

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2014

August 18, 2014
Regular Meeting
9:00 a.m.
All Present

Chairman Loomis opened the regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Patrick made a motion to approve the agenda for August 18, 2014. Commissioner Linaweaver seconded. **All voted aye.**

No one spoke during Public Input at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Linaweaver made a motion to approve the minutes for August 11, 2014. Commissioner Patrick seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Patrick made a motion to approve checks and claims for August 18, 2014 and payroll for pay period ending August 16, 2014. Commissioner Linaweaver seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Patrick made a motion to approve adds and abates for August 15, 2014. Commissioner Linaweaver seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:10 a.m., Chairman Loomis opened the hearing for approval of the 2015 County Budget. Rick Witte, County Administrator/Financial Manager reviewed the proposed budget. The net expenditures total \$23,026,713; total tax levied (2014) \$10,901,063; assessed valuation total \$361,167,981; and estimated tax rate is 30.183 mills. Commissioner Linaweaver made a motion to approve and sign the 2015 budget as well as individual budgets from Unified Courts, County Extension, and Soil Conservation as presented. Commissioner Patrick seconded. **All voted aye.**

Mr. Witte presented for signature, a Cereal Malt Beverage License for the McPherson Country Club. Commissioner Patrick made a motion for the Chairman to sign the license as presented. Commissioner Linaweaver seconded. **All voted aye.**

Mr. Witte presented a letter from the Kansas Association of Counties requesting the appointment of a voting delegate for the annual conference to be held November 12th through 15th, 2014. Commissioner Loomis made a motion to appoint Commissioner Patrick as voting delegate, Commissioner Linaweaver as first alternate, and himself as second alternate. Commissioner Linaweaver seconded. **All voted aye.**

Mr. Witte presented a letter from the MASWU Board requesting approval to appoint E. David Schmidt as the County's appointment to the MASWU Board for a three-year term effective immediately. Commissioner Patrick made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Linaweaver seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:30 a.m., Mr. Witte read the proposed question for a County-wide, one-half cent, 10-year sales tax to benefit McPherson Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Inc., Moundridge, and Lindsborg Community Hospital for financing costs of acquiring, constructing, equipping and furnishing certain alterations, modifications and improvements to their capital equipment and facilities and medical arts buildings, as well as general operating expenses. The hospitals are requesting that the proposed question to be placed on the November 2014 election ballot. If passed the proceeds of the county-wide retailers' sales tax would be divided to pay 75% to McPherson Hospital, Inc., and 25% split evenly between Mercy Hospital, Inc., Moundridge and Lindsborg Community Hospital. Commissioners made adjustments to the language to include "any recipient" in place of "McPherson" regarding the medical arts buildings; a correction to the effective tax commencement date from "April 1, 2014" to "April 1, 2015" and the removal of "accessory facilities" from the original proposed question. Administrators from each of the Hospitals addressed the Commissioners and encouraged them to vote to approve the question as modified. Commissioner Linaweaver clarified his support of the tax term of a full 10 years. Following discussion Commissioner Linaweaver made a motion to approve the modified question for placement on the November 2014 ballot. Commissioner Patrick seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:45 a.m. Tom Kramer, Public Works Director and Justin Mader, Project Engineer, joined the meeting requesting approval of a Resolution (2014-16) to close Bridge 138270 (Old Mill Bridge) located south of Lindsborg. The load rating performed by a consultant calculated less than a 3 ton load limit. Structures not capable of carrying 3 tons must be closed to motor vehicle traffic. Barriers would be put in place immediately at the bridge, and highway directional signs would be placed within the week. Teresa Loffer, Lindsborg resident, expressed concerns regarding accessibility over the river to the west especially from the southern part of town. Ms. Loffer also asked about the possibility of repairing the bridge. Mr. Mader explained the excessive cost as well as the change in the appearance of the original bridge due to the necessary reconstruction required to bring it up to code. Following discussion, Commissioner Linaweaver made a motion to approve and sign Resolution 2014-16 for closure of the bridge and to allow the barriers to be placed immediately to keep vehicular traffic off the bridge. Commissioner Patrick seconded. **Chairman Loomis voted aye. Commissioner Patrick voted aye. Commissioner Linaweaver voted aye.** It was a consensus that Lindsborg City meet for discussion with the Public Works department regarding the maintenance of the bridge.

At 10:10 a.m., Cathy Schmidt, County Clerk, joined the meeting with a request to purchase office furniture and remodel services. Following discussion, Commissioners decided to table the request for one week until all Commissioners have viewed the office and proposed remodel project.

At 10:30 a.m., Chairman Loomis adjourned the meeting.

Commission Minutes taken by Abbey A. Heidebrecht

Ron Loomis, Chairman

Duane J. Patrick, Vice Chairman

Linus Linaweaver, Commissioner

Abbey Heidebrecht, Recording Secretary