

Gove County Commissioners Meeting Minutes 11-23-20 **Approved**

The regular meeting of the Gove County Commissioners was called to order at 8:15 a.m. in the meeting room of the Gove County Office Building. Members present were Duane Vollbracht, Chuck Kuntz, and Mike Gillespie. Shelly Holaday was present taking minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mike made a motion to approve the agenda. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Ivy Charles, Dr. Scott Rempel, Janake Kaiser, Stacy Anstaett, Erika Nicholson, David Caudill, Mike Haase, and Cheri Remington met with the Commissioners. They were there to discuss the mask mandate from the Governor. Mark Schmeidler joined the meeting at 8:33 a.m. They discussed a resolution that was presented. Bryan Wolf joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m. Bryan Wolf presented his position on being allowed to work if his workers are in quarantine but not sick. He wants to be considered part of the critical infrastructure. He would like a formal adoption of policy that would allow them to continue working. Dr. Rempel was not in favor of this. David Mendenhall joined the meeting at 9:23 a.m. The Commissioners informed Bryan that they were staying with what the Gove County Health Officer recommended. Bryan left the meeting at 9:31 a.m. Cheri Remington and Mike Haase left the meeting at 9:31 a.m. Ivy Charles and Janake Kaiser left the meeting at 9:33 a.m. The Commissioners reviewed the resolution. Ivy Charles and Janake Kaiser rejoined the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Mike Haase rejoined the meeting at 9:44 a.m. The Commissioners discussed the corrected resolution. Duane made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-019. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed Vollbracht and Gillespie for and Kuntz against. There was more discussion on the resolution. Dr. Rempel, Ivy Charles, Janake Kaiser, and Stacy Anstaett left the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Duane made a motion to approve the Repayment Agreement for Zach and Allyson Blurton. Mike seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The SPARKS committee gave their report. There was discussion on the audit required. Cheri Remington, Ericka Nicholson, Mike Haase, and David Caudill left the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

David Mendenhall reported on the road in Grainfield. David wants to know what the mask mandates mean for his workers. The Commissioners explained the mandate. David left the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Matt Wolf joined the meeting at 10:38 a.m. Reported on the vehicles at the landfill. Matt asked questions about using vacation time. Matt has been looking at loaders for the landfill. He presented a quote he had received. He would like to look at getting one for next year. There was discussion about purchasing a loader this year. Matt reported he had gotten prairie dog bait. Mike made a motion to go into executive session from

10:58 a.m. until 11:03 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Duane seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. The Commissioners returned to regular session at 11:03 a.m. Matt left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Cheri Remington, Matt Wolf, Bonnie Cook and Mike Haase joined the meeting at 11:08 a.m. to discuss the County health insurance. The Commissioners placed a call to Julie from Freedom Claims Management. Bonnie called Denise Wolf. Julie explained the insurance for the 2021 year. The Insurance Committee's recommendation is to continue with Blue Cross and Blue Shield with a change to the vision insurance. Chuck made a motion to continue with Blue Cross and Blue Shield with the change to the vision insurance. Duane seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. The Commissioners ended the call with Julie. Bonnie, Denise, Cheri, and Matt left the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Mike Haase discussed with the Commissioners about declaring a burn restriction. Mike left the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Mike rejoined the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Mike showed the Commissioners the last resolution concerning burn bans. There was discussion. The Commissioners want Mike to publish this resolution so people know what the rules are when it comes to burning. It also points out what the fire chiefs have authority to do. The Commissioners want Mike to get ahold of the fire chiefs and explain the resolution and then see if the fire chiefs then want a burn ban. Mike will return after lunch to report what he learns.

Duane made a motion to approve check 66440 through 66522. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Commissioners recessed for lunch and will return to regular session at 12:51 p.m.

The Commissioners returned to regular session at 12:51 p.m.

Cheri Remington joined the meeting at 12:51 p.m. Cheri discussed paid leave for funerals. The Commissioners recommended the department heads get together and discuss what should be changed in the handbook and present it back to the Commissioners. Cheri also discussed why the Treasurer's Office was closed due to quarantine. The Commissioners said to follow what the health nurse says when it comes to quarantine and keeping the county offices open. Cheri left the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Roger Ringer joined the meeting at 1:17 p.m. to discuss 2021 trash rates. Roger proposes a 1.6% increase in solid waste rates for 2021. It is rounded up to the next nickel. Chuck made a motion to approve the proposed solid waste rates for 2021. Mike seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Roger discussed the Landfill with the Commissioners. The Commissioners will check on some things and get back to Roger. Roger left the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

Chuck made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-20 authorizing the purchase of Lots 12 and 13 in Block 4 Quinter Heights Addition to the City of Quinter. Mike seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Commissioner's discussed the County Appraiser's Office. The Commissioners placed a call to David Stithem to ask him some questions. The Commissioners ended the call to David.

Chuck made a motion to approve the 11-9-2020 proposed minutes. Mike seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Duane made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners as the Board of County Canvassers 11-13-2020. Mike seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Emily Vollbracht joined the meeting at 2:17 p.m. The Commissioners asked her some questions about the Appraiser's Office. Emily left the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Chuck made a motion to adjourn. Mike seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.