



**Board of Pottawatomie County Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2023**

612 E Campbell  
 Westmoreland KS 66549  
[www.pottcounty.org](http://www.pottcounty.org)

Public Works/Sunflower Room

8:30 a.m.

District 1 – Deloyce McKee

District 2 – Dennis Weixelman

District 3 – Greg Riat

**1.0 8:30 AM CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING WITH FLAG SALUTE & PRAYER**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Dennis Weixelman	County Commissioner, Chair	Present 8:30 a.m.
Deloyce McKee	County Commissioner, Vice Chair	Present 8:30 a.m.
Greg Riat	County Commissioner, Member	Present 8:30 a.m.
Chad Kinsley	County Administrator	Present 8:30 a.m.
John Watt	County Counselor	Present 8:30 a.m.
Tabitha Caudill	Deputy County Clerk	Present 8:30 a.m.
Doug Adams	Undersheriff	Present 8:30 a.m.
Shane Jager	Sheriff	Present 8:30 a.m.
Annie Wolfe	The Times	Present 8:30 a.m.
Jennifer Merrow	Emergency Management Director	Present 8:30 a.m.
Steve Minton	Resident	Present 8:30 a.m.
Natha Manges Burns	Resident	Present 8:30 a.m.
Michelle Campbell	Resident	Present 8:30 a.m.
Thomas Edwards	Building Facilities Manager	Present 8:30 a.m.
Josh Wilson	Public Works	Present 8:30 a.m.
Michel Kerwood	Resident	Present 8:30 a.m.
Mark Jack	Noxious Weed Director	Present 8:30 a.m.
Hal Bumgarner	EMS Director	Present 8:30 a.m.
Tim Eisenbarth	Public Works Administrator	Present 8:30 a.m.
Whitney Phebus	Human Resources Director	Present 8:30 a.m.
Lance Forgy	Assistant Public Works Administrator	Present 8:30 a.m.
Nathan Bergman	Bartlett & West	Present 8:33 a.m.
Leslie Campbell	Health Department Director	Present 8:39 a.m.
Stephan Metzger	County Planner	Present 9:12 a.m.
Steve Roggenkamp	Project Coordinator	Present 9:12 a.m.
Lance Jones	Murphy Tractor	Present 9:28 a.m.
Alex Kinderknecht	Assistant Fire Supervisor	Present 9:33 a.m.
Becky Ryan	Communications Manager	Present 11:11 a.m.

**2.0 SERVICE AWARDS:**

Brandon Boeckman, EMS – 5 Years (not present)      Josh Wilson, Public Works – 5 years  
 Thomas Edwards, Building & Grounds – 5 years

**3.0 ROUTINE ITEMS:**

**3.1** Weixelman moved to approve the agenda. Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0.

**3.2** Weixelman moved to approve August 28, 2023 minutes. Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0.

**4.0 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Michel Kerwood commented on:

- road grading and sent McKee videos on grading roads

- asked if the county had GPS trackers on graders
- the power outage the other night, including warning lights on towers, and concern for helicopters at night
- the size of rock used for roads being hard on vehicles
- St George road needing cut back and church security plan.

Natha Manges Burns invited all to attend West Fest in Westmoreland this Saturday from 10 am to 10 pm.

Michelle Campbell handed out a copy of an expense report from Commissioner McKee. Campbell commented as a follow up to Steve Minton's comments at the previous meeting concerning the report. Campbell commented that McKee did not attend a meeting for which she received mileage compensation, was late in submitting her request, and Commissioners should be held to the same standards as regular county employees. Riat stated that the issue needed to be addressed with Sheriff Jager. Weixelman asked John Watt for guidance and he agreed that the commissioners could not address the issue.

## 5.0 DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**5.1 Sheriff:** Shane Jager presented Resolution 2023-52 Authorizing the sheriff to negotiate and enter into agreements to house prisoners from other jurisdictions, including agencies of the federal government. Jager stated the current rate is \$45 per day and the Department of Corrections cap is \$98. Weixelman stated he would like to see the rate for the county raised to \$75 per day, closer to the high end. Jager reminded of the Dana Chandler trial in October and that Shawnee County will send help to cover court security.

**Motion:** Weixelman moved to approve Resolution 2023-52 Authorizing the sheriff to negotiate and enter into agreements to house prisoners from other jurisdictions, including agencies of the federal government. Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0.

McKee asked about Jager's involvement with the possible return of the Country Stampede to Tuttle Creek.

**5.2 EMGT:** Jennifer Merrow presented Resolution 2023-49 Proclamation of a state of local disaster emergency due to the prolonged high temperatures.

**Motion:** Weixelman moved to accept Resolution 2023-49 Proclamation of a state of local disaster emergency. Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Merrow stated she would be at training the remainder of this week and she submitted the annual application for Emergency Management Program grant.

