

THE PRATT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 AT 2:00 PM IN THE COMMISSIONER ROOM, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: THOMAS W. JONES III, RICK SHRIVER, DWIGHT ADAMS, TYSON EISENHAUER, COUNTY COUNSELOR, LORI VOSS, CLERK, AND MARK GRABER, IT DIRECTOR.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

TYSON EISENHAUER, COUNTY COUNSELOR, PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND TITLE WHEN SPEAKING, PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS ON TOPIC. PERSONS PARTICIPATING VIA ZOOM ARE CURRENTLY MUTED. IF YOU HAVE A COMMENT, PLEASE LET MARK KNOW VIA THE CHAT FUNCTION. MARK WILL THEN INFORM CHAIRMAN JONES, WHO CAN TAKE UP THE COMMENT IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT DISRUPT THE AGENDA. IN THE EVENT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IS NEEDED, IT WILL BE MUTED WHEN RECESSED AND TURNED BACK ON WHEN THEY RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.

HEATHER MORGAN, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ZONING CONSULTANT, FOLLOWED UP WITH KDOT INFORMATION ON EV CHARGING STATIONS. THEY WILL BE WORKING WITH A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER. PRATT COUNTY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO WORK WITH THIS PARTNER AND SHE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH THEM. THERE IS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING WEDNESDAY TO APPROVE FAÇADE GRANTS. SHE REPORTED EMS RATES FOR RUNS REIMBURSEMENT IS INCREASING FROM MEDICARE. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT QUESTION APPROVED BY THE SENATE WAS SCR 1611. IT HAS NOT BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSE YET BUT WILL NEED 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE TO ADVANCE IT TO A STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION. IF ADOPTED BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF EACH CHAMBER OF THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE AND THEN APPROVED BY KANSAS VOTERS, THIS WOULD AMEND THE KANSAS CONSTITUTION TO GENERALLY LIMIT, FOR PROPERTY TAX PURPOSES, THE VALUATION GROWTH OF ANY REAL PROPERTY TO 4 PERCENT PER YEAR. THE LIMIT WOULD NOT APPLY TO NEW CONSTRUCTION OR WHEN IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. THERE ARE A FEW OTHER SMALL EXEMPTIONS AS WELL. THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE APPROVED A TAX BILL TO MOVE THE STATE TO A SINGLE TAX RATE, CUT PROPERTY TAXES, AND INCREASE IN THE STANDARD DEDUCTION. THE BILL WILL CREATE A NEW FLAT TAX RATE OF 5.15% STARTING JANUARY 2024, WILL NOT REMOVE THE LOCAL SALES TAX ON GROCERIES BUT WILL REMOVE THE STATE SALES TAX ON GROCERIES BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024. THE BILL ALSO INCLUDED AN INCREASE FROM THE FIRST \$40,000 TO \$60,000 FOR THE AMOUNT EXEMPTED FROM THE PROPERTY VALUE ON THE STATE'S 20-MILL PROPERTY TAX FOR SCHOOLS; AND STANDARD DEDUCTION INCREASES FOR ALL TAXPAYERS WILL BE TIED TO INFLATION STARTING IN 2024 BUT IT LEFT THE STANDARD DEDUCTION FOR SINGLE FILERS AT THE \$3,500 LEVEL. CORPORATE INCOME TAXES WOULD BE REDUCED TO 3% IN 2024. FINALLY, THE BILL WOULD END THE SOCIAL SECURITY TAX CLIFF WHICH OCCURRED AT \$75,000 IN INCOME AND MOVE TO A MORE GRADUAL PHASE IN OF TAXES AT \$100,000 AND INCLUDES A \$5,000 PER YEAR ESCALATOR MOVING FORWARD.

VIKKI MADER, CEO, HORIZON MENTAL HEALTH, GAVE AN UPDATE ON THEIR SERVICES AND FINANCIALS. SHE STATED THEY WILL NOT BE ASKING FOR AN INCREASE IN THEIR BUDGET REQUEST FROM THE COUNTY FOR 2024. 85% OF THEIR STAFF IS VETERAN READY CERTIFIED. THEY ARE NOW TRAINED TO HELP VETERANS. THEY ARE APPLYING FOR GRANTS TO EXPAND MOBILE CRISIS TREATMENT. THEY ARE TRYING TO PARTNER WITH HOSPITALS TO HELP SERVE THE HOMELESS AND THE UNDERSERVED.

BJ HAYES, EMERGENCY MANAGER/ZONING DIRECTOR, STATED THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE HAS MOVED THEIR RADIO SYSTEM TO DUAL BAND SYSTEM. HE WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE TEN OF THE 800 RADIOS FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR HIS DEPARTMENT, EACH TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CITY FIRE IF THEY WOULD LIKE ONE. MAX BARRETT, UNDERSHERIFF STATED THEY HAD PURCHASED THE RADIOS FROM RENO COUNTY AND HAD TO REPLACE ANTENNAES AND BATTERIES. HE STATED THEY HAVE TWENTY-FIVE, BJ TAKES TEN AND BILLY HAMPTON, COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE TAKES FIVE. THEY WILL KEEP THE REST FOR THEIR DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER STATED THEY COULDN'T BE SOLD TO ANOTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENT, THAT IS TAX PAYER DOLLARS THAT PURCHASED THE RADIOS INITIALLY SO THEY WOULD BE BUYING THEM TWICE. THE RADIOS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS STATED ABOVE. MAX STATED THEY ARE GOING TO TRADE IN TWO TRAILERS AND PURCHASE A LARGER ONE. THEY DISCUSSED BJ'S 6 MONTH EVALUATION. HE WILL COME BACK FOR THE APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING TO GO OVER THE EVALUATION. COMMISSIONER ADAMS QUESTIONED THE 400/800/DUAL BAND RADIOS. MAX GAVE A SHORT EXPLANATION.

