

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS**

The Board of Miami County Commissioners met in regular session, in the Commission Chambers, Miami County Administration Building, Paola, Kansas, on March 10th, 2021. Those present were:

Rob Roberts, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem	Sheila Schultz, County Counselor
Danny Gallagher, Commissioner	Janet White, County Clerk
Phil Dixon, Commissioner	Casey d'Augereau, Executive Secretary
George Pretz, Commissioner	Wendy Newton, Clerk's Operation Specialist

News: Doug Carder, Republic News

Visitors: Bill & Debbie Mize, Dawn Johnson, Sam Moon, Tiffany Ellison, Tae Ellison, Bill Lorenzen, Jeff Jansen, Kathy McAnany, Melissa McDonald, Vickie Vetter-Scruggs, Kari Bradley, Misty Ballard, Laura Grosskreutz, Paul M Davis, Ashley Rankin, Kim Richardson, Mara Dowling, Linda Burris, Tammi Bennett

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Roberts stated the Commissioners received direction from Miami County (MICO) Health Department this morning to sustain the mask mandate. The Commissioners will be re-evaluating the mask mandate on March 31st, 2021 and will base their decision on a legal standing and facts. At this time Chairman Roberts opened the floor to the public.

Bill Mize, 217 N. 6th Terr, Louisburg, thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak at today's meeting. Mr. Mize passed out a letter to the Commissioners and requested the Commissioners to consider ending the countywide mask update. Reading from the letter Mr. Mize passed out, he believes there is a decline in cases and deaths in the county and now the COVID-19 vaccine shots are available.

Jeff Jansen, 22590 West 244th Street, Paola, passed out a document to the Commissioners and requested the Commissioners to consider ending the countywide mask update. Reading from the document, Mr. Jansen believes the people are now fearing their own government. Mr. Jansen would prefer people have the choice to wear masks and stated 51/105 counties have opted out of the mandate already.

Bill Lorenzen, 6701 W 335th Street Louisburg, he requested that the 1-mile road that he lives on be moved up the list and paved this year. Mr. Lorenzen stated his understanding was that this project started seven years ago and understood the project was on the list to be done in 2019. As of today, the road still has not been paved. County has already ripped out the culvert and done other prep work on the road. Commissioner Danny Gallagher questioned if this area has dust control. Mr. Lorenzen stated the dust control only last so long. In addition, he prefers the mask mandate because he is 10 times more likely to get COVID-19 with his health condition than others. Chairman Roberts requested JR McMahan follow up on this project.

Melisa McDonald, 27017 Waverly Road, Paola, requested that the Commissioners end the countywide mask mandate. Stated there is only a 1% reduction in transferring COVID-19 by wearing masks. Also owns a farm which participates in The Farm Tour and would like to be able to host people inside if weather is unfavorable. Ms. McDonald stated her business has been staying afloat during COVID-19 and has not had to take any money from the COVID-19 funds.

Tiffany Ellison, 1206 North 1st East, Louisburg, requested that the Commissioners end the countywide mask mandate. Due to health reasons it raises her risk of complications by wearing a mask. Ms. Ellison

stated her work in the mental health field has been challenging; patients are using Telehealth which allows the patients to stay home. The doctor appointments are the only physical one on one time some of these patients get and the lack of physical interaction is not healthy for them.

Tae Ellison, 1206 North 1st East, Louisburg, thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to speak today. Ms. Ellison requested that the Commissioners end the countywide mask mandate as a Junior in high school, states the mandate has produced an environment where you fear the people around you. Ms. Ellison stated air only travels one direction, so a runner is safe if running in their lane from breathing the air of the runners next to them; even on windy days the air will not leave the lane it is traveling in. Ms. Ellison stated no matter how healthy herself and her friends are there is always a risk of getting sick. It is taught in school that wearing a mask builds an immune system and a plastic window on the lunch table saves lives. Quoting American Journalist HL Mencken, "The average man doesn't want to be free just safe.", Mr. Mencken died in 1956 and his words still ring true. Ms. Ellison believes the peoples freedom is being forcibility taken away in the name of public health. Chairman Roberts thanked Ms. Ellison for speaking today.

Vicki Vetter-Scruggs, 31622 Oak Grove Road, Paola, has requested that the Commissioners end the countywide mask mandate. Stated COVID-19 has a 99.8% recovery rate, distorted numbers are being reported and breathing fresh air is better than the masks.

Commissioner Vaughan stated that the City and Schools are self-controlling and would have their own mask mandates even if the county ended theirs.

Commissioner Dixon thanked Tiffany Ellison in presenting the mental health side of the situation we are in per COVID-19.

