

The Commissioners met in session on January 13th, 2025, with Chairman Doug Zillinger, County Clerk Grant Rahjes, Tim Ellenberger, Daryl Clark, Brenda Chance, and Greg Olson present.

Chairman Zillinger called meeting to order at 8:30. County Clerk Grant Rahjes read the minutes from January 7th, 2025.

8:34 Max Dibble moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Jerod Roth seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

8:35 Chairman Zillinger opened the meeting for public comments.

8:36 Daryl Clark presented concerns regarding the conditions of Osage 1100 Road sections.

8:37 Chairman Zillinger presented concerns collected the prior week including concerns on the condition of Victory Road, concerns of the condition of West 600 Road and West Union Road, and concerns regarding a large pothole located on East 600 Road.

8:42 Chairman Zillinger presented the landfill report as prepared by Landfill Supervisor Danette Lyon.

8:46 County Clerk Grant Rahjes presented two change of status orders regarding merit wage increases in the County Attorney's office. The Commissioners agreed and signed each form.

8:49 County Clerk Grant Rahjes presented two tax abatements regarding a pickup and a golf cart to the Commissioners. The Commissioners agreed and signed each form.

8:52 Grant presented a request for a cereal malt beverage sale license for the Phillips County Health Care Foundation regarding their annual Casino Night event to be held in February to the Commissioners.

8:53 Max Dibble moved to approve and have Chairman Zillinger sign the cereal malt beverage sale license certificate for the Phillips County Health Care Foundation. Jerod Roth seconded. The motion carried 3-0. Chairman Zillinger signed the certificate.

8:55 County Clerk Grant Rahjes presented invitations from the Kansas Conservation District for their Annual Banquet to be held on February 1st, and for a Local Work Group Meeting to be held on February 13th.

8:56 Jerry Gruwell joined the meeting.

9:01 The Commissioners began signing checks and purchase orders.

9:43 Daryl Clark left the meeting.

9:46 Kirby Ross joined the meeting.

9:47 Max Dibble expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner for Phillips County, and discussed some of the improvements coming soon, including the housing development project on the south side of Phillipsburg, which will include ten houses, the installation of a new chiller unit for the Courthouse, and budget adjustments to increase government efficiency.

9:50 Chairman Zillinger called for a recess to attend the Oath of Office Ceremony in the Phillips County Courtroom.

10:20 Chairman Zillinger called the meeting to order for reorganization of the County Commissioners, with Chairman Zillinger, Members Brenda Chance and Jerry Gruwell, County Clerk Grant Rahjes, Tim Ellenberger, Greg Olson present.

10:21 Chairman Zillinger moved to open discussion regarding the Chairmanship of the Board of County Commissioners.

10:23 Brenda Chance moved to appoint Doug Zillinger for Chairman of the Commissioners. Jerry Gruwell seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

10:24 Chairman Zillinger opened discussion regarding the selection of the official publication service for Phillips County.

10:25 Jerry Gruwell moved to approve the Phillips County Review as the official county newspaper. Brenda Chance seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

10:29 Steve Ellenberger joined the meeting.

10:31 Chairman Zillinger shared the concerns collected during the prior week with Road & Bridge Supervisor Steve Ellenberger.

10:41 Road & Bridge Supervisor Steve Ellenberger discussed operations this week including construction efforts regarding the bridge on Union Rd, efforts to haul more shale for county roads, and addressing the condition of Victory Road.

10:45 Brenda Chance requested to receive a copy of the county road plan along with the illustrations from Steve Ellenberger.

10:46 Jerry Gruwell presented to Steve potential road issues on Buffalo Road and E 900 Road.

10:50 The Commissioners and Steve Ellenberger confirmed the status of available road material pits in Phillips County.

11:02 Steve Ellenberger and Greg Olson left the meeting.

11:24 County Clerk Grant Rahjes presented each Commissioner with a copy of the Phillips County pay scale and copies of the current Phillips County handbook, as well as an updated revision of the County Handbook. County Clerk Grant Rahjes requested the Commissioners to consider approving the revised copy of the handbook to tidy up county policies.

11:30 The Commissioners agreed to consider approving the revised Handbook after deliberation, and requested to set a deadline of February 24th, 2025, to vote on a decision.

11:42 County Clerk Grant Rahjes presented a copy of a new agenda template at the request of Chairman Zillinger. The Commissioners discussed potential changes regarding date alterations, and structural adjustments for meetings moving forward. No actions were taken.

11:59 Brenda Chance moved to remove the agenda item concerning the Nelson Ag Water Line Agreement be dismissed from the January 20th, 2025, Commissioner Meeting agenda.

12:00 Chairman Zillinger presented a request from Ricky Dusin to temporarily close West Union Road from West 900 Road to West 1000 Road to allow cattle to cross into both pastures for grazing.

12:03 Jerry Gruwell moved to approve the grazing request to temporarily close West Union Road from West 900 Road to West 1000 Road from January 13th, 2025 until March 1st, 2025 for the purpose of allowing cattle to cross into both pastures on the sides of the road. Brenda Chance seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

12:05 The Commissioners began signing checks and purchase orders.

1:18 With no further business to discuss, Brenda Chance moved to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Gruwell seconded. The motion carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Grant Rahjes
County Clerk

Chairman Doug Zillinger

Brenda Chance

Jerry Gruwell