

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 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. Pastor Shane Spangler of the Bethany Church led the meeting with a prayer.

AGENDA

Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to accept the January 28, 2019, County Commission agenda. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Brown County Sheriff, John Merchant, reported that there are 13 male inmates in the county jail. Merchant also presented Commissioner Lehmkuhl with a plaque honoring his years of service on the Brown County Rescue Squad and as Sheriff Chaplain.

MINUTES

Motion by Dwight Kruse to approve the January 22, 2019, minutes. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried.

TAX CHANGE ORDERS

Tax Change Orders 2018-55, 2018-57 and 2018-59 were signed and approved.

ROZ PROGRAM

Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, presented a ROZ letter for the Commissioners review.

B & W FIRE

Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, presented to the Commissioners an estimate for \$1,530.20 from B & W Fire for the 2020 contract. Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to approve the payment to B & W Fire for \$1,530.20. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried.

MORRILL & JANES BANK

Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, presented the paperwork from Morrill and Janes Bank to add signors to the bank account.

KANZA MENTAL HEALTH

Motion by Dwight Kruse to appoint Richard Lehmkuhl to the KANZA Mental Health Board. Seconded by Keith Olsen. Motion carried.

KANZA MENTAL HEALTH

Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to appoint John DeFore to the KANZA Mental Health Board. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried.

BRIDGE OS-226

Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, presented the bill for Bridge OS-226. Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to approve the bill. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried.

INVENERGY

Nat Drucker, Invenergy Product Developer on the Pony Express Wind Energy Project, discussed Invenergy projects in Brown and Nemaha Counties. Drucker stated Invenergy is currently in the project development phase and this phase could take two to five or more years to complete. Invenergy is currently working on leases with private landowners. Drucker also reported that they have done earthwork in Morrill Township. They have laid a thin layer of concrete and covered it with dirt. This concrete slab is a base for a potential wind turbine. This year Invenergy is working on leases, surveys, and working with the county on rules and regulations for the project. Drucker stated Invenergy is currently working on setting up an e-mail and a website for the public. County Attorney, Kevin Hill, asked about a timeline that negotiations would start with the county. Drucker indicated they are open to negotiations anytime, but given the stage the project is currently in there, would not be any negotiations until late summer or fall of 2019. Hill asked about Invenergy being open to a public forum. Drucker stated that they would be happy to do so.

KIRKHAM MICHAEL

Tanner Yost and John Riggins, Project Engineers for Kirkham Michael, discussed the services offered through Kirkham Michael for Wind Energy projects.

COMMISSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse to take a 5 minute recess. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. Recessed at 9:48 a.m.

COMMISSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse to go back into session. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. Meeting opened at 9:58 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Kopp, Brown County resident, asked when leases would be filed with the Brown County Register of Deeds. Nat Drucker indicated they are currently working on getting the leases filed. Kopp also asked about a time when a map would be available. Drucker indicated there is not one available at this time, but there will be one in the future.

COMMISSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse to recess until 10:25 a.m. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. Recessed at 10:08 a.m. Meeting opened at 10:25.

COOK, FLAT & STROBEL

Kenny Blair, Cook, Flat & Strobel Engineer, and Bruce Rinkes, Cook, Flat and Strobel Client Liaison, discussed the services offered through Cook, Flat and Strobel for Wind Energy projects.

COMMISSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse to recess until 10:55 a.m. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. Recessed at 10:40 a.m. Meeting opened at 10:55.

BG CONSULTANTS

Moni G. El-Aasar, Vice President of BG Consultants, discussed the Wind Energy project in Coffey County and the usage of their County road system in regards to the project. El-Aasar also discussed the services offered through BG Consultants for Wind Energy projects.

BG CONSULTANTS

Moni G. El-Aasar, Vice President of BG Consultants, presented an on-call agreement for the Commissioners approval. County Attorney, Kevin Hill, would like to review the agreement before it is signed by the commissioners. El-Aasar also presented the field check plans along with the construction estimate and Hydraulic Assessment Checklist for OS-226.

COMMISSION

Motion by Dwight Kruse to recess until 12:00 Noon at which time the Commission will enter into a joint meeting with the City of Hiawatha. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. Recessed at 11:36 a.m.

JOINT MEETING

Commissioner Olsen opened the joint meeting with the City of Hiawatha commencing at 12:00 Noon to discuss Hiawatha Hospital.

HIAWATHA HOSPITAL

Jeff Shelton, Hiawatha Hospital CEO, presented the critical financial situation of Hiawatha Community Hospital.

GILMORE & BELL

Kevin Cowen, Attorney for Gilmore and Bell, joined the meeting via phone call. Cowen discussed the various options available to Brown County and the City of Hiawatha to address the financial situation of Hiawatha Community Hospital.

COMMISSIONERS

Mike Nichols, Hiawatha City Administrator, recommended the two entities set up a committee consisting of County Attorney, Kevin Hill, Mike Nichols and possibly one Commissioner from the County and one from the City of Hiawatha. Hill suggested reaching out to the City of Horton as well.

Motion by Keith Olsen to appoint Dwight Kruse to the committee. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried.

Motion by Dwight Kruse to adjourn. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 31, 2019, to approve month end bills.

ATTEST:

APPROVED BY:

MELISSA GORMLEY, COUNTY CLERK

KEITH OLSEN, CHAIRMAN

DWIGHT A. KRUSE, MEMBER

RICHARD L. LEHMKUHL, MEMBER