

**Monday  
April 15th, 2024**

The Rawlins County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session March 15th, 2024, with the following present: Commissioners Alan A. Solko, Lincoln Pochop, and Mark Mosley; Assistant County Attorney Charles Peckham, County Clerk Rachel Finley, and Deputy County Clerk Renee Sagel.

**Commissioner Pochop called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.**

**Commissioner Solko made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of adding Reach in, seconded by Commissioner Mosley. Motion carried.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**Department Head Meeting: Chris Niermeier** thanked Road & Bridge for having a tanker of water available for the last fire when it was super windy. **Corey Castens** asked if there was a burn ban in effect and it was stated no, however people are told not to burn when there is a red flag warning or when the County Fire Chief says no burning.

**Reach: Matt Wilson** present. Wilson stated that if the County switches from Google to Microsoft for email services it should save the county around \$600.00. The switch will merge Gmail to Microsoft Outlook and all the departments will be under one account making it easier to manage. It was discussed that there are a few different domains for county departments: Road & Bridge has ruraltel.net, Shuttle has gmail.com, Sheriff & Dispatch has rawlinssso.org and most have rawlinscounty.org. It was stated that Elected Officials should have a generic email, however that was said to be up for discussion later. Charles Peckham asked for a County Attorney generic email to be created so that when the employee changes all the information is still available, and it was agreed that it would be a good idea especially since there isn't a county email for the Attorney. **Commissioner Pochop made a motion to switch from Google to Microsoft along with paying the \$1,275.00 processing fee to Reach, Commissioner Solko seconded. Motion carried.** It was discussed that the individual departments need to pay the Microsoft fees out of their individual funds to which Wilson said he would have how many per department listed on the bill. Wilson said that the firewall contract is due this year and is currently being managed by Nex-Tech for \$199.00 per month. Wilson said for the same price Reach could manage the Firewall and put the needed new switches along with additional Wi-Fi access points needed to improve our service. This would be for the 1st & 2nd floor, and they would wait until the current contract expires before doing so if approved. The Commissioners want to wait until closer to time to decide, around May or June. Wilson stated that he talked to Sheriff Catlyn Wahrman and Vance of VLS Communication about the unused line to the radio tower and was told he can cancel them since they haven't been used in a long time nor will they be in the future.

**Server Rack** move was complete Saturday afternoon.

**Road and Bridge: Mark Loop** had paperwork signed so that engineering could start for the West side of Highway 25 sign Project. The Big Iron items that were sold were said to bring in around \$24,000.00 to \$25,000.00 in sales for the 11 items sold. Currently instead of blading they are focusing on elevating the roads while teaching the 2 new employees by pairing them up with the more experienced employees. It was stated that Loop wants to buy 2 new trucks to finish replacing the ones that need to go along with a Semi to replace the one they just sold. There was discussion of closing the 1/2 mile road north of town that runs by Cahoj Earthmoving. It was said that the current landowner owns the land on both sides of the road and is complaining that people are throwing trash in his fields. There was discussion on how many people use that road and if it is closed that county shouldn't have to maintain it because it would now be the same as his driveway. Loop said the road needs to be either permanently open or closed as of now it's not officially done either way. Loop stated that he has had a few complaints, but they have been addressed, they have been rocking the roads that have been raised, and they are planning on trying to renew the Knapp pit. Loop is looking into options for pits in the Achilles area.

**Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group: Director Brice Cronn** stated that they are federal infrastructure monies that have come to the state of Kansas, Kansas Department

of Health and Environment to receive some funds in 2023 to address Economic Justice Initiatives. The purpose of those is to pay for wastewater system replacement in the state of Kansas. The initial requirements for this grant we have to show that on a county-by-county basis that we could meet the demographic goals for the grant. None of the 12 counties participating in our group can meet those goals. We made the argument KDHE as we're an interlocal group, counties participating together. So, they applied together and received \$50,000.00 to go toward replacement of failed wastewater systems. There was an explanation of what failed wastewater systems are and the grant paying for 85% if qualified for funds. Cronn stated that this is in the beginning stages, and they are still putting together applications and contracts, once that's done the information will be shared with the boards that are involved, contractors and communities. Property owners would have to apply, and renters cannot but they are currently waiting on forms from the state at this time.

**EMS: Darla Jarmer** present. Jarmer stated that she has been in touch with Ryan Murray. Jarmer gave her resignation on April 1st. Today is her last day and she has got all her stuff here. She'll get all that to Ryan today and said she did get all the billing in and sent it to Rose. Jarmer said she isn't sure who's going to take over the billing after this but stated that Rose does a great job and hopes the county continues to use her. Jarmer stated that they are looking at 268 hours that are uncovered in the month of May. Jarmer stated that the full-time girls have had to put a cap on how many hours they could work since they have been putting in a lot of hours. It's hard, but they do have families at home, and they need to do what they have to do for themselves. Jarmer said she had a couple of others that she thought were going to work out and one was now getting shoulder surgery and the other one just found out they had a blood clot. So those aren't going to work out. Jarmer said Ryan is taking care of getting her off DEA Pharmacy license, Clea, the state and then he'll do all that paperwork. Ryan has three other jobs, so he's not going to be able to be here every day. Jarmer thanked the commissioners for allowing her almost 10 years with Rawlins County EMS and the opportunity to work with all the people. The Commissioners stated that they appreciated her service and wished her the best.