CATHERINE ROHRER, COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SUPERVISOR, DISCUSSED MOVING FUNDS FROM ONE TO THE OTHER TO PURCHASE CARS. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW HER TO MOVE FUNDS FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ONE LINE ITEM TO ANOTHER AS STATED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,508.20. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. SHE REPORTED HER 2024 ADULT/JUVENILE BUDGETS, ARE THE SAME AS LAST FISCAL YEAR. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SIGNING THE GRANT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE ADULT FUNDING FROM THE STATE. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. SHE PRESENTED THE 2024 JUVENILE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SIGNING THE 2024 JUVENILE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

JON ROACH, NOXIOUS WEED DIRECTOR, REPORTED THE TRUCK THAT HAS BEEN REBUILT, IS HAVING THE SAME ISSUES AS BEFORE. THE COMMISSIONERS STATED HE NEEDS TO START LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT. HE IS WAITING ON RAIN TO START SPRAYING. HE WOULD LIKE TO GET A SIGN FOR HIS BUILDING. COMMISSIONERS GAVE APPROVAL FOR HIM TO CHECK INTO SIGNS AND REPORT BACK.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 3, 2023. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION 3-0.

A NEW HIRE SLIP WAS PRESENTED FROM THE SHERIFF' OFFICE FOR DETENTION OFFICER FOR TANNER SCHMIDT. COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE HIRING TANNER SCHMIDT AS DETENTION OFFICER FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AT \$16.26. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS BROUGHT UP THE BID FOR SECURITY SYSTEMS AT THE JAIL AND COURTHOUSE AND WHY A LOCAL COMPANY DIDN'T GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO BID. THEY ARE NOT ON THE STATE APPROVED LIST, THEREFORE FEDERAL MONEY COULD NOT BE USED.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ROAD CROSSING FOR SC TELCOM AT SW 10<sup>TH</sup>-85<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SW 90<sup>TH</sup> ROAD AND SW 100<sup>TH</sup> STREET FOR FIBER OPTIC CABLE. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERMIT FOR SHANE ROSE FOR CITY OF PRATT FIRE. COMMISSIONER SHIRVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A DONATION OF \$500 FOR THE 75'S DINNER. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

IT WAS DISCUSSED IF THEY WANTED SCOT LOYD, ACCOUNTANT TO HAVE DEPARTMENT HEAD PRE-BUDGET MEETINGS. COMMISSIONERS AGREED TO SET UP THE MEETINGS.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR EIGHT MINUTES AT 2:52 PM FOR AN ATTORNEY/CLIENT MATTER CONCERNING TAX EXEMPTION. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 2:58 PM WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

TONY HELFRICH, SUPERINTENDENT AND DAVID SCHMIDT, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AT USD 382 GAVE A SHORT PRESENTATION ON THEIR BOND ELECTION. TONY WENT OVER THE IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTHWEST SCHOOL AND THE ACE BUILDING. THEY REPORTED THEY HAD TOURED THE PRRC LOCATION AND STATED IT WOULD WORK VERY WELL FOR THEM. IT WOULD FULFILL MANY OF THE TEMPORARY NEEDS THEY WILL NEED IF THE BOND PASSES. TONY STATED THEY HAVE ACCESS TO \$750,000 OF PANDEMIC MONEY TO APPLY TO THIS PROJECT. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER ASKED IF THEY WANTED TO RENT THE PRRC BUILDING WOULD IT BE FOR THE 2023-2024 YEAR. TONY STATED YES IT WOULD BE FOR ONE SCHOOL YEAR. TYSON STATED THE PRRC TRACT NEEDS TO BE STRIPPED FROM THE HOSPITAL OPERATING LEASE IF IT IS TO BE RENTED OUT. THE COMMISSIONERS ARE OKAY RENTING IT TO USD 382 FOR A YEAR IF NEEDED.

TARA PAGENKOPF, RSVP DIRECTOR, PRESENTED CHECKS FOR SIGNATURES. SHE REPORTED HER GRANT RAN OUT OF MONEY, BUT KDOT IS DOING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING, SHE RECEIVED ALL SHE HAD ASKED FOR WHICH CAN ONLY BE USED FOR DRIVERS, MAINTENANCE AND FUEL. THERE IS A NEW GRANT APPLICATION SHE HAS SENT IN. THEY DISCUSSED HER POTENTIAL SHORTAGE OF FUNDS UNTIL THE GRANTS ARE COMPLETED.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR TEN MINUTES AT 3:42 PM FOR AN ATTORNEY/CLIENT MATTER TO DISCUSS BOND ISSUE. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:46 PM WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

CHAIRMAN JONES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT VOUCHERS FOR APRIL 10, 2023. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 3:52 PM. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER  
SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

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THOMAS W JONES III                      CHAIRMAN

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DWIGHT ADAMS                              MEMBER

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LORI VOSS, COUNTY CLERK

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RICK N SHRIVER                              MEMBER

