

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

March 15, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners, three members and the County Clerk present, met in regular session at 9:00 AM.

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Bever.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Bever.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner McManus.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner McManus to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray- Yes*

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Cordray to approve invoices in the amounts of \$208,963.00 and \$83,300.88. Motion was seconded by Commissioner McManus.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray- Yes*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner McManus to approve the minutes of March 8, 2021 as presented by the County Clerk. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray- Yes*

SEKRPC UPDATE:

Representative Taylor Hogue met with the Board to present an update on resources available to the counties from their agency in Chanute. The Board thank them for the information.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH – CAROLYN MULLER:

Montgomery County Health Director Carolyn Muller met with the Board to present a grant application for the Health Department. The following action was taken:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner McManus to approve the request from the Montgomery County Health Department to apply for a grant from Kansas Department of Health & Environment in the amount of \$163,331.03 and to authorize the Chairman to sign the application on behalf of Montgomery County. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray- Yes*

PUBLIC WORKS:

Public Works Coordinator Jim Wright met with the Board to present the weekly written report. The following items were discussed:

1. Reported the department will be sending out applications for the dust inhibitor program –
2. Discussion regarding parking lot at County Barn – Mr. Wright reported they are moving forward with scheduling a time to be on the City of Independence agenda on the Conditional Use Permit.
3. Discussion regarding the Cost Share Program – The Sharing System determines the funding on cost sharing program.

Mr. Wright will meet with the Board for a workshop on Monday March 22nd following the regular meeting.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR – EXECUTIVE SESSION – NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL:

Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Phelps met with the Board to request an executive session to discuss the job status of a non-elected employee with the Board, Mr. Phelps and County Clerk present. The following action was taken:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner McManus to recess to Executive Session at 9:30 AM to return at 9:45 AM to discuss the job status of a non-elected employee with the Board, Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Phelps and the County Clerk present. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray- Yes*

Returned to session at 9:40 AM stating no decisions made and no action to be taken. The Board recessed until 9:45 AM.

Returned to session at 9:45 AM.

Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Phelps presented a request to the Board to post a full-time temporary position for the Maintenance Department to begin as soon as possible for a period of six (6) months. The following action was taken:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner McManus to authorize the Maintenance Supervisor to post the position of a full-time temporary employee for the Maintenance Department. The position will be a temporary position for approximately six (6) months. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray- Yes*

RES. NO. 21-049

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RURAL FIRE #1 – REORGANIZATION:

Emergency Manager/District Rural Fire Chief Rick Whitsen met with the Board to further discuss the reorganization of Montgomery County Rural Fire District No. 1. Also present from the fire department was Sycamore Chief John Adams, Dearing Chief Marty Smith and Fireman Harry Barker.

Commissioner Bever stated in the discussion he is not in favor of hiring an extra person as brought to the Board at the previous meeting.

After further discussion, Mr. Whitsen was requested to go back to the Fire Chiefs for further discussion and get their opinions. Mr. Whitsen will return on March 22nd at 8:30 AM for a work session before the regular meeting. No action was taken at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ATTORNEY – LISA MONTGOMERY:

Montgomery County Attorney Lisa Montgomery and Assistant County Attorney Karen Miller met with the Board to present information on the upgrading of prosecution software. The cost of this software is \$111,000 and a \$15,000 per year for storage on Cloud.

They presented information on a grant application they will be making to the US Department of Justice in the amount of \$340,000. These funds will be used for the upgrade of the software and other equipment needed. The Board approved the request by the County Attorney to apply for the grant.

OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS:

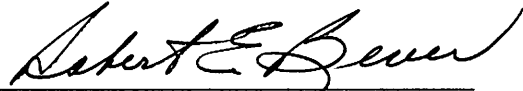
1. Ballot Drop Boxes – Information requested by the Board was the number of advance ballots returned in the Independence Drop Box. The returned number was 1066 and there were 3431 mailed. No action was taken at this time.
2. County Appraiser was present and explained the correction on one employee's status change.
3. Project 17 letter was received and the Clerk was requested to get more information on the information in the letter. The Project 17 is to "improve the economic vitality and quality of life of those who live, work and play in the seventeen counties that compose the Project 17 region".

ADJOURNMENT: 11:40 AM

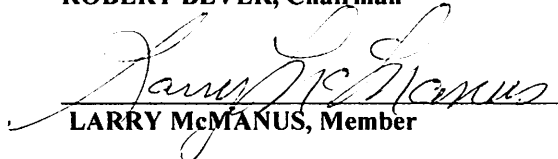
ACTION: *Motion by Commissioner McManus, seconded by Commissioner Cordray.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray- Yes*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS**



ROBERT BEVER, Chairman



LARRY McMANUS, Member



MIKE CORDRAY, Member




County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 21-049

DATED at Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas this 15th day of March, 2021.

WHEREAS: *A motion was made by Commissioner McManus to authorize the Maintenance Supervisor to post the position of a full-time temporary employee for the Maintenance Department. The position will be a temporary position for approximately six (6) months.*

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray.

*ROLL CALL VOTE – Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner McManus – Yes
Commissioner Cordray – Yes*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS**



Robert Bever, Chairman



Larry McManus, Member



Mike Cordray, Member


Charlotte Scott Schmidt, County Clerk