

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2023

January 23, 2023

9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

All Present

10:30 a.m. Work Session at Public Works

All Present

6:30 p.m. Annual Soil Conservation Meeting

All Present

January 25, 2023

2:00 p.m. Annual KAC County Government Day in Topeka, KS

Chairman Becker and Commissioner O'Dell - Present

Commissioner Kueser - Absent

Chairman Becker opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Five (5) items were added to the agenda for January 23, 2023: Quit Claim Deed for Crestwood Memorial Park; Non-elected Personnel in the Treasurer/MVL Office; Non-elected Personnel in the Sheriff's Department; Approval of the 2020 Financial Audit; and Legislative Updates by Commissioner O'Dell. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the agenda for January 23, 2023, as amended. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:05 a.m., Under Sheriff James Bergstrom joined the meeting and presented current jail counts, weekly arrests, and department activities. Officer Bergstrom also requested approval to fill an upcoming Administrative Secretary vacancy in the Sheriff's Office. It was a consensus among Commissioners to delay the item until the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the minutes for January 9, 2023, as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:10 a.m., Michelle Cullen, President of the Central Kansas Conservancy (CKC), joined the meeting. She distributed documents to the Commissioners and presented an update including a review of the purposes and advantages of the Meadowlark Trail. Ms. Cullen emphasized that the trail is self-funded by dollars from grants and fundraisers which the CKC uses for trail building and maintenance. Several landowners whose properties are adjacent to the trail, including Tracy Presnell, Mark Grosland, Vince Rocco, and Clinton Sides, distributed documents which are included in official Commission minutes record, and spoke about their concerns and frustrations with the lack of adequate fencing which the CKC is required per state statute to provide along both sides of the trail. Concerns were also raised that the current CKC bond, in the amount of \$1,000 was not sufficient to cover the expenses of providing/replacing fencing for all adjoining properties. The landowners also voiced frustration with weeds spreading to their properties, due to lack of adequate weed control spraying by the CKC. Other members of the public, including Ronn Peters and Jill Bremeyer spoke of the popularity and success of Meadowlark and other trails nationwide, and hoped the trail building would proceed to complete the missing section which links the City of McPherson to the City of Lindsborg. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion for the \$1,000 escrow account to remain in effect due to current pending litigation relating to the Meadowlark Trail. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:38 a.m., Hollie Melroy, County Clerk, joined the meeting to request the Chairman's signature on two (2) final plats located in Inman: The Aiken Addition, and Nikkel Commerce Park. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion for the Chairman to sign the plats as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:40 a.m., Christiana Stocks, Health Department Billing Specialist, joined the meeting to request approval to write off uncollectible debt in the amount of \$947.44 for the yearly quarter ending December 31, 2022. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:42 a.m., Tom Kramer, Public Works Director, joined the meeting with five (5) items:

- A. A request to approve the quote for two (2) concrete box structures; one located at 4th Ave. & Kiowa Rd.; and the other at 1st Ave. and Pueblo Road. Following a review of quotes, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the purchase as requested for an amount not to exceed \$91,719.78 from McPherson Concrete Products. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- B. A request to purchase telespar signposts and anchors. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the purchase as presented for a total amount not to exceed \$19,502.00 from the Railroad Yard, Inc. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**
- C. A request to replace water valves for the Brine Building. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the request as presented for an amount not to exceed \$6,751.00 from McPherson Quality Air. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- D. A request to award the asphalt crushing materials bid to Vogts Crushing L.L.C. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the bid as presented for an amount not to exceed \$104,800.00. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- E. A request to approve the quote for a variety of filters from Fleet Pride. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the request as presented for a total amount not to exceed \$3,510.92. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve checks and claims and an additional voucher for January 23, 2023, and payroll for the pay period ending January 21, 2023, as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve ads and abates for January 20, 2023, as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

County Administrator/Financial Manager, Rick Witte, presented a Personnel Change Notice (PCN) on behalf of the County Treasurer, to approve the end of introductory period for Julie Marquez, MVL Clerk/KCOVRS (9F), effective January 22, 2023. Commissioner Kueser made a motion for the Chairman to sign the PCN as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to accept the request by McPherson County Rural Fire District #9 to fill two (2) Board vacancies with Kraig Friesen and Theron Koehn. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to accept the request by Battle Hill Township to appoint Raymond Williams as their representative on the McPherson County Rural Fire District #1 Board, to fill a vacancy. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to accept the resignation of Marvis Doering from the South-Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SCKAAA) Ten County Board, effective January 2023, and to also approve The McPherson County Council on Aging Board's recommendation to appoint Jim Toews, of Inman, to fill the vacancy. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

The Township Bonds will be addressed at a future meeting.

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve and sign Resolution 2022-23 regarding the development of a telecommunications facility, Special Use #2022-04, which was previously approved November 14, 2022. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **Chairman Becker voted aye. Commissioner Kueser voted aye. Commissioner O'Dell voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion for the Chairman to sign a Quit Claim Deed at Crestwood Memorial Park, Garden A, Lot 23, Space 3, for an amount of \$125.00, as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the County Financial Audit for 2020 as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell shared legislative updates, one of which addresses whether to amend the current extra territorial jurisdiction statutes. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to support the current extra territorial jurisdiction statutes. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Following other updates, at 10:22 a.m., Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to recess and directly reconvene at Public Works for a work session. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.** At 2:20 p.m., Commissioner Kueser made a motion to recess and reconvene at 6:30 p.m. to attend the Annual Soil Conservation Meeting. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.** At 8:35 p.m., Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to recess and reconvene at 2:00 p.m., January 25, 2023, in Topeka, KS to attend the Annual KAC County Government Day. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.** At 5:51 p.m., Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Becker seconded. **Chairman Becker and Commissioner O'Dell voted aye. Commissioner Kueser was absent from the KAC County Government Day.**

Minutes recorded by Abbey Heidebrecht

ATTEST:

Keith Becker, Chairman

David O'Dell, Vice Chairman

Hollie D. Melroy, County Clerk

Thomas L. Kueser, Commissioner