said according to K.S.A. 79-201, there is a ten (10) year property tax exemption for new business. Invenergy does customize a contribution agreement and those payments are made during the ten (10) year tax exemption.

Neal said he noticed Invenergy is number two (#2) in the country. Meredith said yes, Invenergy stands behind what they do with power.

Jan asked if the wind farms help lower the mill levies. Meredith affirmed it helps with mill levies and there is a pilot cost agreement.

Jonathan asked if they work with landowners with center pivots as most of the farm ground in Stevens County has center pivots. Bob said they do work with those landowners and understand they need their land to farm. He said they will put a windmill on the corner of the property and not within the circle so it can still have the center pivot and be farmed.

Corey asked about the concerns Invenergy has for crop dusters. Bob said their wind turbines are not like Met-Towers and can be seen. Corey asked about the landowners who request spider mite applications, indicating it is hard and next to impossible to do. Bob said he understands there are good and bad and sometimes the landowner signs not thinking where the turbine will be built.

Tony said there is still a responsibility with planning and zoning on giving a layout of the plans and getting conditional use permits. There will be a public planning and zoning hearing, then on to the commissioners for the final say. Everything has a time-consuming process.

The commissioners reconvened to the commissioner's meeting room.

Amy Jo told the commissioners Angela had reported there was no drop in valuation if land had wind turbines.

Joe started a discussion about COLA, stating the State of Kansas has raised the COL (cost of living) 5.8%. Further discussion about COLA's was tabled for later.

Abatement Orders for 2017 tax numbered 113 and 2018 tax numbered 163 were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 23,181 with a relief assessment of \$3,762.26.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman