

Osage County Commission Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2020

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

District 1 Commissioner John Glavin present

District 2 Commissioner Larry Kliethermes present

Media – HB Dodds

Front Desk Clerk –

Present for all or part of the meeting: Ron Kempker, Susan Long, Andi Rice, Lucy Brenner, Jerry Baker

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

Commissioner Griffin asked for a motion for approval of today's agenda and meeting minutes from April 23rd, 2020. Commissioner Kliethermes made a motion to approve the agenda and the meeting minutes. Commissioner Glavin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was then taken. Commissioner Griffin asked "Commissioner Glavin how do you vote?" Commissioner Glavin responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Kliethermes how do you vote?" Commissioner Kliethermes responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Griffin how do you vote?" Commissioner Griffin responded "yes."

Bills, Notes and Communication:

- Commissioner Kliethermes questioned the \$81.65 recovery fee from the road and bridge republic services bill. Commissioner Glavin said pull that out.
- Commissioner Kliethermes made a motion to approve paying bills. Commissioner Glavin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Griffin asked "Commissioner Glavin how do you vote?" Commissioner Glavin responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Kliethermes how do you vote?" Commissioner Kliethermes responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Griffin how do you vote?" Commissioner Griffin responded "yes"
- Commissioner Griffin said he spoke to Amanda Grellner regarding the \$300 quarterly billings from MO PERM. She stated that this is a case deal and a long time deal not near being over.

Meetings:

- General Municipal Election – June 2nd, 2020 the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is May 20th, 2020
- General Municipal Election June 2nd, 2020

Road and Bridge:

- Foreman Ron Kempker presented the commission the Road Report for April 21st-April 28th, 2020. Kempker said the credit application for MAC has been approved. He would give a copy to the Clerk's office and there is one also at road and bridge. Truck 38 is out of Hatfield's and in service. Has been picking up trash from Loose Creek school from their project. There is a sign and cones gone. Commissioner Griffin asked if he has touched base with Ms. Luebbert? Kempker said he would. Griffin said he forwarded an email from the students to Kempker. Kempker said there was a total of 42 bags picked up. Looking good out there.
- Ron Kempker said the conservation rock hauling this time is sloppy with the rain. Will get this finished and will see tickets for cart program.
- Ron Kempker said the 404 grader is down for exhaust system cleaning. Will be down for a while. The machine in Chamois has 500-600 hours now and will need the same service in the future. Commissioner Kliethermes asked if it being done here or taken in? Kempker said they are coming to get it and then send to St. Louis. It will take 3-4 days longer but is \$1200 cheaper. Will do the same with the Chamois grader. Commissioner Kliethermes said save money and hours.
- Ron Kempker said the 32-dump truck is going to Hatfield's for work, tie rod issue.
- Ron Kempker said CR303 they in installing a private drive culvert. There is also a cross culvert in the one they did a locate on about 2 weeks ago.
- Ron Kempker said the asphalt patching is underway, half way through list. In 3-4 days hopefully be addressing for the potholes, weather permitting.
- Commissioner Glavin said on CR317 passed Gary Brandt's need grading badly. Wayne Trosser called last night about CR436. There is rock possibly in the pipe down past the railroad tracks. Will go look at today. Kempker said he thought it was pretty wide already. CR611 south side and CR502 addressed.

Health Department:

- Susan Long presented the commission with the extended stay at home order to sign effective until May 3rd, 2020 until 11:59 pm. Long said she would get scanned in and sent to the Unterrified Democrat. Long said she has a copy of the order Dr. Williams signed. It details opening guidelines and FAQ's. I will coordinate with other health departments in regards to enforcing the governors order.
- Commissioner Kliethermes made a motion to sign the extended stay at home order. Commissioner Glavin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Griffin asked "Commissioner Glavin how do you vote?" Commissioner Glavin responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Kliethermes how do you vote?" Commissioner Kliethermes responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Griffin how do you vote?" Commissioner Griffin responded "yes"

