

FORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF April 20 2020
MEETING NUMBER 2020-12
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
3:00 P.M.



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

Those present were:

Chris Boys, Chairman

Shawn Tasset, Commissioner

Ken W. Snook, Commissioner

J.D. Gilbert, County Administrator

Debbie Cox, County Clerk

Chairman Boys called the meeting to order. He announced no action would be taken.

Ford County Fire: EMS: New Engine

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FORD COUNTY, KANSAS

Chris Boys, Chairman

ATTEST:

Debbie Cox, County Clerk

FORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

MEETING OF April 20, 2020
MEETING NUMBER 2020-13
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
3:30 P.M.



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

Those present were:

Chris Boys, Chairman

Ken W. Snook, Commissioner

Shawn Tasset, Commissioner

J.D. Gilbert, County Administrator

Debbie Cox, County Clerk

Chairman Boys called the meeting to order. Dr. Shawn Fletcher led the group in prayer. Chairman Boys then led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Hearing

Community Development Block Grant: Revolving Loan Application

Chairman Boys opened the public hearing for public comment on the revolving loan application. Hearing none. Chairman Boys closed the public hearing for public comments.

HR Director Pat Heeke presented the application for Revolving Loan for the Emergency loan program, from Beck Sales Company, Inc. Dodge City. The application is for \$100,000.00. Joann Knight from Dodge City/Ford County Development stated the City of Dodge City and Spearville City have the same programs. There may be more County Businesses applying for the County loans. Ford County has \$283,000.00 to loan to County businesses. The City of Dodge City has \$403,000.00. The City of Spearville has \$450,000.00. She will be presenting to the City of Dodge City tonight six applications. Dodge City business are not eligible for the County loans.

Commissioner Tasset moved to approve the CDBG application for the Emergency Loan from Beck Sales Company Inc. as published. Chairman Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes Meetings: 2020-11

Credit Card Statement: \$30,929.82

Approval of Additions and Abatements: 2019 RE\$-41,729.06; 2019 PP \$268.62

Ford Township Trustee Resignation / Steven Snook

Ford Township Trustee Appointment / Colton Downey

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

Approval of Claims for Payment: \$549,881.71

Chairman Boys moved to approve the payment of claims for \$549,881.71. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Open Public Comment

Angela Sowers, Administrator of the Ford County Health Department, gave an update on what the county is doing to combat COVID-19 in Ford County.

Unfinished Business-None

Legal Counsel

Kansas Statewide Farmworkers Health Program

Ford County Legal Counsel, Mr. Glenn Kerbs presented for approval the Kansas Statewide Farmworkers Health Program. This agreement is between the Kansas Statewide Farmworkers Health Program, a program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Ford County, Kansas. This is a program which Angela Sowers, Health Department Administrator,, has participated in and would like to continue.

Commissioner Snook moved to approve the agreement as presented for the Kansas Statewide Farmworkers Health Program. Commissioner Tasset seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Tasset moved to amend the agenda to remove items number 4 and 8 from the County Administrators report. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

County Administrator's Report

County Operations

The Governor has extended the stay at home order to May 3, 2020, for the COVID-19 crisis. Chairman Boys stated the cases have ramped up. Due to of what has been seen, regarding the ramp up of cases, we should extend Ford County Administrative Leave to May 3, 2020.

Chairman Boys moved County Operations stay at home to extend to May 3, 2020. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion.

Commissioner Tasset stated that he has a different opinion about this. We know more about this virus and what needs to be done. The cases we have had so far, we have had minimal hospitalization. We have not had deaths associated with this so far. There are people that have

compromising health conditions, they should stay home. We need to do everything to safe guard them. In healthy folks, it is not that severe. The tax deadline is coming up and there will be people that will not be able to pay that bill. We need to start thinking about getting people back to work earlier than May 3. Commissioner Snook asked when he wanted to open up. Commissioner Tasset stated that he was thinking to bring the County staff back the end of this week or Monday. He has talked to County Administrator last week about looking to start a process going forward to bring employees back to work. Here in Ford County we have 171 cases and there are counties around whose economies are sequestered as anyone in the state and they don't have any cases.

Commissioner Snook stated it could be because they are not doing as many tests.

