

Chase County Commissioners  
December 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order at 8:00am on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 by Chairman Jacci Brown in the meeting room of the Chase County Courthouse. Also in attendance were Commissioner Billie Muehlenkamp and county clerk Wendy Moe. Commissioner Bernhardt was absent. The meeting was advertised in the Imperial Republican. The agenda and open meetings act were posted. With nobody present for open forum commissioners moved on to agenda items.

Leanne Klein and Jason Arellano were present on behalf of Wauneta EMS and Deb Hayes was present on behalf of Imperial EMS. EMS squads have concerns with the new radio system. Since the transition to the new digital system, they are now unable to communicate with their analog pagers and radios. The original page is received via the digital system but then they cannot communicate between EMS/Fire departments with their analog handheld devices. Both services indicated that they have been switching to analog in order to communicate with one another for EMS but then are unable to hear what may come across the digital feed as Fire is all running on the new digital system. This is a concern as they feel that continuity of care suffers for their patients as radio traffic with the analog system previously helped them to have a heads up of emergency situations and make them more aware of what is going on and what may be needed as far as mutual aid, coming and going of ambulances, etc. The EMS services think everyone switching back to analog for the time being would be a practical short-term solution until everyone is fully digitally capable. That would entail all handheld analog devices being replaced with digital devices. Estimated cost is about \$1000 per device.

Commissioner Brown asked if they have any other concerns with the digital system as she had been informed that the new digital devices are difficult to hear due to static and being unclear. Both services agreed that communications are sometimes hard to hear with the digital system.

EMS personnel also expressed concern over the new numbering system. Previously ambulances were identified using the name of the town followed by the number 99, this numbering is widely used across the state, radio identity including the number 99 indicates it is an ambulance. With this new system, they are identified as 72XX with a numbered being assigned to each unit. They feel this is problematic and don't understand why it was changed from the original numbering system.

Commissioners agree that the best short-term solution for the communication concerns is to switch everyone back to analog for now until everyone has fully digital capable handheld devices. Commissioner Brown will get in touch with Emergency Manager Duane Dreiling and Rick Elliott at PSC to see what needs to be done to get things changed back to analog for the time being.

Assessor Tori Mueller joined the meeting for agenda item concerning the signing of Contract for Professional Appraisal Services with Pritchard & Abbott for 2024-2025. Pritchard & Abbott provides appraisal services for all Mineral Property within the county. This entails mostly gas and oil properties. Commissioner Brown moved to sign the contract for professional appraisal services with Pritchard & Abbott for tax years 2024 and 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to designate the Imperial Republican as the official county newspaper for 2024. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

County Highway Superintendent discussed. On August 8, 2023, Richard DeWester was hired for the position of County Highway Superintendent. This is to clarify that Richard DeWester, License S-1761, Class B, will assist the current, Licensed and Appointed County Superintendent, Anthony Krajewski, License S-1021, Class A, so the county can continue to receive a Highway Incentive payment based on a Class A Superintendent License, as Mr. Krajewski holds. Commissioner Brown moved that it be made a matter of record that Richard DeWester was hired as an assistant to current Highway Superintendent Anthony Krajewski. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

At 9:00 Caleb Johnson of J13 Enterprises, LLC joined the meeting to present the board with a budget preparation proposal. Mr. Johnson explained his budget preparation process and presented the board with two proposals, the first for a one-year agreement and the second for a three-year agreement. Commissioners are interested and indicated that they would prefer the three-year agreement but first want to confer with the county's current budget preparer before making any decisions. This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Brown moved to surplus a wooden table (tag #464) from the Treasurer's office to be transferred to the office of the County Clerk. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to transfer a desk (tag #196) from the county attorney's office to the clerk's office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to transfer a desk corner piece from the county attorney's office to the transit office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve claims as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – absent. Motion carried.

