THE PRATT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COURTHOUSE COMMISSION ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: THOMAS W. JONES III, GLENNA L. BORHO AND JOE R. REYNOLDS. TYSON EISENHAUER, COUNTY COUNSELOR, GALE ROSE, PRATT TRIBUNE REPORTER, SHERRY KRUSE, COUNTY CLERK AND DARRELL SHUMWAY WERE ALSO PRESENT.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

DOUG FREUND, ROAD & BRIDGE/LAKE DIRECTOR, DISCUSSED BIDS ON ASPHALT; PEARSON CONSTRUCTION, WICHITA, KS BID 2500 TONS 3/8" UNWASHED STONE AT $35.70 PER TON AND GRAY SCREENING 2500 TONS AT $23.75 PER TON; INCREASE OF ABOUT $3.00 PER TON SINCE LAST YEAR; COMMISSIONER BORHO MADE A MOTION TO PURCHASE 2500 TONS OF 3/8" UNWASHED STONE AT $35.70 PER TON AND 2500 TONS OF GRAY SCREENING FOR $23.75 PER TON FROM PEARSON CONSTRUCTION, WICHITA, KS. COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. DOUG REPORTED BP WILL BE USING SE 100TH AVE TO HAUL WIND TOWER UPGRADES INTO BARBER COUNTY AND HE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH TYSON EISENHAUER, COUNTY COUNSELOR, FOR A ROAD USE AGREEMENT IN CASE OF DAMAGE TO THE ROAD; KIRKHAM MICHAEL WILL BE INVOLVED TO REVIEW THE ROAD BEFORE AND AFTER.

DARCIE VAN DER VYVER, HEALTH DIRECTOR, REPORTED SHE IS STILL WAITING ON ROOF QUOTES; DISCUSSED INFORMATION ON A NEW ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM AND IS USING A SPREADSHEET TO COMPARE COMPANIES; TWO COUNTIES IN KANSAS ARE USING CUREMD; COULD GO LIVE MAY 1ST; COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM CUREMD, RALEIGH, MD FOR $4,119 FOR A NEW EHR SYSTEM FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER BORHO SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. DARCIE SAID SHE IS RECEIVING EMAILS ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS BUT THE FLU IS MORE OF A CONCERN AT THIS TIME.

ROBERT TORRES, NOXIOUS WEED/ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, REPORTED THE EQUIPMENT IS CLEANED, OIL IS CHANGED AND WAITING FOR BETTER WEATHER; HAVE HAD SOME PHONE CALLS IN RESPONSE TO RADIO ADS.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 3, 2020 MINUTES. COMMISSIONER BORHO SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

STAN REIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VERNON FILLEY ART MUSEUM, REPORTED ON THE GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF THE MUSEUM; ALONG WITH GROWTH COMES INCREASED COSTS; CURRENTLY HAVE ONE (1) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AND ONE (1) PART-TIME EMPLOYEE; ALI DIEL HAS BEEN HIRED AS A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE; THE MUSEUM HAS ADDED 16 NEW PROGRAMS; 21 ART CLASSES; GIVING SCHOOL TOURS; LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM EVERY FRIDAY; IMPROVING THE GIFT SHOP; SENDING LOTS OF MAILINGS; USING FACEBOOK A LOT; HAVE AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS; CURRENTLY THEY ARE IN A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TO RAISE $5000 BY THE END OF MARCH; HAVE AN ENDOWMENT FUND NOW SET UP AT THE SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION; THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR GRANTS AND GET BETWEEN $5,000 AND $10,000 A YEAR; SALE OF ART A SOURCE OF INCOME BUT NOT PREDICTABLE; 4000 GUESTS LAST YEAR; WILL BREAK EVEN THIS YEAR.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #02-10-2020 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR $0.00. COMMISSIONER BORHO SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

