

October 2, 2023

The Stanton County Board of Commissioner met in regular session October 2, 2023. Present were Commissioners Chris Floyd, Lonnie Brown and John Smith, County Attorney Clint Floyd, and County Clerk Sandy Barton. Chairman Floyd called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes of September 18 were read and approved.

Vouchers were approved and paid as follows:

General	\$	30,152.26
Road & Bridge		81,725.67
Airport		7,696.33
Golf Course		6,272.20
4-H Bldg.		193.43
Employee Benefits		386.54
Noxious Weed		623.55
Fire & Rescue		233.40
Ambulance Equip.		18,716.00
County Improvement		85,369.85
Treasurer's MV		100.00
Senior Center Special		170.35
MASA		14.00
Medical Expense		506.00
ARPA Funds		<u>189,642.00</u>
Totals	\$	421,801.58

Road Supervisor Troy Brickman met with the Board to discuss issues pertinent to his department. The stem wall has been poured for the new building. Construction of the metal building should start the week of October 9th. The Board would like to Thank Sheldon Barnhardt for the donated use of his lift to unload the building materials.

The chip seal project has been completed. Approximately 65% of the roads have been bladed and major repair work will start on washed out roads. Small holes on asphalt roads will start as well.

Blake Bezona asked about spraying culverts, around signs and around county buildings in the spring to cut down on weeds. Troy will ask him to present a bid. Troy will also talk to Weed Director Alan Stevenson about him spraying the areas instead of outsourcing the spraying.

Troy let the Board know he now has his CDL license. The Board approved a \$1.00 raise for obtaining the CDL license as is the standard practice for the department.

The Commissioners discussed the Hospital levy and the impact it will have on the County. The Commissioners would like to state that "they have no intention of closing the Hospital nor has that ever been stated by them." They tried working with the former Administration for ways to cut cost and increase revenue to lessen the tax burden on Stanton County residents. After not seeing any results, they lowered the levy to hold the Hospital more accountable for their finances.

Please note the county valuation has dropped 6.3 million from 2022 to 2023 so property taxes will already be increasing due to the Commissioners keeping the same budgeted dollars from 2022 to 2023.

The 2023 budget has levied 6 mills for the Hospital for 2024 and if the November 7th election is in favor of the 17 mill request from the hospital board, the additional 11 mills will have to be paid from County reserve funds. These reserves will have to be replenished with the 2025 County budget cycle.

County Clerk Sandy Barton provided a breakdown of taxes on a home with an appraised value of \$100,000. $\$1,000,000 \times 11.5\% = \$11,500$ then taking $\$11,500 / 1,000$ gives the value of 1 mill at \$11.50. The value of 1 mill is $\$11.50 \times 17$ mills is \$195.50 in property taxes for the Hospital only.

The Commissioners look forward to working with the new Administration making every effort to keep the Hospital open, while trying to lessen the tax burden on Stanton County residents.

The Board signed a road crossing permit for Pioneer Electric for a 3" pipeline on Road 12 between NE 31-28-41 and SE 30-28-41.

EMS submitted their monthly service information for August and September.

The Stanton County Library submitted their September 20 minutes.

The Commissioners talked about their meetings and have decided to try starting at 8:30 a.m. so the meeting can for the most part can be done by noon.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Floyd adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.

ATTEST:
Sandy Barton

SIGN:
Chris Floyd