-Susan Long said we continue with 5 cases; the 4th case was retested after 2 weeks. Retested on Friday and was negative, doctor tested yesterday and was positive again. Would need something in writing stating to the health department if they should continue to quarantine or return to work wearing a mask. The 5th case in in quarantine as are the contacts. There are contacts to the other county case are being monitored. Will speak with Amanda Grellner about getting specifics for people. Getting calls about the county fair, picnics, craft fairs. Plan to allow as much as possible but in a safe manner. Phase 1 of the governors' plan goes through May 31st, 2020 and would like Osage County to follow that. Also, enforce violations of the order.

911:

-Andi Rice presented the commission with the medical director agreement to sign. This has Dr. Rakestraw as the new medical director.
-Andi Rice also presented a copy of the new bylaws updated from the November 6th advisory meeting and approve from December 18th for signature. Commissioner Kliethermes said to put on the agenda for Thursday. Rice said she would bring the original to sign.
-Commissioner Kliethermes made a motion to sign the new medical director agreement. Commissioner Glavin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Commissioner Griffin asked "Commissioner Glavin how to do you vote?" Commissioner Glavin responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Kliethermes how do you vote?" Commissioner Kliethermes responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Griffin how do you vote?" Commissioner Griffin responded "yes"
-Lucy Brenner spoke to the commission today regarding the 911 sales tax and concerns for voting in it in June. Would like to discuss the call center protocols for 911 dispatching. Memo from Josh dated December 2017 with guidelines and upgrades to ambulance regarding 911, and communication between Josh and 911. Letter that brought focus September 24th, 2019 and not sure how to say and not sound accusatory. What occurred in September 2019 to send letter that says Osage Ambulance District that says effective immediately Osage County 911 will no longer take transfer information and not responsible to get crew in? Do you know what this says to the reader effective immediately, why was this sent after 15 years? Why no meeting to talk this over? One of the responsibilities of 911 is to take calls. Andi Rice said Lucy, I'm not sure you understand the letter. What do you think the first paragraph means? Brenner said in effort to focus on 911 effective immediately Osage County will no longer take transfer information. I understand that completely. Rice said that has nothing to do with 911 emergency services, this started under Josh. Brenner said please focus on the residents of Osage County. The next paragraph said additionally the telecommunicators will not be responsible for making sure the ambulance district has adequate ambulance coverage. Sounds like you need to be monitoring Josh's staff. Rice said that's what he wants. Brenner said that not what he wants. Commissioner Griffin asked how many times did we say we were willing to meet with them? Brenner said 4 or 5. Griffin said when you spoke to Josh and presented that what did he tell you? Brenner said she didn't remember. Open to meeting when they were ready. Griffin said told you he didn't need to do that and followed up with suit. Brenner said I had gone to Josh after injunction multiple trips and asked if he wanted me to facilitate meeting to work things out. Rice said we met twice with him after the lawsuit before the commission. He had a 20-item list of things. We met with him, 911 dispatchers, the advisory board and each group discussed. Never said no to one item on the list. That newspaper made us look bad. Griffin said they would come to their meeting and be put on