

Osage County Commission Meeting Minutes

January 21st, 2021

Meeting called to order by Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin at 8:30 am

Eastern District Commissioner John Trenshaw present

Western District Commissioner Larry Kliethermes present

Media – HB Dodds

Front Desk Clerk – Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Present for all or part of the meeting: Ron Kempker, Lori Clenney, Susan Long, John Kennedy, Elizabeth Smith, Patsy Luebbert

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

-Commissioner Griffin asked for a motion for approval of today's agenda and the meeting minutes for January 19th, 2021. Commissioner Trenshaw made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes. Commissioner Kliethermes seconded the motion. Commissioner Griffin asked all in favor say aye. Commissioner Griffin, Commissioner Trenshaw and Commissioner Kliethermes all stated aye. All opposed, none. Okay, thank you.

Bills, Notes and Communication:

-Checks signed

Meetings:

-January 26th, 2021 MU Extension Council Meeting 6:30 pm

-February 12th, 2021 Lincoln's Birthday our office will be closed

-February 15th, 2021 Washington's Birthday and Presidents Day our office will be closed

University of Missouri Extension:

-Elizabeth Smith, Regional Director for University of Missouri Extension, said I am here to answer a few of your questions, concerns and to take comments. I have a few things to share, 4-H has been a challenge during this pandemic. The extension has actually made money. We served 155 children, that is including all the kids in transition. We do have a new YPA (Youth Program Assistant) and I believe we are on the right track. In terms of human development Dave Hile did 4 life skills development programs. He also has done work with divorced parents and the children on how to cope and heal and how to parent effectively along with many other things. Agriculture is offered for agronomy and livestock to help producers make more money through better practices and better-informed decisions. Gatlin Bunton has provided many classes and information and soil tests. Anita Ellis is the livestock person who does a lot in this area. There was a sale in which sales were higher.

-I know you have had questions about what other counties pay to support the extension and of course you have the statutory obligation, I did list all the contributions from the east-central region. I understand many of those don't apply but I also understand some of those do. In terms of the data points on the Osage County office, I wanted to make sure the record was accurate. The Osage County extension council employs the secretary and their salary comes directly from your appropriation. Her salary annually is \$21,000 a year which is about \$13.00 an hour and she is ¾ time which is mandatory. She is the person who keeps the council on track for statutory reports and the face of this extension. Your 4-H person is who serves the children, whom is new to the position. Because of benefit costs are so outrageous, her total take home salary is \$25,667.00. So, she's not making \$40,000.00 the county pays half or 45% of her total cost of her employment. So, the total cost of her employment is around \$40,000.00 so you pay 45% and that's right at \$20,000.00 on your part. Your personnel cost together is \$43,900.00 and your appropriation is \$42,000.00. Commissioner Griffin said the reason we cut it back is because we looked at other counties and we have a list of their contributions. We are one of the highest other than Gasconade County. That's what we looked at. John figured some of those places don't provide a space like we do. Commissioner Trenshaw said the way I figured that was you take \$1000.00-\$2000.00 a month given we provide rent and utilities and all maintenance. So, I just took a broad number of \$1500.00 a month, in the middle of \$1000.00 and \$2000.00 a month. Giving that a \$18,000.00 a year difference. Luebbert said that would have been good information for the council. We didn't know about the reduction. I was not aware of you taking that number in consideration for our budget. Commissioner Trenshaw said I was not. Our total reduction was based upon what other counties were paying. Fact is I was for a bit bigger reduction before Ms. Kelsie came over that Monday and explained a lot to help us make our decision. I figure the extension would make up what we don't pay through the university. It turns out they didn't so that's why we upped it to a level to keep it going and ones comparable to other counties our size. Smith said if I can just add one comment on the university behalf, because of the pandemic and the hits we have had to sustain I'm not sure if you are aware, but to avoid layoffs, we had to cut everyone's hours from an employment status of 1 to 0.9. The employees have had to seek out and apply for any kind of grant related project in addition to what they are doing. Our faculty took huge budget cuts, I even took one. Commissioner Trenshaw said yeah, a lot of people had to take cuts. Commissioner Griffin asked, is the extension seeking grants, are there grants available to them for their funding? Luebbert said most of the grants we apply for won't fund office support. They would a STEM project and recycling program. It's hard to get funding for office support. We could get funds for Allison's part to have her do more work. She would go out and teach more to offset her salary. Her office responsibilities will grow. Commissioner Griffin said on your pay for your staff since we reduced the amount and you say your shortfall, the other counties paying \$15,000.00-\$17,000.00 does their county not have the same stuff available to them? How do you offset that? Smith said other

