

1. The Coffey County Commission Chambers opened at 8:00 a.m. Monday, December 22, 2003, to individually review correspondence. Chairman Gene Merry called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with members R. Kraig Kirchner, Tim Sipe, Fred Rowley, Jr. and Larry Crotts present. Also present were Vernon Birk, Coffey County Clerk, Doug Witteman, Coffey County Attorney, and Mary Bloomer, Administrative Coordinator. Present for part of the meeting was Mark Peterson, Coffey County Republican Editor.

2. Crotts moved to approve the minutes of Monday, December 15th, 2003, as corrected, seconded by Sipe. Motion carried. Corrections were: December 15th, 2003, add at end of paragraph 20, "Also present were Robert Reed, Road Supervisor, and John Zuern, Administrative Assistant." Paragraph 23, delete 'ready for submittal to', replace with, "and has been approved by". Paragraph 30, delete 'reviewing', replace with "receiving".

3. Consent Agenda:

A. Move to authorize and direct the Chairman to sign the Coffey County Payroll Notice for CSA compensation for Darla Jones as Acting Department Head for the period of 11/14/2003 through 12/19/2003, in the amount of \$123.49.

B. Move to authorize the Chairman to sign 14 abatements to the Treasurer's tax roll in the amount of \$1,766.82.

3 a. Rowley moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted, seconded by Merry. Motion carried.

4. Rowley moved, upon the recommendation of the County Clerk, to authorize and direct the Chairman to sign the Notice to Keywest Township Board for 2004 Cereal Malt Beverage Application and the 2004 Cereal Malt Beverage License for Cedar Valley Investments, LLC dba BP Travel Center at Beto Junction, seconded by Kirchner. Motion carried.

5. Crotts moved, upon the request of the Coffey County Housing Authority Board and the recommendation of the County Attorney, to authorize and direct the Chairman to sign the Real Estate Mortgage Release acknowledging satisfaction in full debt secured by Lois L. Lafferty, regarding Lots 19 and 20, Block 5, Wilson's Addition, City of Burlington, Coffey County, seconded by Merry. Motion carried.

6. Sheriff Rogers was invited in to discuss bid specifications for the Sheriff's vehicles. Rogers will look into it and get back with information today.

7. At approximately 9:15 a.m., Chairman Merry presented years of service pins and certificates to 19 employees. Those in attendance and receiving pins were: 5 years, Delbert Gleue, Wayne Houston, Craig Metzger, and Kerri Poire; 10 years, Paula Gosney, Marilyn Voorhees and Donna Hess; 15 years, Cathy Bahr, Randy Rogers, Tim Austin and Ken Epperly; 20 years, Sharon Freeman, Tamara Danner, David Freeman, David Hess, James Tatman and John Zuern; 25 years, Jodie Mahoney; 40 years, Joan Atherly. Atherly received a watch from the Board as special recognition for all her dedication and hard work in her 40 years of service.

Those receiving pins and certificates but were unable to attend were: 5 years, LeRoy Brumgardt, Roxann Favors, Wayne Gosney, Alex Gueho and Dale Gifford; 15 years, William Goodwin, Jr. and Stan Butterfield. Atherly's brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Frances Atherly, were also in attendance.

8. Elysa Lovelady, County Appraiser, met with the Board to inform them of a tax grievance that has been filed with the State Board of Tax Appeals. A company that leases computer equipment to Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Facility is requesting a refund of taxes back to 1999 due to double assessment. The company filed locally with the County Appraiser and Wolf Creek has notified them they also filed the equipment as leased equipment on their state assessment rendition with PVD. Lovelady indicated the equipment was listed under a different business name on Wolf Creek's rendition and there appears to be a discrepancy in the acquisition cost from what was reported to the County. The burden of proof is on the taxpayer and they will have to answer any questions at a State Board of Tax Appeals hearing. Lovelady says a hearing date is yet to be set at BOTA. If BOTA decides the property was double assessed, the County would have to refund approximately \$39,000.00. The County Appraiser also gave the Board a preview of the new parcel search website. It should be available by the first of the year.

9. Doug Jones, Burlington Police Chief, Bill Walker, Coffey County Fire District No. 1 Administrator, and Becky Jewett, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, reported to the Board they have located a truck suitable for pulling the Haz Mat Response trailer. It is a local 1991 Chevrolet pickup in good condition with an asking price of \$3,000.00. The Board agreed to fund the purchase and the Response team will present a bill.