**Landfill/Recycling: Corey Castens** stated that the Casey's cardboard issue was ongoing however he believes it has been sorted for the time being however the last time Casey's recycling got brought in a group of community members did it for them due to the issues it was causing. There was a brief overview of the issue, and it was stated the employees from the City of Atwood were on their way up to discuss the issue further. The bulls' owners at the landfill have received a letter about the ongoing issues. There was discussion on creating an agreement for a 50% split in the cost of a fence or other fence type solution to the issue. A cattle guard was suggested to be put in as then people wouldn't have to open and close a gate every time, they came to the landfill to dump. Castens plans to verify that the owners would agree to a cattle guard then steps out to let a loader mechanic in at the landfill.

**NW KS Small Solid Waste: NW KS Small Solid Waste 5-Year Plan Public Hearing was held with no comments. Commissioner Mosley made a motion to Approve Resolution 2024-05 NWKS Small Solid Waste 5-Year Plan, Commissioner Pochop seconded motion carried.**

**Emergency Manager: Ryan Murray (Emergency Operations Plan):** Murray stated that over the last several months he has been working on updating the plan to meet the new requirements. Murray thanked Renee Sagel, Rachel Finley and Catlyn Wahrman for helping him. It was stated that the plan has been approved by the state and now needs to be approved & accepted by the Commissioners. **Commissioner Solko made a motion to Approve and Accept the Rawlins County Emergency Operations Plan to expire on March 31st, 2028, Commissioner Mosley seconded. Motion carried.** Murray stated that the plan helps the county receive federal funding in the event of a disaster.

**Commissioner Solko made a motion to Approve and Sign Minutes from Wednesday March 27th, Thursday, March 28th, Wednesday April 3rd and Monday April 8th Meetings, Commissioner Pochop seconded. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Pochop made a motion to Approve Abatement from Appraisers Office, Commissioner Mosley seconded. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Solko made a motion to Approve Invoice No. 24 0230 from Miller & Associates for Landfill Task 2A-Construction Phase, Commissioner Pochop seconded. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Solko made a motion to Approve RFD No. 2 Transfer to Correct General Fund and Equipment Fund for Truck Purchased on February 21st, 2024, Commissioner Pochop seconded. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Pochop made a motion to Approve Resolution 2024-06 Oil & Gas Funds Transfer to General Fund for Landfill Cell 7 Development, Commissioner Solko seconded. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Pochop made a motion to Approve High Plains Ad from Rawlins County Square Deal, Commissioner Mosley seconded. Motion carried.**

**Finalize 2023 Year-End Transfers: Loop** requested full amount be transferred to Special Machinery to cover the purchases of a semi and two pickups with the hopes of building funds, so financing isn't necessary in the future.

**Public Health Sealed Bid Ad** was reviewed and it was stated that they will open bids at the May 15th, 2024 Commissioners Meeting.

**Server Rack move: Alicia Baumfalk** stated that 3 employees of IOT, 1 State of Kansas, along with Gary Solko were here Friday to move the Server rack from the second floor to the first floor. IOT finished Saturday evening and as much of the move was done with minimal down time in mind. Baumfalk requested that if any issues come up that she be sent an email. Baumfalk thanked the Commissioners and stated that the volume in the office is better.

**Commissioner Pochop made a motion to do a pre-paid warrant to pay IOT the remaining \$6,500.00, Commissioners Mosley & Solko seconded. Motion carried.**

**RFD 2** stated that they plan to purchase a laptop to replace their current desktop computer.

**Commissioner Pochop made a motion to enter into Executive Session for 5 minutes for non-elected Personnel with Ryan Murray, the Commissioners, Charles Peckham, Rachel Finley and Renee Sagel, Commissioner Mosley seconded. Motion carried.** Executive Session was entered at 10:21 a.m., at 10:26 a.m. it was extended 10 minutes, at 10:36 a.m. it was extended 5 minutes, at 10:41 a.m. the Commissioner returned to Regular Session. **Commissioner Mosley made a motion to Appoint Ryan Murray as Interim EMS Director, Commissioner Solko second. Motion carried.**

