

LWVTSC Observer Reports: September VOTER

Shawnee County Commission

July 27, 2023

All 3 Commissioners present

Elvera Johnson, observer

District Attorney Mike Kaygay's office presented an update on their involvement with investigating child exploitation and human trafficking. They cooperate with other local, state and federal resources to investigate these crimes and promote apprehending the perpetrators and assisting the victims.

For the County Counselor's office, they approved a resolution to provide property tax relief to a couple whose property was destroyed by fire.

For Emergency Management, they approved the annual renewal of First Responder Grant Awards. The funds are used for training and software.

For Public Works, Commissioners approved amendment and execution of a contract for a construction project in Timber Ridge Subdivision. The funding is temporarily funded via a benefit district. Some costs are paid directly by the developer. They also approved a request to issue "Requests for Qualifications" for engineering design and construction for a bridge replacement project on SW Jordon Road over a tributary to the Wakarusa River.

For Corrections, the Commission approved the plan to begin with the design part of the work associated with the construction of a mental health unit within the Adult Detention Center.

For Parks and Recreation, the Commission approved the reclassification of four positions and creation of five new positions. This involves reorganizing the supervisory positions and dividing duties by districts. No extra funding is needed. They approved execution of a contract with the Gage Park Improvement Authority and County Parks and Recreation to develop a Master Plan for the preservation, improvement and maintenance of Gage Park. They authorized execution of a

contract to design and build a swimming pool and splash pad. Some of the work has already been completed and needs to be paid. They approved a request to fill the vacant park police officer position at a higher pay range for a candidate with exceptional experience. They authorized the purchase of body cameras. They are the same type of cameras used by Topeka Police and County Sheriffs.

For Human Resources, the Commission approved the wage/salary changes for Parks and Rec and Corrections employees agreed upon in negotiations with Teamsters.

For the Noxious Weed Department, they approved the purchase of 2 new John Deere utility vehicles and sale of the older ones to Stormont Vail Event Center.

Betty Greiner of Audit Finance gave a June budget report. Both revenue and expenditures were close to budgeted amount. She shared no concerns.

The Commission voted to cancel the July 31 work session. They then spent considerable time discussing the Capital Improvement Plan. They talked about improvements to Ag Hall, especially improvements to the restrooms. The commissioners voiced some disagreement and finally tabled the project, as the facility is over 70 years old. They discussed spending more funds on Heritage Hall, which is utilized more often and is in better condition. They approved funds for court services furniture and projects that use federal grants.

In public comment, a resident of the Oakland community expressed concern about homeless people who spend every day in the Oakland Park. For a while they were spending the night. The resident believes that homeless people might be dangerous and interfere with other people using the park. Commissioners commented that help for homeless people is a national issue. Commissioner Mays attended a national conference and the 3 main issues discussed were homelessness, mental health, and affordable housing.

In administrative communications, Greiner announced discussion of the budget will begin next Thursday. Emergency Management talked about the heat advisory and the health concerns posed by the heat. Commissioner Mays pointed out that early voting is going on for the City Council District 6 primary election. The official election day is August 1.

No executive session was called.

Shawnee County Commission
July 20, 2023
Paul Post, observer

Commissioners present: Riphan, Mayes and Cook
Commissioners absent: None

I. Proclamations/presentations: None.

II. Unfinished business: None.

III. Consent agenda:

Consent agenda was approved as follows:

A. Acknowledge receipt of correspondence from Cox Communications regarding contract negotiations with various programmers and broadcasters.— County Clerk. Receipt acknowledged.

B. Consider approval of the Cunningham Recreation quotes, Contract C226- 2023, for swings, sway benches, and engineered wood fiber in various parks throughout the system. This purchase is through the Omnia US Communities Cooperative. Funding in the total amount of \$44,564.79 is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).—Parks + Recreation. Approved.

C. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2023- 48 authorizing the Chair to execute certain documents required by KPERS.— Human Resources. Approved.

D. Consider authorization and execution of Contract C227-2023, Amendment #2 to Shawnee County Contract C246-2021 with James Mosher (The Castle & Cross Consort), to extend the agreement for performing music services. The contract is funded by the Parks For All Foundation.—Parks + Recreation. Approved.