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counties have a part time YPA and frankly their 4-H program shows it. I don't know if you'd be able to sustain a 4-H here if that position were to be cut. Commissioner Griffin said I'm just asking; they got their wage down a quite a bit. How do they get their funding? Luebbert said, okay so I can give you one example of Cole county office. Yes, I know they are a class higher but their extension council puts on a big craft show. They raise money. Council has been talking about how to raise money but unless we do a fundraiser or gun raffle to help make up \$13,000. We will work on it but we need to find how to bring the people out to it. If someone has a suggestion for some kind of fund raiser, we are open to it. Commissioner Griffin said with you saying that I don't want to sound rude or anything but since we cut the budget down, we are helping make you think outside the box. We had to hire a new Public Administrator from \$17,000.00-\$40,000.00. Where was we going to get that money? It wasn't picking on you all its just spending the money wisely. After seeing some things, I am all for 4-H but shouldn't the kids and their families get more involved. You're a good advocate but you need to get those people more involved. Luebbert said some of the fund raisers we have at the fair there is an agreement with the lions, some of our funds have to stay at the fairgrounds. I am working on how to allocate some of our funds to come back to the council but yeah, you're right, parents, not just 4-H, we need to get them more involved. Commissioner Griffin said what about the labor auction? That's a way to fund raise. Luebbert said yeah that's another way. Through the extension some of our funding hasn't come back. It's been an odd and stressful year. We have helped so many kids and parents due to our program. There are so many programs through extension like succession planning for farms and small businesses. If we offer something like that and we host it, some of that money comes back. Smith said, we are in the process of hiring a new county engagement specialist. Luebbert said you as commissioners could help by helping us find a place for us to hold events or meetings. Somewhere that has a large screen and space available to social distance like a school or large hall. We can offer programs but if we don't have the interest then the programs get canceled. We offered a nutrition class online. You just had to get logged on and track your time, but not one person in Osage County signed up. Commissioner Griffin asked, why do you think no one signed up? Luebbert said because Osage County people do it on their own. Smith said I think we have done a poor job advertising; we are working to correct that. You have to know what you're looking for. I am working with our department to devise a way to change that. Luebbert said if we mail ballots or notifications then we need to find a way to pay for postage. Council has yet to meet since the budget meeting. We are meeting next week Tuesday. It's open to the public. Right now, we are having trouble getting people to serve on the extension council. We are not the only one having issues getting people to serve. I think it would be good to get a small business owner on the extension council. Maybe we don't do a good enough job selling ourselves. Commissioner Griffin said I agree we have to get the director position filled. This year our budget was good and people shopped local but with the care's money not here, we had to look at the future as well. We didn't do anything to be vindictive. We had to put the citizens of Osage County first. The phone deal that you were paying, that was some kind of a mix up and misread what we said. Just having your direct line could help cut some cost. Smith said extension employees have my personal cell phone number. Commissioner Griffin said same with us. We don't ask for or get reimbursed. Luebbert said I don't make those decisions council does. Commissioner Kliethermes said it's hard to get people wanting to be active in their community I see your problem. On fund raisers, the best in my opinion, is a pork burger sale. You might make a couple thousand but that mounts up. Another thing that might help you all a little bit is to email or digitize ballots. That will decrease postage. Luebbert said we have already talked about doing that but then you have the part of the community who don't have email or internet, we have to figure out how not to exclude them. We also talked about putting things out on social media. The only place I found the notification of the public hearing for the budget was on Facebook. Commissioner Kliethermes said it should have been on our website and in the paper. Luebbert said it was not on the website. If it was it is already taken down. I didn't see it in the paper. I went back through November and December papers but not the week prior to Christmas. Commissioner Kliethermes said it should have been in there because statute requires it. Luebbert said unless it was so small, I didn't see it. I did go back and look and it was on Facebook. Thank you for your time and your suggestions. No extension dinner, sorry. By the way where is your agenda for the budget hearings? I didn't find them either. Is that something that also goes up on the website? Commissioner Kliethermes said it's supposed to be on the website. Luebbert said I found the commission meetings and agendas but nothing on the budget. Maybe I just missed it. If that's not there, I look at that regularly, where is that supposed to go? Commissioner Griffin said call your commissioner if you don't know. Luebbert said the paper did a big article on the budget this last week but there was nothing about the budget hearing in any of the commission minutes. So that may be a suggestion for in the future that you include that in those minutes as well. Commissioner Griffin said it might or might not have been in there, we will check in on that. Thank you for your suggestion. With that said your department head knew about it and so did the extension office staff. They should have relayed that to you guys as well. I'm not being rude and we weren't hiding it. Luebbert said your regular session minutes never said it at all, or that you were talking about the budget. I went back and read all of them. Brooke Dudenhoeffer said it was in the January 12th meeting. The minutes state under meetings Jan 13th, 2021 at 9:00 am to finalize budget. Luebbert said yes that's to finalize them but not the hearing. Are the hearings even open to the public? Commissioner Griffin said absolutely. Anybody is welcome to come up. Luebbert said I just didn't see anything in the minutes about it. Dudenhoeffer said in the December 31st minutes it says next meeting Jan 4th, 2021 to discuss budget. Luebbert said oh I was reading the ones in the paper. So, I guess I need to start reading the ones online then. I said I could have missed it. Commissioner Trenshaw said I just checked with Nicci and they said they had it on the door, on the website and on Facebook. Having it on all 3 platforms it met the state statute. Commissioner Kliethermes said one question I was going to ask is the meetings with the extension how many people physically go to this office? We don't think tracking every move she makes is necessarily the way to go. Luebbert said we have discussed having her track her phone calls and foot traffic but this concern should be taken up with the council. I can't speak on the entire council's behalf.

