

# FORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

MEETING OF February 1, 2021

MEETING NUMBER 2021-05

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

3:30 P.M.



Page 14

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the Commission Chambers at the Ford County Government Center.

Those present were:

Shawn Tasset, Chairman

J.D. Gilbert, County Administrator

Ken W. Snook, Commissioner

Debbie Cox, County Clerk

Chris Boys, Commissioner

Chairman Tasset called the meeting to order. Ryan Ausmus with Westside Cornerstone Church, led the group in prayer, followed by Chairman Tasset leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Tasset made a correction to the agenda. The last item on the agenda should be Stillwater Technical Solutions, not Kansas Natural Resource Coalition.

## Consent Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2021-02; 2021-03; 2021-04

Credit Card Statement

Approval of Additions and Abatements: 2021 RE \$-79.16; 2018 RE \$-76.44; 2019 RE \$-76.92; 2020 RE \$2,279.28; 2020 PP \$117.64; 2020 Oil/Gas 0; 2020 W/C \$38.18

CMB License: Leobardo Del Real / dba Rancho El Palomino LLC

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): Semi-Annual Report

Wilburn Township; Appointment

Community Facility Advisory Board: Re-appointment

John Weber of Wilburn Township submitted a letter to the Clerk stating he would be interested in the Township Clerk position.

Melissa McCoy asked for re-appointment of Michael Burns to serve a second three-year term on the Community Facility Advisory Board.

Chairman Tasset moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

## Approval of Claims for Payment: \$999,224.92

Commissioner Boys moved to approve the claims for payment as presented. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Open Public Comment**

Marsha Couch presented a proposal for Ford County to consider creating a Sanctuary County for the Unborn.

**Unfinished Business****County Treasurer: Property Taxes / Protest**

This item was tabled from Meeting No. 2021-03; Lieu Do is protesting the interest payment of her 2014 property taxes. Ford County Treasurer Sara Woods stated, after researching this and talking with Ford County Legal Counsel, it is her recommendation to refund the interest and fees of \$3,788.37 for the 2014 property taxes.

Chairman Tasset moved to refund the interest and fees of \$3,788.37 from the 2014 property taxes back to MS. Lieu Do. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**County Farm Ground**

This item was tabled from Meeting No. 2021-03; Dave Droste is requesting to rent an additional 17.1 acres of farm ground. He currently rents other acreage, by contract with Ford County. He has broken ground and planted the extra farm ground without a contract. It is to be decided what to do as this was not part of the original contract.

Chairman Tasset moved to hold to the original lease as designated in contract, and not add the 14 acres. Commissioner Boys asked what happens to the crop that is growing. Chairman Tasset stated it needs to be abandon.

**Motion died for lack of second**

Commissioner Snook moved to add an addendum to the contract and add the additional 14.4 acres for the same lease price starting on January 1, 2020.

**Motion died for lack of second**

Commissioner Boys moved to hold to the original lease of 93.23 acres. Allowed to harvest 14.4 that has currently been worked. The county take a cut. This would be the last crop grown there. Chairman Tasset seconded the motion for discussion.

Mr Droste stated he could pay the \$46.00 per acer cash rent for two years, take the wheat, and then not farm the ground again. It would save the county from handling the wheat.

Chairman Tasset restated the motion for clarification. To stay with original lease boundaries, extend the 46 dollar per acre cash rent for the 18.38 acres that is outside the original boundaries, for the years 2020 and 2021. Not farm the uncontracted ground again. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Legal Counsel- None****County Administrator's Report****Naming Rights Agreement**

Melissa McCoy Assistant City Manager/Public affairs officer presented the Naming Rights Agreement with VenuWorks. The Casino has requested that the agreement be renewed before the end of the initial term of ten years because for their contract extension with the State of Kansas. They are asking to extend the agreement to 2035.

