

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS**

The Board of Miami County Commissioners met in regular session, in the Commission Chambers, Miami County Administration Building, Paola, Kansas, on March 3rd, 2021. Those present were:

Rob Roberts, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem	Sheila Schultz, County Counselor
Danny Gallagher, Commissioner	Janet White, County Clerk
Phil Dixon, Commissioner	Casey d'Augereau, Executive Secretary
George Pretz, Commissioner	

News: Doug Carder, Republic News

Visitors: Tim & Lee Dye, Debbie Mize, Vickie Vetter-Scruggs, Sam Moon, Ken Boone, Esther Reddish-Hanne, Andy Martin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vicki Vetter-Scruggs, 31622 Oak Grove Rd, Paola, asked the Commissioners when the Miami County Mask Mandate will end. Mask mandates are collapsing; currently there are 16 States without mask mandates; the newest are Texas and Mississippi. Sweden has also banned masks as of today. This is a topic that never ends. There is a conspiracy theory that a person can replace their immune system with a mask, gloves, and hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer is dangerous and very toxic. Our skin is the largest organ and rubbing hand sanitizer into skin puts it directly into the blood stream. When will the media tell people they can no longer eat McDonalds, smoke cigarettes, or consume alcohol or are we just sticking to masks to save lives? After the initial vote of wearing masks the media only focuses on the pros of wearing masks, it is one sided. Commissioner Vaughan stated that he will support the local paper as the Republic News has been getting both sides of the story out to the public. Ms. Vetter-Scruggs agreed.

Debbie Mize, 217 N. 6th Terr, Louisburg, stated she reads the Bible and recently was reading on Romans 1:25, and they traded a lie. What is science? There's God's science and there's man's science and they are two very different things. Was at the Capitol all last week going in and out of meetings. There are many lawyers trying to figure out the mask mandate. Would like to get back to the constitution, counties in Kansas are revoking the Governor's mask mandate. She is requesting the Commissioners to reverse the mask mandate.

Esther Reddish-Hanner, 1105 Pacific Ave, Osawatomie, being pregnant wearing masks makes it difficult to breath. Ms. Reddish-Hanner stated she was a science teacher for 14 years, years ago science believed fruit-flies came from meat. As research went on, they discovered fruit-flies did not come from meat. Ms. Reddish-Hanner is currently a first-grade substitute teacher and the kids are missing out as they cannot see how the words are being articulated making it hard on them to understand the words.

Chairman Roberts stated to set the record straight school districts are under their own executive order the county has no jurisdiction over them. Secondly, anyone living in Paola or Osawatomie the City Counsels adopted their own mask mandates, the county has no jurisdiction over the cities' executive orders. Should the Commissioners reconsider the mask mandate it would only impact the communities that do not have an executive order and it would not impact the school districts.

Commissioner Vaughan stated he consistently gives this statement when approached about the decisions made by the Commissioners. He believes the Commissioners sort through the information presented to them, looking at fact, fiction, and opinions before casting a vote or making a decision. Commissioner Vaughan believes they all respect the process it takes to make the final decision.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the county commission meeting on February 24th, 2021
- Approval of payment vouchers and payroll

Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Oehlert, Road & Bridge Project Manager, requested the Commissioners to consider approving a budget revision for Project 18-13-SB (663) 299th Street Culvert Replacement to \$289,446.41. This will be an additional \$165.41 to the original agreement. Commissioner Gallagher questioned if the vendor could absorb the \$165.41 on a project this big. Matt stated he made the request for the change and doesn't feel it would be fair for him to ask the vendor to absorb the cost when he initiated the request. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the budget revision from \$289,281 to 289,446.41, Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Matt Oehlert, Road & Bridge Project Manager, requested the Commissioners to consider approving a Change Order for Project 18-13-SB (663); 299th Street Culvert Replacement. This will be for a traffic control plan requested by Miami County Road & Bridge in the amount of \$2,744.44. Original agreement is **A20-12-003** in the amount of \$239,081.45. Commissioner Gallagher moved to approve Change Order for \$2,744.44; Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Matt Oehlert, Road & Bridge Project Manager, requested the Commissioners to consider awarding and executing agreement with BG Consultants for 2021/2022 Bridge Inspection Services in the amount of \$29,227.50. There are 237 bridges in Miami County needing inspections every year per State of Kansas requirements. Commissioner Pretz moved to award and approve 2021/2022 Bridge Inspection Services Agreement to BG Consultants, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous. (**A21-03-009**)

STAFF COMMENTS

Shane Krull, County Administrator, stated in reference to the \$165.41 budget increase he would like to look into the possibility of a department being allowed to make a decision for the additional funds if it is within a certain percentage. Chairman Roberts agreed to look into it but stated they will have to make sure to look into it very closely as they want the county to remain transparent to the citizens.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, updated the Commissioners on COVID-19 in Miami County (MICO). As of noon today, there have been 2,646 cases up 28 since last week. There is 1 active cluster, hoping it is cleared up by next week. Have received approximately 5,800 doses of Moderna vaccine, have administered approximately 2,658 first doses and 985 second doses. There are approximately 2,000 people on the phase 2 list still waiting to be vaccinated.

JR McMahan, Road & Bridge Director, gave a few updates:

- Stated Shay Hanyak with Lake Region Solid Waste Committee will be putting out a quarterly newsletter once Mr. McMahan receives it, he will be forwarding the newsletter to the Commissioners to keep them in the loop. Mr. McMahan passed out a copy of the most recent newsletter to the Commissioners.
- Thanked the Commissioners for allowing Road & Bridge to purchase a new Bobcat with a planer. Made first attempt on Pressonville.
- Received oil bid, it remained the same as last year, the same with magnesium chloride.
- Fuel prices were locked in, making MICO around .50 to .60 cents below the prices at the pumps.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan moved to reappoint Kelli Broers to the Economic Development Advisory Board, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pretz announced there might be 2 or more Commissioners at the following events:

- Groundbreaking ceremony for the new tower on Tuesday, March 16th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on 399th east of 69 Highway
- Annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, March 6th, 2021 at 8:00 am at Holy Trinity School
- Panther Robotics Team 1108 Open House on Saturday, March 6th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at 1705 Industrial Park Drive, Paola
- Annual State of the City Breakfast on Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 at 1:30 a.m. at Town Square Events located at 15 W Wea Street, Paola

Chairman Roberts stated Rural Water District 2 has requested the county exempt them from the costs of building permits. Chairman Roberts advised them it would be looked into. Chairman Roberts would like for the County to look at a policy that addresses such request. A written resolution will need to be presented to the BOCC once a final decision is made.

Chairman Roberts stated the average property in Miami County went up by 9 – 9.5%, in future discussions the county needs to work hard to find a way to keep the Mill Levies down and attempt to keep the same dollar amount in 2022. Commissioner Gallagher agreed with Chairman Roberts and added that they also need to be considerate of county growth which might add to the Mill Levies.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Pretz moved to have an Executive Session for Attorney/Client Privilege Exception for 30 minutes with no action anticipated beginning at 2:05 to include the Commissioners, Shane Krull, County Administrator and Sheila Schultz, County Counselor. Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous. The regular meeting reconvened at 2:35, no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

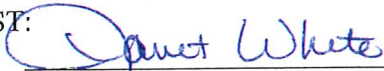
The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.





Rob Roberts, Chairman

ATTEST:



Janet White, County Clerk