PE=payroll exp, TE=travel exp, SU=supply,  
SE=service, CC=court cost, RP=repairs,  
PT=parts, L=labor, UT=utility, AP=Appt. Counsel,  
PS=Prior Service EQ=Equipment JD=Juv Div

AFFILIATED BENEFITS CONSULTANTS

INC	SE	50.00
AFLAC	PE	382.15
AFLAC (AFTER TAX)	PE	17.74
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	29.60
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	8982.53
APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECH	SE	3093.90
BCBS OF NE	PE	25929.33
BRICO PEST CONTROL	SE	30.00
BUDKE POWERSPORTS	PT/L	890.51
BWTELCOM	UT	145.57
CARTER, KARON DENISE	SE	720.00
CHARM-TEX, INC.	SU	415.60
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	133.32
CHASE CO CDC	CC	72.00
CHASE CO COURT	CC	152.00
CHASE CO TREAS	SU	984.81
CLARITY & SOLUTIONS COUNSELING, LLC	JD	840.00
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	213.51
CRAWFORD, MAKAYLA RAE	JD	130.00
DAS STATE ACCTS	SE	537.60
DEVENY MOTORS LLC	PT/L	293.72
DOBY REBECCA	CC	503.85
EAKES, INC	SU	515.62
EFTPS	PE	15560.55
ENGLLOT, LLC	L	150.00
FARRELL'S PHARMACY INC.	SU	55.41
FVFC	SU	1272.53
GEO-COMM INC.	SE	5500.00
GREAT PLAINS COMM INC	UT	1523.13
HARCHELROAD MOTORS INC		920.82
HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOC	SE	202.76
HILLS FAMILY FOODS	SU	2129.65



HOMETOWN LEASING	EQ	626.35
IDEAL LINEN	SU	362.37
IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN	SE	435.10
IMPERIAL, CITY OF	UT	1547.33
JAEGER, JANICE E	SE	530.00
L & L READY MIX	SU	66.00
MCNAIR AGENCY, INC	SE	40.00
MIPS, INC.	SE	1411.35
MONTES, MONICA	SU	30.00
MOUSEL, BROOKS, SCHNEIDER, MUSTION	AP	556.22
NE CHILD SUPPORT PMT CTR	PE	320.00
NE SECRETARY OF STATE	SE	20.00
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	2134.42
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	105.05
OWENS TRUE VALUE INC	SU	258.59
PRAIRIE STATES COMM	SU	123.00
RED WILLOW CO TREAS	CC	1145.75
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	230.77
WILCOX RYAN R.	AP	5109.84
Net Payroll		43268.77
	<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>130699.12</b>
ADAMS LUMBER	SU	25.17
AFLAC	PE	110.16
AJK SERVICES, LLC	SE	259.56
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	5.95
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	1202.12
BCBS OF NE	PE	250.00
BWTELCOM	UT	99.14
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	40.00
CHASE CO TREAS	SU	11.56
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	59.99
EFTPS	PE	3752.74
ENLOT, LLC	L	300.00
GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	225.24
HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOC	UT	128.01
IMPERIAL CARQUEST	SU	358.96
IMPERIAL NAPA	SU	337.43
IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN	SE	31.05
IMPERIAL, CITY OF	UT	337.73
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIP	PT/L	2742.43
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	1007.35
NEBRASKA MACHINERY COMPANY	PT/L	73009.61
NEWMAN TRAFFIC SIGNS	SU	8584.58
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	257.49
OWENS TRUE VALUE INC	SU	83.50
PETTY CASH/ROAD-TRANSIT	SU	15.56
SAPP BROS PETRO	SU	20056.46
WALGREN'S SUPERMARKET	SU	26.57
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	200.79
WAUNETA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	UT	150.87
21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT, LLC	P	116.72
Net Payroll		20985.79
	<b>Road Fund Total</b>	<b>134772.53</b>
MIPS, INC.	SE	135.20
	<b>P&amp;M Fund Total</b>	<b>135.20</b>
BWTELCOM	UT	278.90
CENTURY LINK	UT	2299.21

GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	386.52
<b>E911 Fund Total</b>		<b>2964.63</b>
PRAIRIE STATES COMM	EQ	89262.00
<b>Wireless 911 Holding Fund Total</b>		<b>89262.00</b>
AIRGAS USA, LLC	SU	191.09
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	SU	1334.19
BWTELCOM	UT	52.02
CCCH	SE	23.00
CHASE CO TREAS	SU	32.13
GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	321.39
PRAIRIE STATES COMM	EQ	76.90
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	440.66
<b>Amulance Fund Total</b>		<b>2471.38</b>
<b>Grand Total All Claims</b>		<b>360304.86</b>

Commissioner Muehlenkamp indicated that she is working to gather informal bids to remove the Lee trees from the county line.

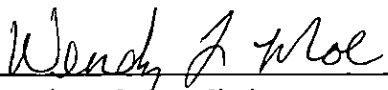
With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:30am.

**CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
 Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1

  
 Jacci L. Brown – Commissioner District #2

-Absent-  
 Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST:   
 Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk

