

Osage County Commission Meeting Minutes
September 14th, 2021
8:30am

Meeting called to order by Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin

Eastern District Commissioner John Trenshaw present

Western District Commissioner Larry Kliethermes present

Media – HB Dodds

Commission Clerk – Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Present for all or part of the meeting: Ron Kempker, Sheriff Mike Bonham, Kim Sallin, Krista Welschmeyer, Keith Huhn, Suzanne Massman, Victoria Sallin, Chuck Woody, Matt Robertson

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

-Commissioner Griffin asked for a motion for approval of today's agenda September 14, 2021 and the meeting minutes for September 9, 2021. Commissioner Kliethermes made a motion to approve the agenda and the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Trenshaw. Commissioner Griffin asked all in favor say aye. Commissioner Kliethermes, Commissioner Trenshaw and Commissioner Griffin all stated aye. All opposed, none.

Meetings:

-Sept 21, 2021 MU Council Meeting

-Sept 28, 2021 5:00pm- MU Focus on Kids

-October 11, 2021 ALL county offices CLOSED in observation of Columbus Day

-October 13, 2021 Salary Commission Meeting

-October 16, 2021 Electronic/Drug collection- more info to come at Linn Lion's Club

-October 16, 2021 Taste of Osage County at McGuire Park

-October 21, 2021 5:00pm MRPC Dinner at State Tech

Bills, Notes and Communication:

-Griffin attended the MRPC meeting in which while he was there, he questioned the census numbers as being off by almost 500. There is a new form that will come out at an unknown date, so the county could contest the number count.

-Commissioner Griffin asked Judge Brandt if it was possible for him to be more involved in the punishment process/duties for county thefts, specifically sign thieves. The duties he would like to see the criminal perform would include helping pick up local trash on the roads, help replace the signs or other types of community service tasks. Judge Brandt was in agreeance and Commissioner Griffin offered to supervised some of the tasks. This specific person that is being referred to has been charged with sign theft and was given 50 hours of community service.

-Beth Billington requested to hold a Commission Salary Meeting on October 13, 2021. All commissioners are good with that date. Time is to be determined. Dudenhoeffer notified Kammerich and Billington via email of the approved date.

-Commissioners received the Sales Tax Distribution

-Commissioners noted they have now received the bill from Warden Publishing for the bridge removal bid ad. All copies of bills for the bridge repair/construction are kept in a file.

-Commissioners have also received the Infrastructure contract. Signature will be needed when Nicci Kammerich is available attest to those signatures.

-Commissioners reviewed bills. Commissioner Griffin asked for a motion to pay bills. Commissioner Trenshaw made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kliethermes. Commissioner Griffin asked all in favor say aye. Commissioner Kliethermes, Commissioner Trenshaw and Commissioner Griffin all stated aye. All opposed, none.

Road and Bridge:

-Kempker handed out the road report for week of September 7- 13, 2021

-Volkswagen grant replacement (truck 32) state bid come from Sheppard's. This truck is compatible to the truck being replace. Kempker would like approval to propose and send this to MRPC to look over. Bid comes in at \$141,681.60 but the grant is a 50/50 soft match making Kempker's portion about \$70,840.80. Kempker will submit this bid now

and when the next bid comes in, he will submit that one as well. Dudenhoeffer sent the bid with the year, make and model to MRPC via email.

-Friday was the safety meeting. Meeting covered road safety and traffic safety. Kempker and his crew learned where some improvements could be made.

-Kempker is working on a slab and culvert. Slab is needing to replace the slab on county road 700. Kempker would like to look at putting a plastic-like culvert (double wall pipe) in this slab. With this option, the newer type of slab will help with erosion and other environmental issues. Commissioners approved for Kempker to use the different type of pipe. Price is comparable to metal but Kempker does not want to use one of these in a private culvert due to burning leaves and possible destruction of the pipe itself.

-CAT buy back email was received. Buy back is due by January 10, 2022. Trenshaw requested that Kempker price a brand-new grader so that numbers could be compared. Buy back amounts were given to commissioners to review and discuss.

-Kempker took a photo of county road 424/423 creek bed progress. The gaps are filling in nicely but still have some work to be done.

-No additional applications. Kempker does have 2 applicants in mind to conduct interviews with hopefully this week.

-Kempker noticed that Brenneke has the bridge from county road 611 out of the water. Kliethermes noted that commissioners will be joining each other at the bridge site today after the meeting for an inspection. Kempker will be attending as well.

-County road 208 has had some oversize rock on it to try to rebuild it back. Commissioner Trenshaw noted that some one has been going around tearing up crops and the road.