10. Todd Bemis, Recycling Coordinator, presented the results of the Recycling survey. Bemis said there were 547 responses; 374 were in favor; 165 were against; and 75 were undecided. A drawing was held and David Schroeder was the winner of a \$100.00 Coffey County Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificate.

11. The Board took a break at 10:00 a.m. to distribute the \$20.00 gift certificates to the employees.

12. Sipe moved, upon the recommendation of the County Sheriff and the approval of the County Attorney as to form, to authorize and direct the Chairman to sign the Recommendation for Patrol Car Bid for two Sheriff's patrol cars for 2004, with funds to come from 2004 funds of the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Kirchner. Motion carried.

13. Jon Hotaling, Economic Development Director, presented and discussed the weekly report for the week of December 15th.

14. Item No. 95-10; Hotaling sent information on the Governor's Classic and Coffey County Lake brochures to "anglersfishinginfo.com". They will be displaying the County's lake brochures and Coffey County maps at the Kansas City Sport Show; the St. Joseph, MO Sport Show; the Topeka Sport Show; and the Omaha Sport Show. Coffey County Economic Development and the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce will have a booth at the Wichita Sports, Boat & Travel Show in February.

15. Item No. 98-10; Hotaling reviewed Economic Development Legislative Initiatives for the SEK, Inc. Legislative Council. Hotaling faxed contact information to Lynda Wilkinson of SEK, Inc. As a member of the SEK, Inc. Legislative Alert Team, contact information was needed to share with other members of the team. Economic Development issues are: continued funding of EDIF (Economic Development Initiatives Fund) from lottery proceeds; support of the Economic Revitalization Plan; and Broadband Development. Another issue to possibly be considered is the Private Prison Legislation. Hotaling also sent an article on the Private Prison Task Force meeting in Yates Center to Wilkinson.

16. Item No. 02-3; Hotaling provided historical information on the companies that have occupied the Tri-Con building to Hart Corporation, who is an industrial realtor listing the building for Oldcastle. Potential prospects are concerned about labor availability and other variables because of the large number of companies who have come and gone through the facility. Hotaling provided the labor market information and unemployment figures to Hart. Hotaling received rent payments from Oldcastle to bring them current on spec building rent.

17. Item No. 03-02; Hotaling spoke with Jeff Berkenmeier about Jim Kelly's Hunters Hope Turkey Hunt and Fundraiser. Berkenmeier also provided tapes from last year's event from a TV program produced by the American Outdoorsman. The program has aired on ESPN II and other cable TV channels.

18. Hotaling provided information to the realtor listing the AST building on utility providers, Rural Water District, etc. Hotaling also sent a copy of the lease agreement to the airport on the land where the building is located.

19. Hub Caspar, Coffey County Engineer, presented the weekly report dated December 22, 2003. Robert Reed, Road Supervisor, and John Zuern, Administrative Assistant, were also present.

20. Item No. 93-01; Road Permits Reports: Three Road Permits were issued during the past week.

21. Item No. 99-99; Zoning Permit/Applications Report: No Zoning Permits were issued during the past week.

22. Caspar also presented the Construction Report for the week of December 22, 2003.

23. The Board and Caspar will discuss budget items next Monday as far as carryover, transfers, etc.

24. Mary Bloomer, Administrative Coordinator, presented a proposal to the Board asking them to approve a 1-year contract as Administrative Coordinator, including a 5% increase in salary. Bloomer also asked that the Board agree to establish a committee to study the need for creating a County Administrator position in Coffey County. Bloomer also asked the committee to agree to provide their recommendations to the Board prior to April 1st, 2004. Following a

lengthy discussion, Commissioner Rowley made the following motion which was seconded by Chairman Merry.

24 a. Rowley moved to approve the agreement with Mary Bloomer as Administrative Coordinator for the following year as presented, seconded by Merry.

24 b. Further discussion pursued and upon deciding to wait a week to gather more information, Commissioner Rowley withdrew his motion and Chairman Merry withdrew his second.

25. Sipe moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m., seconded by Kirchner. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Response Not Required

1. University of Kansas – Notice of Training for Kansas County Road Scholar Program
2. Hawver’s Capitol Report – Miscellaneous dates

Minutes, December 22, 2003

Signed:

Attest:

Chairman

County Clerk