E. Consider approval for Emergency Management employee to attend out of state training at no cost to Shawnee County- Emergency Management. Approved.

F. Consider approval of contract renewal, C231-2023, with CivicSource for administrative and technical services related to the Judicial Tax Foreclosure Sale.— County Counselor. Approved.

G. Consider approval to reclassify one OAll position to the OAIII to reflect additional duties and increase in difficulty level of new tasks.- Appraiser. Approved.

H. Consider approval to reclassify the GIS Cadastral Mapping Specialist from range 8 to range 9 to correct compaction issues with this position.- Appraiser. Approved.

I. Consider approval of request to pay invoices from the Diversion Fund account for a total amount of \$2,925.79.—District Attorney. Approved.

J. Consider authorization and execution of Contract C228- 2023, the purchase of 400 Meraki Systems Manager Enterprise licenses through Logicalis for mobile device management at a cost of \$12,844.00.—Information Technology. Approved.

K. Request approval of SFY2023 end of year operations outcomes reports to the Kansas Department of Corrections for adult and juvenile community corrections services.— Dept. of Corrections. Approved.

IV . New business:

A.

1. Vouchers approved, \$ 2,197,000.

2. Correction orders approved.

B. PARKS + RECREATION-Tim L. Laurent

1. Consider authorization and execution of Contract C229- 2023, the Sertoma Great Topeka Duck Race Agreement, to provide the 2023 Great Topeka Duck Race activities on September 16 at Lake Shawnee. Organizer shall pay special event fees totaling \$1040 for deposit in the SCP+R Building Maintenance Fund.

Approved.

2. Board of County Commissioners consideration is requested to approve the recommendation by the Professional Services Selection Committee for the MCP Build Team to provide Design- Build Services and authorize Parks + Recreation to enter into contract negotiations to determine a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Family Park project. Funding is provided by the issuance of Capital Projects Bonding.

Approved.

C. AUDIT FINANCE-Betty Greiner

1. Consider approval to apply for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). \$767,710 is the Shawnee County allocation. Approved.

D. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS- Brian Cole

1. Request approval of Contract C230-2023 with Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc. for electronic monitoring devices and services to be used in the management of juvenile clients, to be paid as needed with grant funds from the Kansas Department of Corrections. Approved.

E. PUBLIC WORKS- Curt Niehaus

1. Consider approval of an updated project budget for the traffic signal upgrade project on S Topeka Boulevard at SW 57th Street, SW University Boulevard and SW Gary Ormsby Drive. Shawnee County's share of the total final project cost will be paid for using Public Works Special Highway Funds. A revised budget increase was needed due to the time required to obtain railroad right-of -way permits from BNSF Railway. \$94,000 was the original agreement, but it had increased to \$200,000 due to the delay. Total cost of the project is \$1.55 Million. Approved.

F. COMMISSION

1. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2023-45 notifying the Shawnee County Clerk of

the Board of County Commissioner's Intent to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 budget. The public comment meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 5:30 p.m. Approved.

2. Consider cancelling the July 24 Work Session. Approved.

3. Discussion of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Commission will continue discussions concerning the plan, with a final vote likely in mid - August. The CIP can be found at <https://www.snco.us/af/cip.asp>.

The meeting was adjourned.

Shawnee County Commission

July 6, 2023

Paul Post, observer

Commissioners present: Riphan, Mayes and Cook.

Commissioners absent: None.

I. Proclamations/Presentations: 2022 Audit Report, Jacob Hollman, auditor; no deficiencies noted, and in compliance with GAAP-7 (generally accepted accounting practices).

II. Unfinished business: Although noted on the agenda, none was presented.

III. Consent agenda:

Consent agenda was approved as follows:

A. Acknowledge receipt and approval of Tri-County Drainage District No. 1 Treasurer's Bond.-County Clerk.

B. Consider request to dispose of a 1999 Ford Taurus through Purple Wave Auction with proceeds going to the General Fund.—Appraiser.

