

COMMISSION MINUTES – MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2007

At 8:30 A.M., all members of the Pottawatomie County Commission met for a regular session in the County Commission Room. Present were Tom Doperalski, chairman; Corwin Seamans, vice chairman; and Stan Hartwich, member.

Stan Hartwich moved and Corwin Seamans seconded to adopt the agenda for today's meeting. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Stan Hartwich moved and Corwin Seamans seconded to approve the minutes for August 6, 2007. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Corwin Seamans stated Diane Novak had expressed concerns of the notes from the WAM/SAG/MAN Trail work session with the Commissioners on July 30. Corrections are: the location of a possible equestrian trail is between Railway Rd and Bluebird Rd. Also, the deadline for the application (TE Funding/grant) is November 7.

Gary Conklin, county counselor, met with the Commissioners to update them on projects he is working on.

Robert Reece, county administrator, presented the Commission with spread sheets showing a history of the county assessed valuation and a sales tax distribution update.

Rodney Biesenthal, noxious weed director; Leroy Miller, Gary Naughton, and Jim Bradley met with the Commissioners to discuss the project to preserve the remains of the Louis Vieux Elm tree. Miller stated a number of individuals and businesses had pledged money, materials, and labor for the project. He stated pledges could be placed on a permanent tax deductible plan through the Communities Foundation. The Pottawatomie Citizen Nation has pledged \$2,000. Naughton who was with the Kansas Forestry Department was helpful in getting the tree placed on championship status. He showed the Commission sketches of the project and explained the options the group is considering for the preservation project. Commissioner Hartwich stated he was pleased they were planning the project with donations. Naughton stated they were not asking the Commission for money, but rather for permission to do the project. Corwin Seamans moved and Stan Hartwich seconded to authorize the group to proceed with their

preservation plan for the Louis Vieux Elm Site. Motion carried 3 to 0. Commissioner Doperalski stated the Historical Society should proceed with their signage project regarding the site.

At 9:30 the Chairman opened a public hearing to consider the 2008 Pottawatomie County Budget. Several citizens of the County were present. Robert Reece, county administrator, gave a brief summary of the budget before public questions and comments. Robert stated the countywide levy is down ½ mill. There is approximately a \$20 million increase in valuation. He stated if the budget is approved as presented, the Commission will need to adopt several resolutions for various entities. Reece asked if the Commission had any questions or comments before the floor was opened to the public. The Chairman opened the hearing to the public at 9:46. Annette Duncan, Olsburg resident, expressed concerns of rumors of closing the smaller libraries. The Commission stated the published proposed budget showed an 11% increase. It is not the intent of the Commission to have the smaller libraries close. The original request was for a 25% increase. The Commission felt that was too high. Mary Rosell, a Westmoreland resident, stated the increase request was a one time thing and was needed to complete the library's automation project. She stated they were the only library without computers. Bobbi Prinz, Westmoreland resident, stated the City was considering acquiring another building to use as a library. Expansion of hours has been considered and would probably be done on a volunteer basis. She asked if the Commission budgeted what the Library Board had requested. Commissioner Doperalski stated the Library Board had asked for a 25% increase and the Commission had given an 11% increase. The Library Board had requested more funding for two additional staff members. The Commission felt the increase they approved would be enough to complete the automation project. Commissioner Hartwich stated he felt a 25% increase was too much for one year. The Commission is trying to keep costs down. Judith Cremer, library director, stated they could find a way to live with the budget being funded. Corwin Seamans stated prior to the next budget process, it would be a good idea for the Wabaunsee County Commissioners and the Library Board to meet with the Pottawatomie County Commissioners. This would give all entities an opportunity to discuss the proposed budget. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the hearing at 10:09. They will adopt the 2008 Budget at their meeting on August 20.