County Administrator is asking if the Commission would extent to May 3rd, it would give the administration this week to develop a plan to slowly bring the people back to work. Have a special meeting to see what that would look like. Chairman Boys is concerned about what impression that would give to the public. There are many businesses that cannot not work right now.

Commissioner Tasset stated it was important to let people know we have been working to take steps to protect the workers.

Chairman Boys amended his motion to Ford County Administrative Leave until April 27, with a motion that administration continue to monitor county operations as they are and report back in a special meeting to be held on April 27, 2020, at 3:30 pm. Commissioner Tasset seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Pioneer Creek Wind Farm Update

Joann Knight with Dodge City/Ford County Development Corp. introduced Dan Scheffler, and Kimberly McGee, with Pioneer Creek Wind Farm. Mr. Scheffler and Ms. McGee was on phone call. Mr. Scheffler and McGee gave an update on the Pioneer Creek Wind Farm project in Ford County.

County Engineer's Report

Ford County Engineer, Jon Halbgewachs, presented by phone the projects he has been working on. OS Bridge 31 Reconstruction and Roadway Re-Alignment (Duck Creek on 114 Road north of Garnett) Seeking direction from the Commission, on whether we are to proceed forward with improving the curves for a 55-mph design speed, or replace the bridge where it is now.

Commissioner Tasset moved to continue with the road re-ailment for a 55-mph design speed. Chairman Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-1.** Commissioner Snook voted no.

Paved Road Reclamation (Jewell Road, 102 Road, and 113 Road)-Will be reviewing Terracon's report in detail and speaking with them on how to implement their recommendations into plans and specifications for contractor bidding. It is the goal to have a design agreement for review by the County Counselor and Administrator within the next two weeks so the Commission in May could consider it.

KDOT Cost Share application period has been extended to May 18. Still working to get a letter of support from USD 443 in Dodge City to go with the application. Have received letters of support from USD 381 in Spearville and Alliance Ag from Wright.

Iron Star Wind Farm-The County Zoning Director forwarded an email that the developer is moving forward with geotechnical investigation for the wind farm project. They have not yet submitted a Conditional Use Permit application.

Grainbelt Express Power Line-Invenenergy sent a Road Use and Maintenance agreement to the county for review. Mr. Halbgewachs provided a modified agreement for county review on March 11, 2020.

Open Enrollment: Online Option

HR Director Pat Heeke is suggesting that Ford County provided all staff Online open enrollment for employee benefits. Open enrollment is May 19-20, 2020 in the Rose Room. Some of the vendors were asking about this. Instead of a two-day enrollment, it would be open the month of May. IMA the benefits consultants, are putting together what the benefits options will be. Pat and Molly will have a checklist to make sure the employee will know what they already have so they do not check the wrong items. The employee will be able to Skype or Zoom with the vendors, They will do everything online for all benefit enrollment.

Health Insurance: County Renewal

HR Director Pat Heeke presented the 2020-2021 Plan year renewal rates. She is recommending Option 2 of the Health Plan Renewal Options. County would pay \$690.00 per person on plan, \$66.27 Admin Fee, \$176.94 Stop Loss Premium, with \$446.34 Expected Claims. Est. 2020 Annual At Expected: \$1,985,887. This is through Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Commissioner Tasset moved to approve Option 2 of the Health Plan Renewal Options. Chairman Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

WorkWell Kansas 2020 Initiative Participation

HR Director Pat Heeke presented for approval the WorkWell Kansas 2020 Initiative participation. This is no cost to the County. It is not mandatory, just requested of the county employees to participate in.

Chairman Boys moved to approve the WorkWell Kansas 2020 Initiative Participation. Commissioner Tasset seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Upcoming Meetings

Open Enrollment for Benefits: May 19-20, 2020 Rose Room

Executive Session: Matters Relating to Security Measures

Chairman Boys moved the Board recess into executive session at 5:30 p.m. for 30 minutes to discuss upgrades to the Ford County Government Center's building security system pursuant to the matters relating to security measures exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(12). The open meeting to resume in this location at 6:00 pm.

In addition to the Commissioners, the County Administrator, the Assistant County Administrator, Information Technology Director, County Chief of Fire and EMS, and County Counselor should be included in the executive session. Commissioner Tasset seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner returned to regular meeting at 6:00 pm. No action taken.

Adjournment

Chairman Boys moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Snook seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

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

Chris Boys, Chairman

ATTEST:

Debbie Cox, County Clerk