- Commissioner Griffin said one thing that I ask you relay to your staff, due to our neighboring businesses work flow, please have them park in the additional parking spots. We are working on even more additional parking, so please have them park in the back.

Road and Bridge:

- Ron Kempker handed out the road report for January 12th -January 18th, 2021. Ron Kempker said we have a few things to work on with the truck lights. We ran out of road rock. The new truck has been running well. Stiefferman's is producing the road rock for the Chamois area and looking to purchase from them. Commissioner Griffin asked how many loads more are you doing now compared to the dump truck. Kempker said he has been running about 40 more tons daily. Commissioner Trenshaw asked could you get a cost per ton now that we have a little experience with that truck? Ron Kempker said it will take a little while but I am sure we could.
- Commissioner Griffin said I got an email from IC school in Loose Creek, Anne Luebbering and Megan Markway, they wanted to build on last year's project. Kids will go around and do a road clean up sometime around March 5th thru March 18th. Can we provide trash bags and signage? Ron Kempker said we would be honored to. Have them contact Lori at the office and we'll take care of it.
- Commissioner Trenshaw asked Ron Kempker before you do the assessment on the trucks can you please put the asset plan in writing then we will have a meeting about that? Ron Kempker said yeah, we can do that.

Health Department:

- Mileen Dunn was introduced by Susan Long. Susan said she will be helping us with our on-site sewer, daycare, food establishments and lodging inspections within our county.
- Susan said as the vaccine is available, we will contact the public.
- Susan said Kristi Campbell at CCHD will assist OCHD with Public Health Emergency Preparedness contract activities to demonstrate measurable and sustainable progress toward achieving public health and healthcare preparedness capabilities.

Building and Grounds:

- John Kennedy said yesterday state came to check the elevators which are fine and then the fire department checked the fire extinguishers and some of that need maintenance.
- John Kennedy said the courthouse lights are on but can't paint until night temps are at minimum in the 40's.
- John Kennedy said Schaeffer Electric is here this morning to install the wires for the key entry time delay side door.
- Commissioner Kliethermes asked what's the progress on the jail bathrooms? Kennedy said I asked the jail employees and they said they had no idea of what I was talking about. I'll check more on it. Commissioner Trenshaw said you should ask Justin. He took us around there. It was leaking from around the calking on the floor.
- Commissioner Griffin asked Commissioner Trenshaw have you heard back on the lease agreement? Commissioner Trenshaw said no not yet. What do you think, should I call or text her? Commissioner Kliethermes said you might have better luck texting with how busy she is.
- John Kennedy said Paul McReynolds is coming to take the soda machine from the court house due to product expiring. Should the snack machine at the court house or the soda machine at the Annex building need repair he will have to take those as well.

New Business:

Old Business:

Public Comments:

Adjournment:

- With no further business the commission meeting adjourned at 10:28 am. Commissioner Trenshaw made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kliethermes. Commissioner Griffin asked all in favor say aye. Commissioner Griffin, Commissioner Trenshaw and Commissioner Kliethermes all stated aye. All opposed, none. Oaky, thank you.



Darryl Griffin
Presiding Commissioner

