

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS  
MAY 8, 2023  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Regular session of the May meetings of the Cloud County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on May 8, 2023 in the Commissioners' room at 811 Washington, Concordia, Kansas with Chairman Gary Caspers, Members Mark Matthew (by Zoom) and Ron Copple, and County Clerk Shella Thoman present.

County staff attending was: Andy Asch, Highway Administrator; Mike Hake, Solid Waste Director; James Quillen, Emergency Preparedness Director; Jana Roush, Register of Deeds; JoDee LeDuc, Treasurer; and Jeff Thoman, Maintenance Manager.

Others attending: Toby Nosker, KNCK; Susie Haver and Michelle Bombardier, Cloud County Tourism; and Robbin Cole, Chief Executive Director Pawnee Mental Health; Peggi Barrett, Cloud County Representative Pawnee Mental Health; and Arlene Clayton.

Mike Hake, Solid Waste Director presented the 2022 Solid Waste delinquent accounts as of May 2, 2023; 187 accounts are unpaid with an outstanding balance of \$20,958.00 and late charges totaling \$10,479.00. The balance due along with the late charges will be added as a special to the property owners tax statement.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved the 2022 Solid Waste delinquent accounts totaling \$31,437.00

Susie Haver and Michelle Bombardier, Cloud County Tourism reported that it was National Tourism Week and did a review of 2022. Tourism hosted 20 group tours with 482 visitors. The Travel Information Center is open 6 days a week and they had 5,011 visitors (4,106 from Kansas, 888 from the United States and 17 International) in 2022. They assisted 9 Cloud County events, are a host for meetings and celebrations, have 1 part-time and 1 full-time director. Cloud County Tourism is governed by a 10-member committee appointed by the Cloud County Commissioners. Funding comes from a 5% county-wide transient guest tax that comes quarterly from the State of Kansas to the County.

Department Head – 9:35 – 9:50 a.m.

Mike Hake, Solid Waste Director – Full-time position open at the Recycling Center.

James Quillen, Emergency Preparedness Director – Public Information Officers class was held this past month with 18 participants from across the State. An Active Shooter workshop will be on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the hospital; currently there are 23 people enrolled. Working on an active shooter table top for August 8<sup>th</sup>. Have received the equipment for the inventory system provided through Homeland Security. There will be a webinar on June 7<sup>th</sup> regarding the Governor's Grant for Security & Safety.

Andy Asch, Highway Administrator – Spraying weeds, working on culverts and doing ditch work. Attended the KCHA conference in Manhattan and may attend the National Conference in Iowa this July (paid by KCHA).

Jana Roush, Register of Deeds - Routine business.

Jeff Thoman, Maintenance Manager – Waiting on bids for 2 egress windows on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Shella Thoman, County Clerk – Presidential Primary in March of 2024. Turn in budgets by the beginning of June.

Andy Asch, Highway Administrator reported that the mowers will start next week. Looking at grapple forks at Foley Tractor at a cost of \$12,000. Waiting on Hall Brothers to look at the Ames / Miltonvale Road and reaching out to APAC.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved hiring Dale Garlow as a part-time Road & Bridge Equipment operator at an introductory wage of \$17.00 effective May 7, 2023.

Robbin Cole, Chief Executive Director Pawnee Mental Health requested Cloud County consider increasing its budget for mental health by 3% (\$2,618) from \$87,290 to \$89,908. The increase will better equip Pawnee to recruit and retain qualified mental health professionals to meet the needs of the citizens of Cloud County. Pawnee provided mental health and substance abuse treatment services to 403 unduplicated Cloud County residents in 2022; furthermore 135 residents were served by Crisis Services and 24 were admitted to the Crisis Stabilization Unit. Pawnee provided over \$1.1 million in service to County residents. Over \$444,000 was uncompensated due to reasons such as no insurance or under insurance. Cole discussed the Agriculture Assistance program (Ag-AP). Ag-AP provides Kansas farmers and ranchers three free mental health sessions with a license mental health provider.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved proclaiming May 2023 as Mental Health month and calls upon the businesses, schools, government agencies, healthcare providers, organizations and citizens of Cloud County to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, its relationship to a strong, vibrant community, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

JoDee LeDuc, Treasurer discussed changes in office personnel and discussed the pay scale. No decisions were made.

The Board reviewed the Budget Status report and Fund Status Report as of April 30, 2023 with an ending cash balance of \$14,882,459.39.

Received a thank you from the Concordia Senior Center for the Wind Farm grant funding.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved hiring Deveneke Bilbrey as Maintenance at a rate of \$16.00 effective April 15, 2023.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board approved the wage change for Kyle Newville, Deputy from \$18.20 to \$18.50 effective May 7, 2023.

The Board approved the following expenses totaling \$200,764.62

General Fund – \$42,155.55	Road & Bridge – \$87,032.30
Special Bridge - \$1,416.84	Juvenile Justice - \$1,208.43
Appraisal - \$514.73	Juvenile Reinvestment - \$40.49
Community Correc - \$3,750.45	County Health - \$7,168.65
Noxious Weed - \$13,304.47	Election - \$7,727.32
Special Alcohol & Drug - \$9,498.58	Employee Benefits - \$1,150.00
Solid Waste - \$21,899.44	Co Tourism & Convention - \$3,897.37

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

On a motion by Commissioner Matthew, second by Commissioner Cople, unanimous vote the Board approved the May 1, 2023 minutes as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Cople, second by Commissioner Matthew, unanimous vote the Board adjourned at 11:23 a.m., until Monday May 15, 2023.

Cloud County Board of Commissioners

Attested:

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Gary Caspers, Chairman

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Mark Matthew, Member

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Shella Thoman, County Clerk

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Ron Copple, Member