

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Keith Olsen, Dwight A. Kruse, and Richard L. Lehmkuhl. Also present were Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, and Deputy County Clerk, Dawn Boyles. County Attorney Kevin Hill was present for a portion of the meeting. Keith Olsen opened the meeting at 8:10 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Shane Spangler led the meeting with a prayer.

SHERIFF

Brown County Sheriff, John Merchant, reported there are 21 inmates 20 males and 1 female, currently at the Brown County Jail. Merchant also updated the Commission on the heating and cooling inspection at the Sheriff department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse for a 5 minute executive session on non-elected personnel with the three Commissioners and Brown County Sheriff, John Merchant, present to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel with executive session necessary to protect privacy interests. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Closed at 8:16 a.m. Opened at 8:21 a.m. No binding action was taken.

MINUTES

Motion by Keith Olsen to approve the March 18, 2019, minutes. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY

Brown County Attorney, Kevin Hill, discussed possible updates to the sales tax question. Decision on the updates were tabled until Friday, March 29, 2019.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse for a 10 minute Executive Session on non-elected personnel with the three commissioners and the interviewee present. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Closed 8:31 a.m. Opened 8:41 a.m. No binding action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl for a 10 minute Executive Session on non-elected personnel with the three commissioners and the interviewee present. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Closed 8:42 a.m. Opened 8:52 a.m. No binding action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse for a 10 minute Executive Session on non-elected personnel with the three commissioners and the interviewee present. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Closed 8:54 a.m. Opened 9:04 a.m. No binding action was taken.

CEMETERY DISTRICT

David Wilson, John Howard, and Steve Winter, Joint Cemetery Committee, discussed the Commission creating a cemetery district by way of resolution. The cemetery district would include Hiawatha Cemetery, Mount Hope Cemetery, the old Brown County Infirmary Cemetery, and an unnamed cemetery just outside of Hiawatha. The max they can raise is 2 mill. Commissioner Olsen tabled a decision until Friday, March 29, 2019.

SABETHA HOSPITAL

Lora Key, Sabetha Hospital CEO, and Sabetha Community Hospital Attorney, Martin Mishler, presented a resolution from the Sabetha Community Hospital Board of Directors requesting the Brown County Commissioners revise Resolution 19-07. Key requested the Commission consider amending Resolution 19-07 and review the petition and the documentation presented to the Commission. Key also indicated the Sabetha Community Hospital Board of Directors would be willing to allow a Brown County representative on the board. Hiawatha Community Hospital interim CEO, John Broberg, addressed the Commission in regards to the urgency of the election. Sabetha currently receives a ½ % sales tax starting July 1, 2018, in Nemaha County for healthcare. Commissioner Olsen requested the Hiawatha Community Hospital Financial Committee meet prior to the Friday, March 29, 2019, Brown County Commission meeting and return on that day with their decision.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse for a 15 minute executive session on non-elected personnel with the three Commissioners present to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel with executive session necessary to protect privacy interests. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Closed at 10:04 a.m. Opened at 10:19 a.m. No binding action was taken.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Commission would like all three of the interviewees for the Emergency Management position to return for another interview.

KPERS 457

Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, presented information to the Commission on the KPERS 457 plan. KPERS 457 is an additional retirement savings to be taken directly out of the employee's payroll. The Commission is not interested in implementing the program at this time.

HIAWATHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to approve the Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce request to use the courthouse square and the courthouse for Saturday, April 20, 2019, Easter Egg hunt. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, presented the idea of the Commission having work sessions. The work sessions would be discussions over topics on the agenda. There is to be no decisions made during these work sessions, only discussions that are open to the public. The Commission decided this would be a great addition when needed.

Motion by Dwight Kruse to adjourn. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held Friday, March 29, 2019, to approve month end bills.

ATTEST:

APPROVED BY:

MELISSA GORMLEY, COUNTY CLERK

KEITH OLSEN, CHAIRMAN

DWIGHT A. KRUSE, MEMBER

RICHARD L. LEHMKUHL, MEMBER