the agenda. Haven't heard from you until today. Brenner said she went to Josh and felt we could talk and I offered to facilitate. I came and said Josh was open and you said we have to have the newspaper and our lawyer there; do you remember that Darryl? Griffin said yes, when there are 3 commissioners it is considered a meeting and we cannot do anything without the public knowing. Brenner said I said Josh and a person of his choice, Andi and a person of her choice and I would facilitate. You said no, not going to do anything like that without the newspaper and lawyer. Then I said off the table because Josh wouldn't. Do you remember? Griffin said he would talk with the other commissioners to be involved, asked Larry to be involved. Kliethermes said yes. Griffin asked John if he would want to be involved. Kliethermes said as a commission we would need to approve the meeting. Brenner said there doesn't always need to have leaders of the county in the meeting to get together to work things out. You could have been involved without the other people. You wanted a big show. Rice said no it wasn't a big show. Keep in mind this group at public events I don't hear praise for 911, I hear that's where my tax dollars are going. Don't see us at parades and handing out candy, you don't think of us. These commissioners want to prove they do things with these offices, they want to be involved. Josh came with 20 things and Darryl said we need to take this to the 911 advisory committee. Josh's reaction was how long will that take any why. Do you really need to wait and discuss at meeting? Why can't you make a decision? We have tried with Osage Ambulance and we are doing all of the conceding and doesn't like the answers. Brenner said she bowed out of the conversation after 1st of year people on workforce not the people in charge. Josh taking on schedule of transferring people. I thought you were involved in that? Griffin said why should we be? He thinks we should. Rice said I read the paragraph and said we were against it. Kliethermes said we talked about that and said it takes time away from other cases and people calling with emergencies. Brenner said Larry if the paragraph said with follow up to our previous discussion would not have been aggressive. Kliethermes said we had no choice but to be straight forward. We sent the letter to him; we were talking to him. Brenner said the issue brought up was the effective immediately and the emotion on the reader and got off to a bad start. Rice said what Larry is saying is that wasn't meant for the public. Said that because entire board got that. We have determined he is not being completely honest with boards. He is omitting things. Griffin said he has taken on yes, but he would pay Gasconade County \$9.00 per call. We did for free. 2 calls came in that day, Boone County with a medical transfer to see if they would do. Brenner said she never thought it would evolve into what it is today. Griffin said there are 8 ambulances and 3 are in Jersey fighting there. Taking care of Osage County not the world, sorry. Brenner said all I want to be certain of is that Josh took that over. Rice said September 24th Gasconade County. Griffin said we have a \$600,000 budget to take care of us and not his. Brenner added and now pay lawyers. Griffin said we didn't file the lawsuit. We have to defend ourselves, no? Brenner said no, not with paying lawyers. People in authority didn't act on it. Griffin said there was no contract and thought there was. So, they took us to court. Not out choice. Filed amendment to the lawsuit and changed lawyers twice. Brenner said I think you changed lawyers also. Griffin said same firm. You are not getting the whole story. Brenner said its unfortunate and seems to me if we could have another crew in the ambulance center ask 911 to take Josh calls. Griffin said he asked for a

