

COMMISSION MINUTES – MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009

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

Corwin Seamans moved to adopt the amended agenda for today's meeting. Pat Weixelman seconded the motion which carried 3 to 0.

Corwin Seamans moved and Pat Weixelman seconded to approve the minutes for May 11, 2009. Motion carried 3 to 0.

A BIO Science meeting to be held in Overland Park on June 4 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled. Corwin Seamans stated the Chamber meeting in Wamego scheduled for last Tuesday was cancelled.

Dr. Suzanne Avery and Kandi Schaaque, both residents on Mud Creek Road met with the Commissioners to express concerns of the intersection of Mud Creek and Myers Valley Roads. Mud Creek Road approaches Myers Valley Road at such an incline, it is not possible to come to a complete stop with a truck and trailer and be able to pull out onto Myers Valley Road. The intersection also does not allow ample view for oncoming traffic on Myers Valley Road, making it an unsafe intersection. Avery requested a risk assessment of the intersection. The Commission stated they would have Leu Lowrey, public works director, check the situation.

Judson Jones and a group of citizens met with the Commissioners to express questions and concerns of the Administrator's hours and salary. Corwin Seamans stated the conflict is taking a longer time to evaluate and whatever the Commission decides, they want to make the best long range solution. He stated this information is new to Commission Weixelman. Weixelman stated he did not want Seamans to speak for him and that he knew what he was getting into when he was elected Commissioner. Seamans stated he felt the Commission needed time to review the situation and moved to table all discussion pertaining to the Administrator until early July. Pat Weixelman stated he would second a motion after Jones is allowed to speak. Jones stated today he would address why he is asking for the information. He stated it is related to the Administrator's salary. He compared the salary to \$4/gallon gasoline prices and stated the citizens had no control over the salary but the taxpayers could not afford a \$4/gallon administrator. He stated the citizens are going to evaluate

the contract salary. Salaries for the administrative office are close to ½ million dollars. Weixelman asked how he arrived at that number for the administrative office employees. Jones stated the citizens will put together a presentation of what the salary should be. He added he will not come back, but others will. They will offer solutions to the situation. Jones stated it takes 2500 people to pay his salary through their tax dollars. Pat Weixelman seconded Seamans motion with the amendment of tabling the discussion until June 22. The motion carried 3 to 0.

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

Don and Ada Whitten, Wamego Township residents, were present for today's meeting. Mr. Whitten stated he had originally thought the Commission should go to different communities for their meetings. He stated after visiting a couple of Commission meetings, it would be difficult and inconvenient. He also expressed concerns of the status of the WAM/SAG/MAN Trail project and stated he didn't feel there was enough information available to let people know what is going on. The Commission stated there has been concerns for the Trail Committee in regards to railroad right of way and obtaining grant monies for the project.

The Commission reviewed and Chairman signed tax roll corrections.
(Attachment #1)

Andrew Pitts, Loren Anderson, and Vance Kelley, representatives of Treanor Architects of Topeka met with the Commissioners and members of the jail/courthouse needs committee. Pitts stated the County has a needs assessment and should now have a space assessment. They could then have architectural plans drawn up for the bidding process. Pitts stated this is a good time to get bids. Weixelman expressed concerns of a dollar amount to proceed with the next step. Pitts stated they had help with a jail project in Brown County. It is scheduled to go to bid on June 4. Anderson stated when obtaining numbers for such a project to remember to include salaries for any new employees the new facility might require. Kelley visited with the group about the financial options of placing the courthouse on the Historical Register. There are monies available for buildings through the Incentives Program. The Commission asked Mr. Kelley if he would be willing to walk through the courthouse today to get some idea of the requirements that might need to be met for renovation or improvements. The group discussed the amount of money

spent so far on the project and whether or not to hire an architect and let them do the space assessment. Commissioner Weixelman stated he felt there is enough information available provided by Voorhis Associates' needs assessment to do a space assessment and doesn't want to spend \$50,000 for information they already have. Members of the offices involved stated they know what they need for their departments and employees. Commissioner Hartwich stated they have to draw a line between wants and needs and need advice to do so. He added this will be one of the most expensive projects and decisions made in many years and wants to be comfortable with that decision. Leu Lowrey, public works director, stated he felt it is time to proceed. Commissioner Seamans asked the group how many buildings they felt this project would require. County Attorney stated the sheriff, attorney, & probation departments would be in one building. The jail would be in another building. The court system would remain in the current courthouse. Jim Moore stated he felt they are now wasting their time and need to let the architects give the group options to choose from.

Leu Lowrey, public works director, visited with the Commissioners to provide an update on the status of the Blue Township Sewer project.

Greg Riat, sheriff, met with the Commissioners to update them on activities in his department. Corwin Seamans moved and Pat Weixelman seconded to authorize the sheriff to offer a \$1,000 reward for help in the arrest and conviction of person or persons involved in the destruction and theft of county road signs. Motion carried 3 to 0. Riat suggested he and the Commissioners visit jail facilities in surrounding counties.

Corwin Seamans moved to set a bid date of June 22 at 10:00 A.M. for Project AP2009, bituminous surface course overlays. Pat Weixelman seconded the motion which carried 3 to 0.

Corwin Seamans moved and Pat Weixelman seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign an addendum to the agreement for Professional Services between Pottawatomie County and Bruce McMillan AIA, Architects, P.A., dated June 16, 2008. This is for Fire Station #10. Services include design and site improvements. Services will be provided at the hourly rates not to exceed \$20,000 for a total contract "not to exceed" of \$34,850. Motion carried 3 to 0. (Attachment #2)

The Commission directed the Clerk to request information from the various departments as to the rotation schedule for keeping documents. They also discussed departments ordering supplies together as a possibility to lower rates. In the past a central supply department was discussed. This has not been implemented as there is no space available or an employee to be in charge of that department.

Corwin Seamans moved and Pat Weixelman seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign a Court of Tax Appeals Tax Exemption form for the property at 4445 Vineyard Road, Wamego, KS. This is the site for construction of the Fire District #10 station. Motion carried 3 to 0.

The Commission discussed with county counselor the estimated costs for specials for improvements on 8 lots in the Sunset Ridge Unit 2 Subdivision in Blue Township. The Commission tabled the discussion until their next meeting on June 1, 2009.

The Commission will not meet on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day. They will meet again in regular session on Monday, June 1.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed A/P printouts for May 18, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

County Clerk

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Member