

THE PRATT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 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, COUNTY CLERK, AND MARK GRABER, IT DIRECTOR.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

RICK SHRIVER, COMMISSIONER, 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 JONES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/COVID CONSULTANT, REMNDED COMMISSIONERS THE PRATT AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING IS POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY. THE TWO PENDING FAÇADE APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED AT THAT TIME. SHE RELATED SOME BILLS WHICH HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN TOPEKA THAT COULD IMPACT THE PRATT BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS. THOSE BILLS INCLUDE A BILL WHICH WOULD PROVIDE INCOME TAX RATE DECREASES TO PEOPLE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH DECLINING POPULATIONS, A BILL THAT WOULD CREATE A COST OF LIVING INCREASE ON DIFFERENT TAX BRACKETS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE BRACKETS TO KEEP UP WITH INFLATION, AND A BILL WHICH WOULD LIMIT THE AMOUNT THE COUNTY COULD CHARGE FOR PENALTIES FOR LATE PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES. ADDITIONALLY, SHE MENTIONED THAT HOUSING DEVELOPERS MAY BE INTERESTED IN A BILL THAT CHANGES THE KANSAS RURAL HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT LAWS THAT WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO DEVELOP AND FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL HOUSING. FINALLY, THERE WILL BE A BILL HEARING RELATED TO PAYING FOR THE POSTAGE FOR NOTIFICATION OF EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE. THIS WOULD SHIFT THE BURDEN OF PAYING FOR THIS MAILING FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO THE STATE. SHE ALSO MENTIONED THERE IS DISCUSSION ON HOW TO TRANSITION FROM GAS TAX TO A ROAD USAGE TAX TO HELP SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUDGET AS CITIZENS START DRIVING MORE CARS NOT POWERED BY GAS. WATER IS ALSO A BIG ISSUE WITH DISCUSSION OCCURRING ON HOW TO LIMIT WATER USE WITHOUT HURTING AGRICULTURE PROFITS WHILE BALANCING THE NEED TO CONSERVE WATER. THE AGRICULTURE ECONOMY COULD BE IMPACTED BY THE DEBT CEILING DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AND VARIOUS AGRICULTURE GROUPS ARE PROJECTING HOW THIS COULD IMPACT THE PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND FUNDING WHICH FLOWS THROUGH THE FARM BILL WHICH IMPACT RURAL ECONOMIES.

TRACEY BEVERLIN, COUNTY ATTORNEY, GAVE HER ANNUAL CASE SUMMARY REPORT. THEY WORKED THROUGH A NUMBER OF THE CASES FROM 2021 THAT WERE PUT OFF BECAUSE OF COVID RESTRICTIONS.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE BRANDON SLYTER AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERMIT FOR IUKA VOLUNTEER FIRE. CHAIRMAN JONES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2023. CHAIRMAN JONES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

JALAA MILLER/RYAN POWELL, IMA CONSULTING, GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE BCBS RENEWAL AND SOME PROPOSALS FOR THE RENEWAL PROCESS. THEY SAID THEY COULD TAKE IT OUT TO MARKET WITH AETNA, UHC AND THE STATE OF KANSAS HEALTH PLAN. MEDICAL UTILITIZATION IS VERY HIGH AND THAT IS DRIVING UP THE COST OF RENEWAL. A VIEWER ASK WHAT OTHER SERVICES THEY PROVIDE. BCBS WILL NOT GET PEOPLE ONTO MEDICARE, THEY CAN DO THAT. THEY WILL HELP EMPLOYEES WITH CLAIMS. THEY ALSO KEEP COUNTIES UPDATED ON LEGISLATIVE CHANGES. THEY CAN FORECAST PROJECTED RENEWALS AND TAKE OUT TO MARKET. THEY WILL GET THE RENEWALS FROM BCBS IN MARCH AND WILL COME BACK WITH THOSE NUMBERS. THEY WILL TAKE IT OUT TO MARKET IF THE COMMISSIONERS APPROVE.

DARCIE VANDERVYVER, HEALTH DIRECTOR, PRESENTED DOOR QUOTES. THE DOORS ARE AFFECTING THEIR SECURITY SYSTEM. SHE WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET ONE QUOTE. SHE HAS \$400.00 LEFT IN AN ELC GRANT FUND, THE REST WILL BE PAID OUT OF CAPITAL OUTLAY. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BID FROM PRATT GLASS ENTERPRISES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,907.92 TO BE PAID OUT OF CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR TWO ENTRY DOORS. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. THEY WILL BE CLOSED FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 24, FOR MEETINGS. SHE HAS APPLIED FOR A \$5000 GRANT FROM SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY GRANT. IF AWARDED SHE WILL PURCHASE BLACKTOP PLAYGROUND STENCILS FOR USD 382 AND USD 438.

COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES AT 2:56 PM FOR AN ATTORNEY/CLIENT MATTER CONCERNING FUNDS. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. CHAIRMAN JONES MADE A MOTION TO RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 2:59 PM WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:00 PM FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR AN ATTORNEY/CLIENT MATTER DISCUSSING SEVERAL CONTRACTS. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. COMMISSIONER ADAMS MADE A MOTION TO RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:15 PM WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DOUG FREUND PRESENTED A ROAD CROSSING FOR HAVILAND TELEPHONE COMPANY. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ROAD CROSSING FOR HAVILAND TELEPHONE AT SE 80TH ST AND SE 10 AVENUE. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. HE PRESENTED A QUOTE FOR PAINTING THE COUNTY BARN FROM PAINT PRO PLUS AT THE COST OF \$24,500. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM PAINT PRO PLUS TO PAINT THE OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY BARN FOR \$24,500, TO BE PAID OUT OF THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS STATED WITH ALL THE MEETINGS AT THE PSB THEY NEED TO EQUIP THE MEETING ROOM WITH ZOOM CAPABILITIES. TYSON STATED IT COULD BE PAID WITH ARPA FUNDS. MARK WILL CHECK WITH HEATHER MORGAN AND GET THE ITEMS PURCHASED.

COMMISSIONER SHRIVER ASKED IF THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS HAD ANY CHANGES, THEY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TO THE PRATT COUNTY POLICY HANDBOOK.

COMMISSIONER SHRIVER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT VOUCHERS FOR JANUARY 23, 2023. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

CHAIRMAN JONES MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 3:32 PM. COMMISSIONER SHRIVER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:32 PM.

THOMAS W JONES III CHAIRMAN

RICK N SHRIVER MEMBER

LORI VOSS, COUNTY CLERK

DWIGHT ADAMS MEMBER