

COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2021

Chairman Ben Fox called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Vice Chairman Roy Ballard, Robert Joe Morgan, Chuck Spradlin, Paul Hodge, County Clerk Kathy Robison and County Counselor Paul Dean.

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hodge moved to approve September 13th, 2021 Minutes. Morgan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Road and Bridge report:

- Greenwood County turned in \$161,978 to the Federal Exchange and received \$77,703 in return.
- The department is working on matters in regards to land acquisition for the Christian Hills Project.
- Legal Counsel Paul Dean informed Chrisman to send a registered letter to AT&T, giving them a deadline of November 1 to move any lines necessary for the Christian Hills Bridge construction project.
- Chrisman is looking into the purchase of a snow plow truck.
- Ballard received a complaint of a view obstruction at the corner of T road near Madison.
- Darrel reported that Allen Greenwood will be moving from \$12.75 to \$14.50 per hour. Fox moved approve the status change for Greenwood. Morgan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
- Greenwood County resident Cory Fuesz posed questions in regards to the amount of land that will be needed from the property owner at the construction site of the Christian Hills Bridge Project. Darrel stated that he believed it would take a small area and offered Fuesz to stop by the Road and Bridge Department office to view the survey.

Fuesz then asked commissioners to aid in finding a resolution for a fence line issue. He stated that he was unable to find paperwork designating the official closure of a road located near L Road and 90th Street. Paul Dean informed Fuesz that the first step would be to petition for closure of the road. Dean continued stating that once this step has been taken; if further action is needed commissioners could then look to address the matter.

Another Greenwood County resident expressed concerns regarding the approaches to Christian Hills Bridge, asking if the construction project would also address this matter. Darrel is slated to discuss the matter with county contracted engineer Michael Maris.

Morgan moved to approve payables in the amount of \$415,716.19. Hodge seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ballard moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$121,687.99. Morgan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Representing an individual who is purchasing the former La Hacienda building located in Eureka was Larry French with Greenwood County Title. French noted that the owner has paid taxes from 2014-2017, but is seeking aid in regards to interest of tax dollars, delinquent fees and mowing fees incurred by the previous owner from 2020. Paul Dean informed French that the County does not possess the authority to forgive interest as these are set by the State of Kansas. French was then directed to the City of Eureka for forgiveness of mowing fees.

Representatives from the City of Eureka discussed Travel and Tourism. Stephen Coulter noted that not having an individual being paid to concentrate on tourism and economic development in Greenwood County is a concern. Coulter would like this matter to be addressed. Main Street Director Heather Fuesz explained that the development of a pamphlet that included sites, locations to visit and places to eat would be beneficial. City representatives asked for commissioners to consider providing aid in funding a Travel & Tourism position. It was noted that Eureka does not have an active Chamber of Commerce. City officials are looking into rebranding the Eureka Chamber of Commerce. Further research will be conducted and the matter is slated to be discussed at a later date.

Greenwood County resident Carol Ann Flock voiced concerns regarding the County budget. She referenced a perceived tax increase and noted that taxes and the cost of living are already high. Flock stated that this would put residents in a tough position. Flock then noted that every time there is a request for funds, the request is granted. Flock suggested that the County limit the funds being granted. Spradlin explained that taxes looked level in comparison to rates in previous years. Flock suggested that Commissioners prioritize what is most important when it comes to allocating funds. Fox referenced complaints regarding over paying county employees, stating that it is not easy to maintain good employees.

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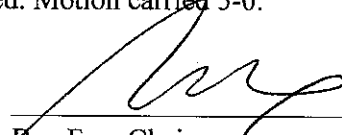
Greenwood County resident Frank McCollum spoke in favor of the travel and tourism discussion. McCollum stated that the fence issue between himself and Terry Hart that has been discussed at previous meetings has been resolved and he would not bring up the matter again.

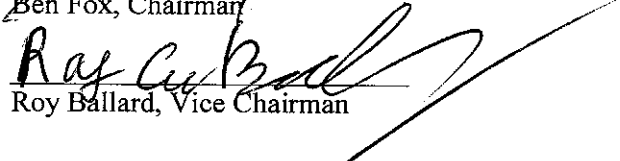
Levi Vinson asked commissioners to consider putting an AED in Jerrid Baumgartel's county owned Noxious Weed vehicle, noting that Baumgartel is certified as a first responder. The cost of such would amount to around \$1,500. Commissioners noted that emergency services compose a list of county-wide locations where AEDs are located. Vinson is slated to research the price further and discuss the matter at a later date. Vinson then noted he would reach out to the company in regards to the drone discussed last week.

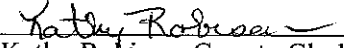
Commissioner Spradlin moved to accept the 2022 budgets for Greenwood County and Greenwood County Rural Fire. Hodge seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ballard requested an update regarding in regards to the submission of reports and documentation pertaining to the American Rescue Plan Act funds, Deputy Clerk Deann McCafferey suggested commissioners speak with County Clerk Kathy Robison on the matter. A brief discussion ensued regarding expanding the committee for the ARPA funds.

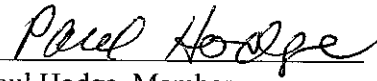
Ballard moved to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. Morgan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

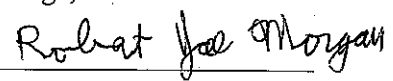

Ben Fox, Chairman


Roy Ballard, Vice Chairman

ATTEST: 
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Chuck Spradlin, Member


Paul Hodge, Member


Robert Joe Morgan, Member