Commissioner Boys moved approve the naming rights agreement with VenuWorks of Dodge City, LLC and Booth Hill Casino and Resort. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.****Ford County Engineer Report**

County Engineer Jon Halbgewachs gave an update on projects he has been working on. OS Bridge 31 Reconstruction and Roadway Re-Alignment (Duck Creek on 114 Road north of Garnett) – Road and Bridge has received 2 beams that will be needed for construction of the bridge. The others have been delayed but will be here in time for construction. Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe drainage- That area was annexed into the City Limits and is therefore no longer county maintenance responsibility. This item will come off the list. Quaker Road Drainage Improvement between 115 and 116 Road-The County Surveyor provided the topographic survey data to Kirkham Michael earlier this month. Kirkham Michael will use the field survey data, to complete a drainage analysis to develop concepts for a drainage structure at the low point in the road profile. We will then work with the Enterprise Township and County to develop a final plan of action. Iron Star Wind Farm w/Engie- Kirkham Michael's liaison Brian Fry, continues to provide daily observation of wind farm activities and addressing county road issues. New Business: The Road and Bridge department received notice from ITC, who are proposing a new substation. This has been through planning and zoning and will be presented at the next commission meeting. If this goes through they plan construction beginning April. This is proposed for the intersection of NE Corner Saddle road and 118 alignment. There is not a road at 118 so they will have to access Saddle road. The County should have a road maintenance agreement in place. ITC has sent a draft for the county to consider. We will be working with Ford County Legal Counsel on this. Kingfish Court, Dodge Township has asked for a Stop sign to be placed on the new road. He will be talking to the Township about this. May have to have a special resolution to make speed 25 mph. on that portion of the road.

**Ford Count Engineer: Jewell Road Reclamation / Phase 2 RFB**

The Commissioners previously authorized Kirkham Michael to proceed with developing plans and bid specifications to procure a construction contractor to reclaim three additional miles of Jewell Road, between 123 Road and 126 Road. The request for bids is to be signed by the Clerk to establish the bid opening date of March 1, 2021. Mr. Halbgewachs is asking for approval of the Jewell Road Reclamation Phase 2 Request for Bids.

Chairman Tasset moved to approve the Jewell Road Reclamation Phase 2 Request for Bids. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Noxious Weed: Agreement with KDOT to Treat Noxious Weeds**

David Nichols, Ford County Noxious Weed Director, presented for approval the KS Department of Transportation, Bureau of Maintenance agreement. This is an annual agreement with Ford County for the treatment of all noxious weeds on State Highway right-of-ways in the County.

Commissioner Boys moved to approve the agreement between Ford County and the Kansas Department of Transportation Bureau of Maintenance. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Western State Bank Expo Center: Mariah Fund Grant**

Western State Bank Expo Center Director Danielle Crouch is requesting approval to apply for grant money from the Mariah Fund. This money will help with an event that will be held September 2021.

Chairman Tasset moved to approve the request to apply for grant money from the Mariah Fund. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Information Technology: Converge One / Switch Support**

IT Director Marti Bremer presented for approval of switch support for onsite with Converge One for \$10,900.00.

Commissioner Boys moved to approve the switch support for onsite with Converge One for \$10,900.00. Chairman Tasset seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Information Technology: Converge One / EMC Renewal**

IT Director Marti Bremer presented for approval EMC Renewal with Converge One, for \$18,167.37.

Chairman Tasset moved to approve EMC Renewal with Converge One for \$18,167.37. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Stillwater Technical Solutions**

Jim Carlson with Stillwater Technical Solutions presented information on Prairie Dog Management Plan that he is working on for Logan County. This is a Countywide Prairie Dog control and management plan that merges Environmental Protection Agency best practices, US Fish and Wildlife, State Laws and authorities for Counties and Townships and merge them into one document that Logan County can adopt for how they manage Prairie Dog control.

This could be adapted for Ford County and share the cost with Logan County. The total cost is \$7,000.00 for the document. If Ford County went in with Logan County, Ford County's share would be \$3,500.00. If other counties approve the plan, it would be cost shared plan at an equally divided price. Everything that would be needed for the plan and resolutions would be in this document. Mr. Carlson would recommend an MOU between the County and the Townships so the townships can follow this plan also. Chairman Tasset stated County Administrator J.D. Gilbert would be Mr. Carlson's contact person for information needed.

Chairman Tasset moved to retain Stillwater Technical Solution to develop this Health and Safety Management Plan for Ford County, and authorize the \$3,500.00 to pay for it. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Upcoming Meetings**

February 8-11, 2021: Kansas Association of City/County Management (KACM): Winter Seminar 2021 Virtual.

State of the City: February 10, 2021 from 11:30 to 1:00 pm at Boot Hill Casino and Conference Center

2021 NACO Virtual Legislative Conference: March 8-26, 2021

**Adjournment**

Chairman Tasset moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 pm. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FORD COUNTY, KANSAS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn Tasset, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Cox, County Clerk