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list of who we need to contact. Rice said I have 2 dispatchers on 24 hours a day. If Josh has 3 non-emergency calls in Osage County and we have 3 out on med calls and 3 on non-emergency transfers who is supposed to respond to fill his crews? Brenner said this is where we differ. The people who are trained in 911 center would do for them. I would ask Josh to have facilitator to make sure everyone gets where they need to go. Rice said the communication center should dispatch crews out. When they said their 3rd call was emergency we asked them to let us know. We said yes and send a text to say we need additional crew. After 2 minutes we use mutual aid from other counties. We have to be responsible for manning crews when not available. We don't know where they are all of the time. We tone out-page out need 4th crew and send text also. If no response after 2 minutes we call for aid. That's not what Josh wants. When we are busy, they are busy. Other agencies get upset; they start to falter. Brenner said is this the largest of the 3 districts? Rice said yes, but are you going to tell Linn Fire that they are less important? Brenner asked what does it take, you don't have to repeat the message? Rice said yes, would request once. Brenner said then you are pushing buttons. Why not do it a second time. Remember this is a dyer emergency. Rice said then why are they not calling in? We are not going to babysit them. Do twice the radio page and text. We get someone on standby. Griffin said you are delaying time in doing it over and over. Rice said we don't dispatch for them but said we would. That's the 2-page document. We would page them out but not more. Brenner said I's asking you to do twice. Have lag in sending call and then to Gasconade. People of Osage County deserve fast and responsive care. Rice said you call 911 and have emergency, in the past we would say stay on the line and transfer you to Gasconade County. Then you would be talking to Gasconade County dispatch. Now we don't do that. Talk right through partner on radio to Gasconade County. Delay yes with radio traffic. Yes, it would be faster to dispatch Osage Ambulance. Griffin asked all that info is on your screen? Rice said only if we tell them. Brenner asked what method of transfer us used to contact Gasconade County? Rice said phone or radio. Brenner asked all you do is push a button and talk to Gasconade. That's not good, you have to repeat information to Gasconade County. Griffin said that's what they wanted at first, by phone is the same thing. Brenner asked if Osage County in 911 verbally telling Gasconade County? Griffin said yes. Brenner said that just leaves room for error. We just want the best care for our people. Has to be give and take in negotiations. There is no acceptable answer for both sides. Rice said reality is we met and discussed and don't agree. I don't want to put my people in a position to fail. Brenner said the more people a message has to go through gets screwed up. Something in this that brings us back to the table. Rice said how many times do I have to say we conceded? It agreeing to protocol. Brenner said give it 6 months, or 3 months is you can see. Do a second call to see. Rice said the list is the whole thing. Kliethermes said we have been conceding. We changed our calling system to a different one because he asked us to. Rice said the newspaper isn't the whole story. Brenner said why does this have to go on? He had 60-day clause he could tell them we withdraw. Kliethermes said not sure if he has that contract. Brenner said yes her does. Kliethermes said they were considering a contract. Brenner said November and December his contract up in April with a clause. Resolution needed for citizens. Best interest to vote to continue the sales tax. Kliethermes said was that clarifies, which base to dispatch from? We keep conceding to stuff. Rice said had a closed meeting, will ask litigation if we can share the letters. This will help the general public understand. You read a one-sided story. The attorney said this week Wallace said.... who is Wallace? We met with him and we don't agree. Brenner said you keep saying you met with him with a 20 items list. That's inappropriate to bring for a meeting. Kliethermes said he brought the list. He's asking us to take on his responsibilities and don't think we should. That's his job. Our job is 911 not to run ambulance district. Brenner said what we do in 911 is to get ambulance to site. This is about mass emergency. Rice said we said we would do it. Kliethermes said we met with him enough and know how he is. Brenner said you're doing it one time. Griffin said 2 things we said no and look at later and that wasn't good enough. Brenner said let's do it twice and have common ground. No way to agree. Griffin said no. Rice said I don't thing you understand the once vs. twice. You want us to ask the question and continue to say the same thing twice. First time is the radio, second is text. Kliethermes asked they are done at the same time? Rice said they know its important. Need is there 2 minutes to respond. After that they call another agency. Brenner said do both steps twice. Be a little give to help relationship. Get Osage County back to 911. Griffin said you don't think spending \$43,000 to change our system, training, raising pay isn't a gift to them? Brenner said say those things were needed. Thinking of relationship between agencies. Come back and see value in doing twice. Griffin said 2 other ambulance districts 7 fire departments and how many other people need taking care of. Brenner asked what happens with incidents of short staff. Kliethermes said that a personnel problem. Rice said not asking crew, as they leave base get on radio and tone out for 4th crew. Nothing beyond that. Brenner said isn't that how you get initially in past? Rice said would like to see give and take partnership. We don't want responsibility to see if they need additional crew. Brenner asked would you concede to go twice. Rice asked what would change between the first and second time? If not going in 2 minutes you won't go. Ron Kempker said all you are doing is tying up the radio. Rice said in a letter from legal counsel to Osage Ambulance item 19 911 is agreeable, most say that on the list. Some say to review in 6 months. Even request for new system we agreed as advisory committee. Brenner said do you have an idea of money Josh putting into present system. Griffin said \$25.00 for emergency and \$9.00 for non-emergency transfer. He doesn't pay us anything and not privy to information. Brenner said if we can give him a concession is simple to me. Maybe he would be willing to finance 3rd crew. Not sure if he has the technology. Rice said it's a text message. Griffin said he has the technology and money. Brenner said 24/7 would be emergencies. All money should be under one umbrella. Griffin said we can't do that. He's his own entity and tax. That's his deal. Why should we have to hire another person, he should do that because he is making money. We have bent over backward trying to appease him. Reassure you that I have not changed my story.

