

*****January 17, 2024*****

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regular session on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Commissioner Mike Smith, Commissioner Doug Smith and Commissioner Stieben are present; Commissioners Kaaz and Culbertson are absent; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; David Van Parys, Senior County Counselor; Connie Harmon, Council on Aging Director; Monica Swigart, Human Resources Administrator; Aaron Yoakam, Building and Grounds Director; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services; Edd Hingula, Leavenworth City Commissioner; John Richmeier, Leavenworth Times

Residents:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to appoint Mike Smith as temporary chairperson.

Motion passed, 3-0.

Commissioner Stieben requested a review of the 2023 carryover budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

Motion passed, 3-0.

David Van Parys presented an amended Water Main Line Relocation agreement with Rural Water District #9.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Mike Smith to approve the water line relocation agreement with Rural Water District #9 as modified for the Tonganoxie Road improvement project.

Motion passed, 2-1 Commissioner Doug Smith abstained.

Bill Noll presented an agreement with KDOT for the High-Risk Rural Roads grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to approve the agreement for KDOT High Risk Rural Roads grant for the project awarded north of Stranger Creek on Tonganoxie Road.

Motion passed, 3-0.

Mr. Noll presented a contract with Finney and Turnipseed for design engineering for replacement of bridges SH-54 and SH-61 on Golden Road.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith to approve a contract with Finney and Turnipseed for a preliminary design engineering for replacement of bridges SH-54 and SH-61 on Golden Road as part of the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement program grant in the amount of \$142,870.00.

Motion passed, 3-0.

Monica Swigart presented the quarterly report for Human Resources.

Connie Harmon presented the quarterly report for Council on Aging.

Aaron Yoakam presented the quarterly report for Building and Grounds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stieben that the Board recess for a closed executive meeting for the discussion of potential litigation involving the legal interests of the County as justified by K.S.A. 75-4319(B)(2) for consultation with legal counsel for the Board which would be deemed privileged in the attorney/client relationship and that Board resume open meeting at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Board. Present in the executive meeting will be Commissioners Doug Smith, Mike Smith and Mike Stieben, Senior County Counselor David Van Parys and County Administrator Mark Loughry and others that may be called by the Board.

Motion passed, 3-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:30 a.m. No action was taken and no decisions were made. The subject was limited to the legal interests of the county.

Commissioner Mike Smith will attend the LCDC Annual Meeting this Friday.

Commissioner Stieben testified last week in Topeka about LAVTR. He met with citizens at the Linwood Library last week to discuss various topics to include taxes and open borders. He suggested to draft a letter to congressional representative to take action on the open borders. He will be hosting a dinner on Monday for the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and requested that to be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Doug Smith reported Representative Tim Johnson presented a bill on water districts bidding projects.

Commissioner Stieben indicated January 24, 2024 will be Local Government Day in Topeka.

Mark Loughry spoke about the tax relief bill being proposed in Topeka.

A motion was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Mike Smith to adjourn.

Motion passed, 3-0.

The Board adjourned at 10:42 a.m.