

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS
FEBRUARY 27, 2023
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Regular session of the February meetings of the Cloud County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2023 in the Commissioners' room at 811 Washington, Concordia, Kansas with Chairman Gary Caspers, Members Mark Matthew and Ron Copple, and County Clerk Shella Thoman present.

County staff attending was: Andy Asch, Highway Administrator; JoDee LeDuc, County Treasurer; and Tonya Sulanka, Health Department Administrator.

Others attending: Toby Nosker, KNCK; Susie Haver, Brenda Gilliland & Tom Tuggle, Carlson Hometown Governor Sign Committee; Ethan Mahin & Michelle Graham, Meridian Way Wind Farm

Susie Haver, Brenda Gilliland & Tom Tuggle requested the County be the fiscal agent for the (Frank) Carlson Hometown Governor Sign project. A group of Concordian's have been working on the hometown governor sign to be placed on US Highway 81 to honor the memory of our hometown governor, Frank Carlson. Carlson served as governor from 1947 to 1950. Governor Carlson and later Senator Carlson was a respected local, state and national leader. Carlson's administration as Governor was known for extensive highway building programs, rural health programs, and reforms and improvements to Kansas mental hospitals. While governor Carlson presided over the removal of prohibition in Kansas he was quoted as saying "I am a teetotaler. I don't smoke or drink, but I have no quarrel with those who do. I am a great believer in letting the people decide." As a US Senator, Carlson organized the first President's Prayer Breakfast that continues to this day. Kansas Law authorizes the Department of Transportation to install hometown governor signs at the edge of cities at the request of the governing body. The cost of installing the signs at Concordia are estimated between \$13,000 and \$27,000. The group will be applying for multiple grants along with asking for donations to fund the project. The County Treasurer will create a Carlson Hometown Governor Sign fund that will be used to receipt and expense funds for the project. Donations will be received through March 25, 2023.

Ethan Mahin & Michelle Graham, Meridian Way Wind Farm presented the annual \$300,000 gift and thanked the Commissioner's for all the time they take to distribute the funds. Funds are to be used to support innovative projects that enhance quality of life, prosperity, and safety of the citizens of the County by creating additional educational, recreational, social, health, community development, and economic opportunities. Grant applications are being taken through March 30th at the County Clerk's office from not-for profit organizations. County businesses can visit with CloudCorp to discuss business grant opportunities through the Get in the Cloud Grant program

Andy Asch, Highway Administrator presented a new hire and two utility permit requests. Asch discussed road testing being conducted by Skyview Windfarm and disposal and back fill of the old County jail. Asch will be attending the Noxious Weed conference this week.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved hiring Joshua Cornell as an Equipment Operator at the Highway Department effective February 27, 2023 at an introductory rate of \$16.60 an hour.

On a motion by Commissioner Matthew, second by Commissioner Copple, unanimous vote the Board approved a Request & Petition for Lance Lagasse to place a waterline on Eagle Road west of Highway 81 as indicated on the request.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved a Request & Petition for Cunningham Telephone Co to install fiber optic drop along 1704 N 40th as indicated on the request.

Tonya Sulanka, Health Department Administrator discussed closing on March 28th and 29th to accommodate staff attending the Governor's Conference.

Mark Matthew discussed hosting an Intergovernmental meeting and working together as a whole to make Cloud County a place that is safe and a place people want to come back to. Matthew will serve as the County Commission representative for the Courthouse & County Safety Committees.

The Board recognized the hiring of Leah Robinson as part-time Secretary for Community Correction/JV Services at a rate of \$17.69 an hour effective March 13, 2023.

Recognized the termination of Robert Bailey, Corrections Officer effective February 23, 2023.

On a motion by Commissioner Matthew, second by Commissioner Copple, unanimous vote the Board approved using \$100 of Windfarm funds for Severe Weather Week Everbridge sign up incentives. Residents can sign up for County wide emergency and non-emergency notifications using the link on the bottom of the County website (www.cloudcountyks.org). Emergency Preparedness will host multiple prize drawings each day throughout Severe Weather preparedness week

On a motion by Commissioner Matthew, second by Commissioner Copple, unanimous vote the Board approved the classification change for Cheyenne Piper from part-time to full-time effective February 26, 2023.

Sales tax received February 23, 2023 totaled \$100,706.33 compared to the prior year totaling \$88,167.40.

The Board approved the following expenses totaling \$412,946.56

General Fund – \$333,104.45	Road & Bridge – \$9,598.10
Special Bridge - \$8,750.00	Juvenile Justice - \$2,537.07
Appraisal - \$546.18	Juvenile Reinvestment - \$31.43
Community Correc - \$534.44	County Health - \$1,399.36
Noxious Weed - \$39.86	Election - \$200.90
Special Building - \$25,650.00	Court Services - \$18.00
Solid Waste - \$19,637.26	Co Tourism & Convention - \$7,358.19
Employee Benefits - \$220.66	Special Alcohol & Drug - \$3,320.66

The above expense detail is available at the County Clerk’s office and the Clerk’s Public Records webpage.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved abatement 2023-40 a net change of (\$434.44) and refund of \$434.44.

Commissioner Cople attended the North Central Regional Planning Commission meeting on February 23rd in Beloit and the Jamestown City meeting on February 13th. Commissioner Caspers attended the KWORCC Board of Trustees meeting in Topeka on Thursday February 23rd and the County Handbook Committee meeting on Tuesday February 21st. All Commissioners attend the LEPC meeting on Tuesday, February 21st.

The Board will attend the Annual CloudCorp Luncheon on Monday, March 6th.

On a motion by Commissioner Matthew, second by Commissioner Cople, unanimous vote the Board approved the February 21, 2023 minutes as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Matthew, second by Commissioner Cople, unanimous vote the Board adjourned at 11:14 a.m., until Monday March 6, 2023.

Cloud County Board of Commissioners

Attested:

Gary Caspers, Chairman

Mark Matthew, Member

Shella Thoman, County Clerk

Ron Cople, Member