Old Business:

New Business:

-Jerry Baker said Butterball has cancelled contracts with farmers in Osage County. Would like commission to consider a 10% decrease in tax base for farmers while not in operation. Then when back in operation raise the rate back. This will help with the economic impact. We

have a lot of farmers this affects, should not be charging them taxes on the buildings and turkeys. All commissioners responded they agree. Baker said he would require some type of contract that stipulates they are in an agreement with Butterball.

-Hannah Larrick from Senator Roy Blundts office called in to touch base with commission and see how things were going with plans to open next week. Commissioner Griffin said we just extended our order until May 3rd, 2020 to match the governors. Do you have ideas on how thing will be with businesses? Susan Long said she got information from the governors' website but couldn't access a lot. Will be speaking with Region F health departments. Hoping to keep things similar as possible. I am publishing everything on the health department website, Facebook live, emergency management and the local newspaper. Would like to have consistency among the counties. Larrick asked do you feel people are ready to open up? Long said a lot of people have apprehension. They don't want to expose themselves or family to virus. Would want specific guidelines in place, the governors are very broad and would need to give clarification. Larrick asked if we have heard from Scott Fitzpatrick dealing with the corona virus relief funds? Griffin said no. Larrick said she thinks he is supposed to email the commission today about the corona virus relief funds that comes from the Cares Act. The funds are funneled through the state to help local communities with expenses put out due to the corona virus. There is a website link on the treasurers' site with information, he should be touching base this week also. Griffin said that Butterball pulled all contracts out of Osage County for turkey farmers. Larrick asked pulled all contracts, did they say why? Commissioner Kliethermes said he heard they had an abundance of turkey meat on hand and not moving. At this time raise what they have on hand and no more turkey for them. This will hit people and county very hard. Sitting with big buildings and nothing to raise. We don't have the industry in Osage County and turkey farms help a lot. Larrick said have you heard what the farms are going to go? Kliethermes said probably go on social security or find other employment. Larrick said she was sorry to hear this. Griffin said our assessor Jerry Baker is going to look at the value of the buildings and turkey so they can get their tax base lowered. Larrick asked if there was an idea of what tax revenue looks like in the next few months and any concerns. Griffin said have concerns but no idea. Hoping you did with the federal government projecting on that. What is the timeline to distribute monies passed by the federal to the state for communities? Some need now. Larrick said in the next couple weeks, but suspects faster. If you have not heard from treasurer Fitzpatrick by some point this morning call and check in with them. My understanding is paperwork is sent to the county to fill out and get the funds. Those funds did have a deadline. Tax revenue don't know anymore information than you do. In terms of the federal haven't heard. There are a lot of questions over the next couple of months. Commissioner Glavin said those cart funds are about to go down. Sales tax is up, people are shopping locally. Larrick said she heard that from other counties also. Glavin said farmers are producing food but people and waiting in food lines. Larrick said that is a definite issue that Senator Blundt is aware of. Don't have any particular news on that. Griffin asked if there were any other questions and thanked Hannah for calling.

Public Comments:

Adjournment:

-With no further business, the commission meeting adjourned at 11:03 am. Commissioner Glavin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kliethermes. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Griffin asked "Commissioner Glavin how to do you vote?" Commissioner Glavin responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Kliethermes how do you vote?" Commissioner Kliethermes responded "yes." Griffin asked "Commissioner Griffin how do you vote?" Commissioner Griffin responded "yes."


Darryl Griffin
Presiding Commissioner