

Preston Evenson called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:01 a.m. Other members present were Roy Ballard, Ron Mast, Judd Everitt, County Counselor Paul Dean and County Clerk Deann McCaffree.

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Ballard moved to approve January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes as written, Everitt seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Ballard moved to approve special payables in the amount of \$6,570.11. Everitt seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Evenson moved to approve payables in the amount of \$147,640.97. Ballard seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Ballard moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$160,670.57. Mast seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

Ambulance Director, Brian Mongeau presented a pay scale and modified pay rates per request of the commissioners. Commissioners stated they would like to see starting wages for the county at \$15.00-hour. Mongeau informed commissioner this would mean a base pay increase of \$2.34 hr. and would increase the ambulance budget by about \$67,000 for the year. The rate change would be effective January 25, 2025, with hopes that the pay increase would help encourage employees to help with transfers. (JE25-06)

**Ballard moved to approve Greenwood Ambulance pay rates. Mast seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

Extension Agent, Ben Sims introduced the new Family and Consumer Science Agent, Alisha Fisher to commissioners.

Health Department Administrator, Jayme Lewis informed commissioners of new hire Carmella Cooper, who started January 20, 2025 and requested a performance evaluation in 90 days.

**Ballard moved to approve full time Health Department Billing Clerk, Carmella Cooper at a rate of \$15.00 hour. Mast seconded. Motion carried 4-0. (JE25-07)**

Greenwood County Hospital Representatives, CEO Sandy Dickerson, Nancy McKenzie, PA and Mike Moore, APRN, discussed patient transfers. Evenson noted that EMS employees are paid an additional \$100.00 besides pay when they do a transfer. Hospital staff noted transfers by the ambulance service were around 41%, and in the past nurses had helped with transfers. Dickerson stated they were short staffed and could not spare nurses to do transfers. Commissioners were hopeful for a solution in the future.

**Ballard moved to approve retaining The Eureka Herald and The Madison News as the official newspapers of Greenwood County. Everitt Seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Ballard moved to approve Greenwood County retaining all the banks previously used, except 1<sup>st</sup> Community which is no longer in business. Everitt seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

Citizens State Bank-Hamilton, Community National Bank- Eureka, Emprise Bank Eureka, Fall River State Bank- owned by First Neodesha Bank, Home Bank & trust Co.- Eureka, State of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool.

**\*\*Home Bank & Trust is our main depository & Emprise Bank is the bank we use for Warrants & Payroll\*\***

**Ballard moved to approve retaining Paul Dean as County Counselor. Everitt seconded. Motion carried 4-0. (JE24-08)**

**Evenson moved to approve a five-minute break. Ballard seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Reconvened at 9:56.**

Vinson informed commissioners that Road and Bridge is still waiting on the Corp of Engineers for approval to move forward on the Hazel Russell Bridge and Baker Bridge. Vinson stated plans have to be submitted on where equipment will be parked. Vinson also noted the bridge at BB75 Rd. is a mitigation project.

Mongeau informed commissioners based on research transfers done by Greenwood County EMS in 2024 was 80%. Mongeau noted that some transfers may not have been done due to lack of staff, a patient being transferred by helicopter or a hospital no longer having a bed available. Mongeau noted he hoped the pay increase would help with staff being willing to do transfers, and that being short staffed is an issue for EMS also. It was suggested to have a crew on call just for transfers.

*Ballard moved to adjourn at 10:21. Mast seconded. Motion carried 4-0.*

ATTEST: *Deann McCaffree*  
Deann McCaffree, County Clerk

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Malcolm Obourn  
*Preston Evenson*

Preston Evenson  
*Roy Ballard*  
Roy Ballard

*Ron Mast*  
Ron Mast

*Judd Everitt*  
Judd Everitt