Health Department:

-Update to come on Thursday.

Sheriff:

-Bonham provided the inbound revenue. Food cost and board of prisoners are increased as we are holding more prisoners.

-Jail has shut down visitors and new prisoners from other counties due to a positive COVID case. Precautions such as taking temperatures and monitoring COVID signs and symptoms of all incoming and current inmates and employees.

Public Comments:

-HB Dobbs noted that he had seen a railroad crossing sign on 11th street but is unaware if the homeowner is a railroad employee just storing the sign temporarily or if the sign was stolen.

-Kim provided the commissioners with the Osage County R-3 school board proposal plan. Osage County R-3 school board member Suzanne Massman has questions on behalf of the Osage County R-3 School Board about the COVID-19 advisements by the Osage County Health Department and current inconsistencies within multiple schools. Sallin has concerns about the green and yellow zones with quarantine as optional. IF masking was mandatory, she wouldn't have as many concerns but at this time there is no mandate for the school. Massman has concerns about St. Joe having a quarantine class. Sallin said St. Joe had that in policy prior to school starting. Sallin did note that the self-contained classroom would have worked on paper but it did not work in reality. Massman asked why that wasn't an option for R-3 and why is it good for one and not another. Massman wanted to clarify the 3ft/6ft social distance. Sallin quoted DESE/DHSS guidelines for 3ft or more with a mask mandate and if masks were worn correctly kids won't have to quarantine. If masks are not worn, kids should be quarantined. Massman said other schools are not abiding by the social distance and quarantine. Sallin agreed that other counties and their schools are not doing this but she can not tell them what to do, she can only advise our county schools of the guidelines she is held to. Massman is having parents complain to the board about the social distance guidelines inconsistencies. Sallin and Massman are in agreement that the children and their wellness is #1 goal. Sallin has reached out to other schools, legal council and state health in which she was advised by Adam Crubles that legally, if a child were to get very ill or has a fatal outcome from COVID, it is not on the school board or even the parents, but it would be the local public health dept for not abiding by the state guidelines with absolutely no exceptions for not notifying the appropriate close contacts and placing the correct quarantines. Massman mentioned that the school nurse does not want to be the determinator of who is and isn't a close contact for each positive case. Massman wants to not be a part of the contact tracing due to last year the health

department had reversed some quarantines. This had happened prior to Sallin becoming the county health nurse but Sallin assured Massman that her and her staff will not be reversing any quarantines due to trusting that the school/staff are adequately identifying those contacts. Massman requested that if quarantines need to happen that the Health Department provide coinciding information/wording so that the school nurse and the health dept are all saying the exact same things. Sallin agreed and is happy to provide that to any and all schools. Massman asked what other local schools are doing at this time. Sallin reported that Chamois is masking all day every day for 6th grade thru 12th grade. Linn R-2 is not masking but are following the DESE/DHSS guidelines as advised by the OCHD. Massman was also concerned that the news-paper portrayed Fatima being able to do the testing for COVID as a bad thing. It is a good thing so that cases are caught quicker and contact tracing is easier. Sallin agreed that the access to testing is a wonderful tool not only to the students and parents but to the community as well. Keith Huhn asked Sallin to clear up if you're a close contact even if you are masked and less than 3 feet but able to attend school and refrain from extracurricular activities. Sallin agreed that that was correct. Vicky Sallin stated that there is a monitor whom makes sure all of their students have a mask on prior to stepping on the bus but from there on it's up to the bus driver. Matt Robertson noted that last year there were letters going out to parents of the quarantined child and the close contacts. He wondered if that was going to happen this time or not. Sallin said she does not have the staff to send letters out to each and every parent but will if the parent requests it, she will do it happily. Sallin also stated that IF the proposal is adapted at the school board meeting on Wednesday evening, Sallin will be forced to send letters out to each and every parent, whom has a child that is identified as a close contact. Those children will have to quarantine. Chuck Woody asked that going forward the OCHD and school needs to have better communication between everyone. He brought up the point that since schools are doing different things, and public and private schools share buses, the transmission rate is higher. He identified that he understands the rules of COVID are changing constantly but communication is extremely important. Sallin agreed and is willing to help guide all schools.

Adjournment:

-The commission meeting adjourned at 10:57am. Commissioner Griffin asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kliethermes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Trenshaw. Commissioner Griffin asked all in favor say aye. Commissioner Trenshaw, Commissioner Kliethermes and Commissioner Griffin all stated aye. All opposed, none.



Darryl Griffin
Presiding Commissioner

