

*****August 28, 2024 *****

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regular session on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Kaaz, Commissioner Mike Smith, Commissioner Doug Smith and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; David Van Parys, Senior County Counselor; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services; John Richmeier, Leavenworth Times

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaaz and seconded by Commissioner Mike Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 28, 2024.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Commissioner Culbertson read an article he wrote about the County budget and property taxes.

Mark Loughry provided a powerpoint presentation showing budget statistics.

Commissioner Culbertson opened the public hearing for exceeding the revenue neutral rate and the Leavenworth County budget for 2025.

Mike Doyle, Bill Hadfield, Lisa Haack, Clarissa Rippee, Cindy McGuire, Denise Sullivan, Larry Scheller, Chad Schimke, Sherri Grogan, William Bergman, Connie Young, Jack Waldern, Don Young, Heather Green and Bob Keck spoke.

Commissioner Culbertson closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Mike Smith to approve Resolution 2024-20 a resolution to levy a property tax exceeding the revenue neutral rate.

Motion passed, 5-0

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben to reduce \$160,000.00 from the County Counselor position, remove the Budget Director position \$80,000.00, make a 1%, \$300,000.00 cut, \$100,000.00 for security at the front door, having one door open with the handicap door downstairs will be the public entrance for the next year saving us approximately \$640,000.00 and the reductions from all the departments with expenditures exceeding \$500,000.00 excluding the Health Department, EMS, Courthouse Building and Grounds and any and all funds with capital maintenance with the building and infrastructure getting us to a \$640,000.00 cut.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mike Smith to proposed 1.6 mills dropping from the 2 mills taking a few hundred thousand from the road and a few hundred thousand which would delay the payments on the roof which can still be done in a timely manner and fund the agencies trying to keep alive.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaaz and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve the Leavenworth County budget as presented.

Motion failed, Commissioners Doug Smith, Stieben and Mike Smith voting nay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mike Smith and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve the county budget as proposed with the amendment of reducing \$230,000.00 out of the Courthouse repairs.

Motion passed, 3-2 Commissioners Doug Smith and Stieben voting nay

Commissioner Culbertson opened public hearing on Resolution 2024-21, a resolution to levy a property tax exceeding the revenue neutral rate for Leavenworth County Special-Other Funds budget.

No one spoke in opposition or in favor.

Commissioner Culbertson closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaaz and seconded by Commissioner Mike Smith to approve Resolution 2024-21, a resolution to levy a property tax exceeding the revenue neutral rate for Leavenworth County Special-Other Funds budget.

Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaaz and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith to approve the Leavenworth County Special-Other Funds budget for 2025 as presented.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Bill Noll presented a supplemental agreement with Wilson and Company for the 235th St. project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaaz and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to approve the supplemental agreement for engineering services with Wilson and Company for the 235th St. project.

Motion passed, 4-0 Commissioner Doug Smith abstained.

Mr. Noll requested approval of an increase of compensation for the cost of fencing in accordance with current 2022 land acquisition policy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Mike Smith to increase the compensation for the cost to cure fencing for two properties in accordance with current 2022 land acquisition policy in the amount of \$17,347.00.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Commissioner Doug Smith attended the Fairmount Township meeting.

Commissioner Kaaz participated in the Workforce Partnership meeting and the Leavenworth City Commission meeting.

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

Motion passed, 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 11:37 a.m.