Ruth Ensley, coordinator for the aging, met with the Commissioners to update them on her department. She discussed a letter from the Area Agency on Aging regarding the request of monies from the County. This is for the Senior Care Act monies, an Incentive Fund with a ration of \$2 of Kansas Senior Care Act funds for every \$1 of local funds provided. This program helps senior citizens stay in their own homes longer rather than going to nursing homes. Corwin Seamans moved to have the Chairman sign a letter of commitment for the Senior Care Act Fund, with the County's portion being \$2,136. Motion carried 3 to 0. Ruth stated there is a vacancy on the Pottawatomie County Council on Aging. She will contact a possible candidate for the position and report back to the Commission. The Chairman signed a draft of the State's updated Anti Drug and Alcohol Policy for mini bus drivers. Ruth stated the grocery store in St. Marys is closing and asked about use of the mini bus for transporting residents to the store in Rossville. She had checked with the City office and was informed that another store has opened. Ruth will visit the new store to see what it offers. The Commissioners suggested the possibility of transporting the residents to the grocery store in Wamego to keep the business in the County. Ruth will also check on the interest of the residents for that option.

The Commission received an invitation from the Manhattan Chamber for a ceremony and picnic at the Sunset Zoo on August 31 from 5:30 to 8:00. This is to recognize new graduates of Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth who are assigned to Ft. Riley. Military Relations Committee is sponsoring the picnic. The Commissioners felt it was important for the County to have a representative there. As all three Commissioners were busy that day they asked Robert to attend in their absence.

Neil Ebert, developer of Megan's Vineyard Subdivision, met with the Commission to discuss a developer's agreement. Ebert stated he had spoken with the developer of the adjoining property and feels that subdivision will be started in the near future. If this happens, he questioned the need to chip and seal a temporary road. It was agreed to leave that requirement in the developer's agreement and it can be removed if not needed. Corwin Seamans moved to approve the developer's agreement with Neil Ebert and Laura Ebert, developers of Megan's Vineyard Subdivision. Stan Hartwich seconded the motion which carried 3 to 0. (Attachment #1)

Mike Engler, with Bartlett and West Engineers, met with the Commissioners to discuss Wildcat Woods Subdivision being developed by Floyd McMillan. After installation of a new blower on the Blue Township Sewer system, 100 more connections were allocated to various developments in the area. Dave Nelson and Brian Martinie were allowed more hookups to continue with development of their subdivisions. The remaining 29 were to be given to McMillan for another phase of Wildcat Woods. Engler stated he felt this wasn't enough. The Commission stated that was the number of hookups left and was all he could use.

Robert informed the Commission Dave Nelson has requested the County create street, sewer, and water improvement districts for the 44 lots in his subdivision that would be provided sewer service. Mr. Nelson also requested the County create sewer and water benefit districts for 19 additional lots that would not be provided sewer until the County has connected with the City of Manhattan. Robert requested formal direction from the Commission on how to proceed with the request. Corwin Seamans moved to allow creation of a benefit district for street, sewer, and water for the 44 lots in Dave Nelson's development. Dave Nelson would be allowed to improve the remaining 19 lots with sewer and or water lines at his own cost under the county's inspection and with the understanding that the 19 lots would not be provided sewer service or building permits until the County connected with the City of Manhattan. Stan Hartwisch seconded the motion which carried 3 to 0.

Robert asked the Commission if they are still interested in contributing to improvements to be made to the NISTAC building located on Hayes Drive in Pottawatomie County, Manhattan. Robert reminded the Commission of this request made almost a year ago as presented by the Manhattan Chamber Director, Lyle Butler. As a result of this contribution the County would be allowed a membership spot on the NISTAC board. NISTAC's mission is to create and sustain a formal network that will support technology advancement, technology transfer, education and scientific research. The objective is to help strengthen regional economies by facilitating the commercialization of new technologies, through the promotion of related research and education.

Commissioner Doperalski stated this project could have significant economic impact to the region including Pottawatomie County.

Corwin Seamans moved to authorize County staff to make payment in the amount of \$35,000 to the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce as contribution for the NISTAC building. Stan Hartwich seconded the motion which carried 3 to 0.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:32.

At 1:00 the Commission met with department heads for a work session to discuss a fee schedule for 2008. Departments represented were Zone, GIS, EMGT, Public Works, Treasurer, Appraiser, Noxious Weed, Register of Deeds, Health, Sanitation, and County Clerk. Each department went over the fees they charge for various copies and services provided. The Commission stated they want the fees to be high enough to cover the county's costs for equipment and labor. The fee schedule will be effective January 1, 2008.

Commissioner Hartwich left the meeting at 3:00.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:25.

County Clerk

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Member