

THE PRATT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 AT 2:00 PM IN THE COMMISSIONER ROOM, 1ST 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/COVID CONSULTANT, STILL WORKING ON CITY OF IUKA. GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED A GRANT OF 40 MILLION FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES. IT'S A TWO ROUND PROCESS FROM ARPA FUNDS. GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED ANY BUSINESS INTERESTED IN INCREASING THEIR EXPORTS THERE IS A GRANT TO COST FOR HALF OF THEIR COST TO GO OVERSEAS, INCLUDING SOME OTHER THINGS. JERRY MORAN REACHED OUT TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE IMMEDIATE HALT ON WATER USE AT QUIVERA REFUGE. THE GOVERNOR SENT A LETTER TO THE WILDLIFE & PARKS TO HALT THE LOSS OF WATER RIGHTS FOR FARMERS/RANCHERS IN THE AREA. NOT DISRUPT THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON KANSAS.

SHERRY WENRICH, REGISTER OF DEEDS, STATED THAT KRIS QUINT IS RETIRING AT THE END OF THE MONTH. SHE IS HAVING A RETIREMENT PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023.

JON ROACH, NOXIOUS WEED SUPERVISOR, PRESENTED THE QUOTE FOR A NEW SPRAY SYSTEM FROM COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SPRAY SYSTEM FROM FAIRBANKS EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,513.94 TO BE PAID OUT OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 2023. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES AT 2:11 PM FOR AN ATTORNEY CLIENT MATTER CONCERNING MULTIPLE LEGAL ISSUES. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:26 PM WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

TARA PAGENKOPF, RSVP DIRECTOR, PRESENTED CHECKS FOR SIGNATURES.

BRIAN ATTEBERRY, EMS DIRECTOR AND MIKE TIBBETTS, COMMUNICATIONS, STATED THEY WERE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE TOWER AND GETTING GOOD RECEPTION. MIKE HAS TALKED TO SHAWN FIELDS ABOUT THEIR TOWER. TO KEEP THE TOWER IN GOOD SHAPE, REPAIRS AND INSPECTION, THEY WILL BE RAISING THE RENT TO \$800 A MONTH. SHAWN STATED THEY COULD ADD A REPEATER ON THE TOWER FOR NO MORE MONEY. THE FIRE REPEATER COULD BE MOVED FROM ANOTHER TOWER TO

THE PRATT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING FOR THE COMBINED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 AT 9:00 AM IN THE COMMISSIONER ROOM, 1ST FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: RICK N. SHRIVER, THOMAS W. JONES III, DWIGHT ADAMS, TYSON EISENHAUER, COUNTY COUNSELOR, LORI VOSS, COUNTY CLERK, MARK GRABER, IT DIRECTOR, SCOT LOYD, CPA, TIFFANY JEFFREY, LOYD GROUP, LLC, CYNTHIA KEELING, YOGI PATEL AND MAX VAHSHOLTZ.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

TYSON EISENHAUER, COUNTY COUNSELOR, STATED THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S COMBINED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING IS TO ALLOW THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO HEAR OBJECTIONS OF TAXPAYERS RELATING TO THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND THE AMOUNT OF AD VALOREM TAX AND THE PROPOSED USE OF ALL FUNDS.

TYSON STATED WE WILL START WITH THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE. PRATT COUNTY'S REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2024 IS 56.172 MILLS. PRATT COUNTY INTENDS TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND WILL CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION TO DO SO UPON CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE. AS NOTED IN THE PUBLISHED NOTICE OF THIS HEARING, PRATT COUNTY INTENDS TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE WITH AN ESTIMATED TAX RATE OF 58.398 MILLS. THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THEIR ACCOUNTANT, SCOT LOYD, IN PREPARING THE BUDGET IN A MANNER THAT IS SUSTAINABLE AND PREDICABLE FOR THE FUTURE. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE SHALL BE OPENED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

CHAIRMAN JONES STATED THE FLOOR IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

YOGI PATEL ASKED WHY THEY ARE INCREASING THE MILL LEVY. HE STATED IN TEN YEARS HIS TAXES HAVE DOUBLED.

COMMISSIONER SHRIVER EXPLAINED THE PROCESS AND HOW THEY ARRIVED AT THE LEVY RATE.

TYSON STATED THE APPRAISER HAS GUIDELINES HE HAS TO FOLLOW WHEN FIGURING VALUATIONS.

SCOT STATED THE DOLLARS FROM LAST YEAR ARE LOCKED. THERE ARE THREE MOVING PIECES, DOLLARS ARE LOCKED, ASSESSED VALUES GO UP, THE LEVY GOES DOWN, THAT'S WHERE THEY SET THE RNR RATE, THAT CAUSES TAX INCREASES TO THE ONES THAT HAD A VALUATION INCREASE.

MAX VAHOLTZ HAD A QUESTION ABOUT THE RNR NOTICE RECEIVED IN THE MAIL. HIS QUESTION WAS ANSWERED BY SCOT AND COMMISSIONER SHRIVER.

CYNTHIA KEELING, STATED HER TAXES HAVE GONE UP EVERY YEAR SINCE MOVING HERE. SHE CAME FROM BIGGER COUNTIES AND PAY MORE FOR AN OLDER HOME THAN SHE DID A NEWER HOME WHERE SHE USED TO LIVE.

THE 2024 BUDGET WAS DISCUSSED.

TYSON READ RESOLUTION 9-11-2023 BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND ITS PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR THE TAX YEAR OF 2024. PRATT COUNTY SHALL LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE WHICH EXCEEDS THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE OF 56.172 MILLS FOR TAX YEAR 2024.

COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 9-11-2023 TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE OF 56.172. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. TYSON READ THE ROLL CALL VOTE, THE ROLL CALL VOTE PASSED YES-3, NO-0.

TYSON STATED THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD NEED TO APPROVE THE 2024 BUDGET.

CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS ON THE 2024 BUDGET. THERE WERE NO COMMENTS. COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE BUDGET WAS APPROVED 3-0.

SCOT READ THE BUDGET NUMBERS AND PRESENTED THE SIGNATURE PAGE FOR THE 2024 BUDGET.

TYSON STATED THE COMMISSIONERS START WORKING ON THE BUDGET IN MAY AND ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN, THEY ARE ZOOMED, RECORDED AND AVAILABE ON PRATTCOUNTY.ORG.

COMMISSIONER SHRIVER ASKED IF THE DEPARTMENTS HAD MONEY LEFT OVER THAT FUNDS COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO SPECIAL EQUIPMENT. IT WAS STATED THAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR MANY YEARS.

TOM, RICK, DWIGHT, TYSON AND LORI ALL STATED APPRECIATION FOR ALL OF SCOT'S ASSISTANCE.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:30 AM. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

THOMAS W JONES III CHAIRMAN

DWIGHT ADAMS MEMBER

LORI VOSS, COUNTY CLERK

RICK N SHRIVER MEMBER