Chairman Roberts thanked the public for their participation today and stated their input is valuable. Chairman Roberts set the record straight that the Miami County Health Department has done an amazing job navigating the work they were called upon to do during the pandemic.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the county commission meeting on March 3rd, 2021
- Approval of payment vouchers
- Add-on:
 - Change Order for \$325, old jail building

Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

Chairman Roberts asked each of the following to present the employee of the month awards to their employees:

- EMS Chief Dave Ediger presented Zack Glossip as the August 2020 employee of the month
- Rita McKoon, Health Department Director, presented Christena Beer as the September 2020 employee of the month
- Sheriff Frank Kelly presented Laura Grosskreutz as the October 2020 employee of the month
- Sheriff Frank Kelly presented Michelle Minden as the November 2020 employee of the month
- Sheriff Frank Kelly presented Misty Ballard as the December 2020 employee of the month

Shane Krull presented the award for the 4th Quarter Director to Rita McKoon, Health Department. -

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NEW BUSINESS

Rita McKoon, Health Department Director, requested the Commissioners to consider signing the grant application for the grant period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 allocated funding for the Health Department programs in the total amount of \$419,061.49. The funding will be divided as follows:

- Immunization Action Plan: \$8,071
- PHEP: \$26,979
- State Formula: \$23,098
- Chronic Disease Risk Reduction: \$27,037.25
- Maternal & Child Health: \$63,473.24 (MCH & SHCN)
- Multi-year COVID Grant ELC Expanding Infrastructure: \$270,403

Commissioner Pretz moved to approve signing the grant application, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

JR McMahan, Road & Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners to consider approving the road oil as follows:

- Coastal Energy Corp
 - RS-1H at \$1.78 per gallon total price of \$445,000
 - MC-250 at \$2.28 per gallon total price of \$13,680
 - MC-3000 at \$2.18 per gallon total price of \$13,080
- Vance Brothers
 - SS-1H at \$1.97 per gallon total price of \$21,670

Commissioner Gallagher moved to approve the road oil for a total of \$493,430, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

JR McMahan, Road & Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners to consider approving the magnesium chloride bid to Scotwood Industries LLC as follows:

- MgCL-2 delivered at .948 per gallon for a total of \$33,180
- MgCL-2 applied at .962 per gallon for a total of \$221,260

Commissioner Gallagher moved to approve the bid with Scotwood Industries, LLC for a total of \$254,440, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Frank Burrow, EMS Deputy Chief, requested the Commissioners to consider approving the purchase of a 2021 Expedition from Louisburg Ford in the amount of \$45,535 and lighting package from 911 Custom in the amount of \$9,060 for a total cost of \$54,595. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve the purchase of a 2021 Expedition and lighting package for a total of \$54,595, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Commissioners to consider authorizing Change Order No. 1 with Meridian Roofing Solutions (**C21-01-002**) in the amount of \$325 to add a 2" nailer around the perimeter of the roof of the old jail building to meet the manufacturer's requirements. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the change order for \$325, Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, updated the Commissioners on the fire situation due to high winds. Stated there were 99 total incidents last week mostly grass fires caused by brush piles, cigarettes or dragging chains letting off sparks. Received mutual aid from Overland Park, Olathe, Johnson County #1 and #2. Stopped issuing burn permits and banned burning on Sunday, March 7th, 2021.

Christena Beer, RN, updated the Commissioners on COVID-19 in MICO. 15 Active cases, 2,593 recovered cases, 41 deaths and 11,200 people tested, no new clusters with 1 ongoing cluster. The testing

rate has decreased over 4% over the last two weeks. Health department has hosted 21 clinics with 25 more upcoming through April. Ms. McKoon stated that Phase 3 cannot begin until Governor Kelly authorizes.

JR McMahon, Road & Bridge Director, stated paving 335th Street did not make the cut due to budget restrictions and is currently slated for 2022. Mr. McMahon stated the ditch and culvert prep work has been completed and the road is ready to asphalt when budget allows, and Commissioners authorize.

Shane Krull stated Johnson County was in the news earlier today showing the average new home goes for \$558,000 while the average single-family home in 2020 was \$394,000. Mr. Krull stated MICO is not unique in regard to property valuation increases.

Frank Burrows, EMS Deputy Chief, stated the UVC light for the new ambulance has been delivered and in the process of scheduling the installation of the UVC light. EMS ran 323 calls in February and 400 calls in January.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Pretz gave a reminder of the ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, March 16th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on 399th east of 69 Highway for the new radio/tower.

Commissioner Dixon asked when Road & Bridge plans to do the asphalt or chip and seal on 399th. JR McMahon stated between July and September 2021.


Chairman Roberts stated the reason for asphaltting 399th Road near the new radio tower was because of the negotiation between the landowner and MICO. This was an exchange for MICO to install a 250' radio tower on the property.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

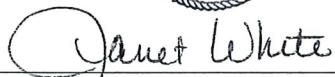
(Seal)





Rob Roberts, Chairman

ATTEST:



Janet White, County Clerk