STACEY HOEME, GREG GLUNZ, DENNIS DUTTON, LEAH CHADD, PRO KANSAS LLC, A GROUP OF KANSAS LANDOWNERS TRYING TO NEGOTIATE EASEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH PHILLIPS 66/LIBERTY PIPELINE LLC WHO IS INSISTING THAT LANDOWNERS IN THE GROUP IN COLORADO AND KANSAS ACCEPT AN INFERIOR EASEMENT COMPARED TO THE LANDOWNERS IN WYOMING; THE LANDOWNER LIABILITY LANGUAGE IS THE CONTROVERSY; THEY FEEL LIKE THEY ARE BEING PressURED AND BEING THREATENED WITH CONDEMNATION TO SIGN AGREEMENTS THEY DO NOT AGREE WITH; KANSAS/COLORADO LANDOWNERS LIABILITY LANGUAGE IS DIFFERENT THAT WYOMING; LOGAN COUNTY, SCOTT COUNTY, LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE SENT LETTERS ON BEHALF OF LANDOWNERS;
TYSON EISENHAUER, COUNTY COUNSELOR, INFORMED THE COMMISSIONERS 7 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TRACTS HAVE COME IN AND FULLY PAID FOR APPROXIMATELY $30,000; HAVE HAD ABOUT 12-15 PHONE CALLS ASKING ABOUT SETTING UP A PAYMENT PLAN; DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL FROM AMERICAN TOWER TO RE-NEGOTIATE THEIR CONTRACT ON THE TOWER IN THE NE/4 15-28-13; COMMISSIONERS DECIDED ON A COUNTER OFFER; TYSON EISENHAUER WILL CONTACT THEM WITH THE OFFER.

COMMISSIONER BORHO MADE A MOTION TO SIGN PAYMENT VOUCHERS FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2020. COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

HEATHER MORGAN HAD A PHONE CONFERENCE WITH THE COMMISSIONERS IN WHICH SHE DISCUSSED CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ISSUES; ABORTION AMENDMENT FAILED; STARTING TO WORK ON THE STATE BUDGET; SB294 INCLUDES CHANGES TO HOW TAXPAYERS ARE NOTIFIED OF MILL LEVY CHANGES; SB295 FREEZES PROPERTY VALUATION INCREASES; HB2607 ESTABLISHES A PAYMENT PLAN FOR PAYING TAXES; HB2605 RELATES TO CONDEMNATION OF PROPERTY; HB2577 GIVES COUNTIES THE ABILITY TO TAX MOTOR FUEL; HB2580 & HB2581 LIMITS POWER OF ANNEXATION FOR CITIES; HB2576 CHANGES THE DATE OF MAILING TAX STATEMENTS; SB400 COULD IMPOSE AN EARNINGS TAX; SB310 ALL VOTING SYSTEMS MUST HAVE PAPER TRAIL; HEATHER GAVE A REPORT ON THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM; 90 COUNTIES ARE PARTICIPATING; SINCE THE PROGRAM STARTED PRATT COUNTY’S POPULATION HAS DECLINED 4.3%; 3800 STUDENT LOAN APPLICANTS STATE WIDE; 500 HAVE RECEIVED INCOME TAX CREDITS FOR APPROXIMATELY $2M; ACCORDING TO A SURVEY OF ROZ PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 83% WOULD HAVE MOVED TO THEIR COUNTY REGARDLESS OF THE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS; OF THOSE WHO MOVED TO KANSAS FROM ANOTHER STATE 60% SAID THEY ALREADY HAD PLANS TO MOVE TO KANSAS BEFORE LEARNING ABOUT THE ROZ PROGRAM; 70% OF THE RESPONDENTS INDICATED THE ROZ PROGRAM WAS NOT THE REASON THEY CHOSE TO REMAIN IN KANSAS; STATE WILL PROBABLY BE PHASING OUT THE PROGRAM OR MAKING CHANGES; COMMISSIONER BORHO DISCUSSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FUNDS.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS MADE A MOTION AT 7:15 P.M. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER BORHO SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. MEETING ADJOURNED.

THOMAS W. JONES III CHAIRMAN

GLENNA L. BORHO MEMBER

ATTEST:

SHERRY KRUSE, COUNTY CLERK JOE R. REYNOLDS MEMBER