**5.3 Human Resources:** Whitney Phebus updated on positions filled, upcoming interviews, and remaining open positions.

**5.4 Health Director:** Leslie Campbell, as a member of the Pawnee Mental Health Services board presented a proclamation declaring September 2023 as Recovery Month.

**Motion:** Weixelman moved to declare September 2023 as Recovery Month. McKee seconded, motion carried 3-0.

**5.5 Noxious Weed Director:** Mark Jack updated on chemical sales, recycling, & projects.

**5.6 Planning & Zoning:** Stephen Metzger asked about bringing changes to zoning regulations to the next meeting. Planning Commission and Commissioners joint meeting on Thursday,

September 21<sup>st</sup>. John Watt reminded that the commissioners cannot discuss upcoming matters with  
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the planning commission. Metzger commented that prospective planning commission members would be in attendance for the commissioners to meet.

**5.7 Public Works:** Tim Eisenbarth updated on various crews, fleet maintenance, sign crew, utilities, construction inspections, and internal projects. August safety meeting was active shooter training by KHP. Eisenbarth presented Resolution 2023-54 Ordering disposal of county personal property.

**Motion:** Riat moved to approve Resolution 2023-54 Ordering disposal of county personal property. Weixelman seconded, motion carried 2-0, McKee abstained.

Eisenbarth presented a request to purchase a John Deere 672G Motor Grader from Murphy Tractor.

**Motion:** Riat moved to purchase the grader. McKee seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Steve Roggenkamp updated on the Louisville Rd bridge. Funding was denied for the cost share grant. Roggenkamp asked how the commissioners wanted to proceed, fund the entire project or reapply for the cost share grant under different terms. The terms for the last grant application were 50/50.

**Motion:** Weixelman moved to reapply for the cost share grant at 60 percent from the county. Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Nathan Bergman made a request for an agreement with the city of Manhattan for a traffic signal at the Highway 24 and Excel Rd intersection. Bergman asked John Watt to begin preparations for the agreement. Bergman suggested 50/50 with the city of Manhattan on design and then apply for funding from KDOT. The remaining balance will be split 50/50 with the city of Manhattan.

**5.8 Commissioners:** Commissioners updated on phone calls received, roads traveled and meetings attended. (Received complaints about weeds on Excel Rd, attended Terri Johnson's retirement party and Transfer Station open house, Repp Rd property owner complaint about turn around traffic, dead end signs were put up, parking issue in Blaine, Riley Co landfill pricing, interviews for FHRC, student crossing at Oliver Brown, WorkForce, Blue TWP study contract)

**5.9 Administration Office:** Chad Kinsley reminded of Blue Township meeting. Kinsley presented a request for additional funding from the Opioid Taskforce. Commissioners agreed to stay at the \$2500 that was previously approved. Kinsley presented an agreement with Big Lakes Developmental Center for services.

**Motion:** McKee moved to approve agreement with Big Lakes Developmental Center. Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Kinsley handed out a copy of the study agreement on Blue Township by the city of Manhattan.

**5.10 County Counselor:** John Watt finished preparing conclusions on the query appeal. Watt also reminded he would be on vacation for the next 2 weeks.

## 6.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

### 6.1 St Marys Historical Society Match Application

### 6.2 Tax Corrections

MITC0004	12.00-
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### 6.3 Ledger Transactions totaling \$565,692.22.

**Motion:** Riat moved to approve consent items. Weixelman seconded, motion carried 3-0

**7.0 Executive Session**

**7.1 Attorney Client Privilege – Potential Litigation**

Commissioner McKee moved to recess to executive session to begin at 10:55 a.m. for up to 15 minutes under: Attorney-Client Privilege (K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(2) subject to be discussed during session potential litigation. Others in attendance were Chad Kinsley, John Watt, Tim Eisenbarth, and Nathan Bergman. Commissioner Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0. Regular meeting resumed at 11:10 a.m. John Watt presented an agreement to release Progressive Direct Insurance Company, et al for damage due to an accident on Havensville Rd for the consideration of \$50,000.

**Motion:** Weixelman moved to accept the fixed property damage release without indemnity. McKee seconded, motion carried 3-0.

John Watt presented Resolution 2023-53 Establishing or amending the procedure for the collection of delinquent sewer charges for Blue Township, Brook Ridge, and Fostoria sewer districts.

**Motion:** Riat moved Resolution 2023-53 Establishing or amending the procedure for the collection of delinquent sewer charges for Blue Township, Brook Ridge, and Fostoria sewer districts. Weixelman seconded, motion carried 3-0.

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT:** Chair declared regular meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**9.0 WORK SESSION – Local Events**

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Chair, Dennis Weixelman

seal

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Vice Chair, Deloyce McKee

*Attest:*

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County Clerk, Dawn Henry

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Member, Greg Riat