**Good Samaritan/Daycare Updates: Jackie Portschy** stated that March financials show that they made around \$13,000.00 putting them roughly \$20,000.00 below budget currently. Portschy discussed the call light system and gave an updated quote which she explained was cheaper than what is shown due to it having sales tax on it. It was stated that some of the things they originally wanted were not available, which is fine. The quote was in the amount of \$41,000.00. It was stated that the lease between the Good Sam and the County has the county paying for the call light system and then a discussion on the lease auto renewing along with it being reminded that changes were supposed to be made. It was stated that the lease isn't up again until 2027 and there are breaches of the lease all ready. Portschy stated she hopes to have the new system installed this year and that Stanford wouldn't approve the other bid which was more expensive anyway. There was discussion on needing the county's approval on the system if the county is paying for it and whether or not a radio system for the Good Sam with a cell phone style was ok. It was asked to put the quote at the end of the month meeting so that funds could be looked at to see where it could be paid out of. **Daycare** updates were given. A Daycare Board has been established with Portschy as president, Wendy Schmidt as Vice-President, Amanda Vap as Secretary, Kelsey Green as Treasurer and Kathy Horton as the member At-Large. They have an EIN and are working on getting a 501(c)3. It was stated that they met with the engineer before the school board meeting last week to see what all needs to be done to the building to get everything up to specification for the daycare. The Daycare Director position has been filled. The Daycare Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Dental Clinic as long as it's available.

**Landfill/Recycling: Corey Castens** stated that if they got a cattle guard, he would like to set things up with Road & Bridge, Finley Construction and Caleb Kastens for the dirt work,

concrete, and hopefully welding of some oil pipes. If they agree to the cattle guard there will have to be a temporary gate put in while the dirt work is done, concrete sets and pipes are placed. It was stated that the lease agreement needs to be looked at to see if it states who would be liable if the cattle cause damage. After some discussion **Commissioner Solko made a motion to move forward with the cattle guard starting on the dirt work and cement work, Commissioner Pochop seconded. Motion carried.** Castens said he would get with County attorney LeBlanc and make sure everyone is on the same page and it gets put on the calendar. **Recycling: Dana Philpott, Ana Vargas, and Corey Castens** discussed the ongoing Casey's issue, while discussing who will be delivering the recycling, why the recycling is no longer being picked up by Castens, and Casey's being short of help due to employee turnover causing some of the issues. It was stated that no one is getting the same story, and the city agrees to try and get a name of who will begin doing Casey's recycling. **Landfill:** The breaker for the well that was just put in keeps tripping, so Woofers is scheduled to come and replace the breaker. **Recycling:** The trash dumpster in Herndon that was placed by the recycling trailer is going to start costing \$65.00 per month. Castens asked Kelsey if she would talk to the Herndon City Council members to see if they would be willing to pay half the bill as it is being used by everyone. Kelsey hasn't had a chance to speak to everyone yet. **Landfill:** CAT is looking at the landfill loader and believes that a sensor has gone bad and currently there is a tech working on it.

**Coal Shed Sealed Bids** were reviewed. 2 Bids were received: Hurst Hauling in the amount of \$9,500.00 & Cahoj Earthmoving in the amount of \$12,000.00. Cahoj's bid stated that the work would be completed 3 weeks after the new landfill cell is open. Castens stepped out to call Hurst on a time frame for the project.

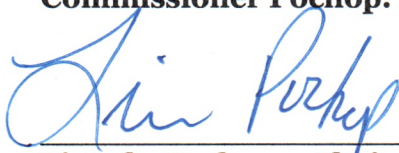
**Next Regular Commissioners Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 30th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Rawlins County Courtroom**

**Coal Shed Sealed Bids:** Castens stated that Hurst planned to start the Demo as soon as the Landfill is accepting Construction and Demolition waste. **Commissioner Solko made a motion to Accept Hurst Hauling's bid in the amount of \$9,500.00 for the teardown of the coal shed and the removal of the coal shed along with the scale frame with Road & Bridge doing the dirt work to be paid out of the County Building Fund, Commissioner Pochop seconded. Motion carried.**

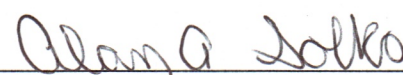
**Year End Transfers: Recycling** - Castens stated that the forklift is struggling to lift 2 bales and he stacks them 3 high on the trailer, and it is going to need to be replaced. Types and styles of forklifts were discussed along with why a skid steer may not work but if it could, it would be used by multiple departments. The discussion on a second baler and the need for a full-time employee at Recycling was held. It was decided that \$15,000.00 be transferred from the Recycling Fund to the Recycling Equipment Fund. **Landfill Cell Update** was given as a minimum of another month since it is only a little over 50% done and only 1 scraper is working. People have been mistaking the water tank up there as a second scraper, so it was clarified.

**Schedule Special Meeting for Interviews** was discussed however it was said to Schedule when Ryan Murray can attend, Murray suggested adding the on to the April 30th Meeting and that not all interviews have to be done on the same day.

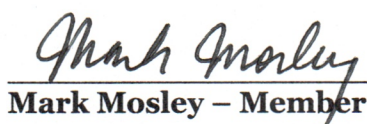
**Commissioner Solko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pochop. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**



Lincoln Pochop – Chairman



Alan A. Solko – Vice-Chairman



Mark Mosley – Member



Renee Sagel – Deputy County Clerk