C. Acknowledge receipt of the legal advertising rate for The Topeka Metro News effective July 1, 2023.—County Clerk.

D. Consider an emergency vehicle permit for Tony Ebaben for Fire and EMS response for Shawnee County Fire District #2.—Emergency Management.

E. Approval for the Health Department Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program to submit an application for the Vitamin Angels Prenatal Vitamins Grant at no cost to Shawnee County.—Health Department.

F. Consider authorization and execution of Contract C210-2023, an Independent Contractor Agreement for Services with instructor April Scott, to teach wellness and fitness programs.

IV. New Business:

A.

1. Vouchers approved, \$3, 364,378.
2. Correction orders approved.

B. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS-Brian Cole

Consider authorization and execution of Contract C211-2023 with Alpha Media for a three-month recruitment program at the total cost of \$15,060.00 to be paid from the detention program. Approved.

C. PUBLIC WORKS-Curt Niehaus

1. Consider approval to apply for \$168,000 in Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grant funds to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Shawnee County's share (\$21,000) will be paid for using 2023 and/2024 Public Works Operation Funds or Public Works Special Highway Funds. Approved.

V. Public Comment

VI. Administrative Communications

VII. Executive Session: No action taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

#USD 501 School Board Meeting

August 3, 2023

Observer: Annie Tietze

-An agreement with KSDE provides fresh fruit and vegetables to students at Highland Park Central, McClure, Randolph, Ross, Scott, Quincy and Williams.

-Topeka Public Schools recognized Laird Noller Ford for a \$25,000 donation.

-The issue of one standing desk for each classroom was approved as presented as an option for students who need to move to stay engaged.

Shawnee County Commission

August 10, 2023

All 3 Commissioners present

Elvera Johnson, observer

-First order of business following the consent agenda, voucher payments and correction orders, was a request from Human Resources to provide employees with preventive health options, using mostly insurance funds. The commissioners considered this for some time and finally tabled it, questioning whether employees would use the service. It would cost the county \$1 per employee per month.

-For Corrections, they approved the purchase of a 2020 Durango SUV from the Kansas Highway Patrol Fleet Sales Program.

-They also approved the rejection of a single bid for the HVAC replacement project at the Corrections Annex. It was significantly higher than budgeted and staff wants to look at other options.

-For the Health Department, they approved the annual renewal of the contract for the Regional Public Health Emergency Preparedness funding. Shawnee County administers the fund, but it covers other counties as well.

-They also approved the Workforce Development non competitive grant. They have ideas regarding how to use it.

-They spent considerable time in a public hearing regarding the approval of a resolution regarding the neighborhood around Hills Pet Nutrition research facility. Hills Pet is planning to tear down and replace some buildings and install solar fields for the facility to use. This is part of a 5-10-year plan. No public comment pro or con was offered. The resolution was approved.

-The Commission also approved the request to reclassify the Planning and Zoning Administrator position.

-For Parks and Recreation, they authorized execution of a contract to fund the Greenways and Trails Masterplan.

-They also authorized the purchase of swings and a playground structure at Clyde O'Bracken Park.

-The Commission approved a resolution establishing the 2024 holidays.

-Then they moved on to discussion of the preliminary 2024 budget. This item by item discussion was begun in earlier sessions. At this meeting, the budget discussion began at 10 a.m. and continued until after 12 noon. The primary goal appeared to be to spend less than in 2023.

-The Capital Outlay fund was approved.

-Planning/Development was approved with one abstention. Community Corrections was approved with a lesser amount.

-Corrections was approved with a lesser amount.

-Human Resources was approved with a lesser amount.

-Facilities Management was approved.

-Sheriff's office was tabled.

-Mental Health was approved.

-The Health Department was tabled after lengthy discussion and pressing the director for more use of grants. She was concerned that they may have to cut services such as childcare licensing and family planning and she said they look for grants daily.

-Parks and Recreation was approved.

-Stormont Veil Events Center was provided an increase.

-One more meeting will be available to finish the preliminary budget to present to the public for a hearing.

-No general public comment was offered.

-In administrative communications, Public Works announced that Nottingham Road is open.

-Commissioner Riphahn announced that there will be no work session on Monday, the 14th.

-An executive session was called. It involved a consult with an attorney.