



# BUCHANAN COUNTY COMMISSION

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## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 29, 2023

In attendance were Commissioner Scott Burnham, Presiding Commissioner Scott Nelson, Commissioner Ron Hook, Purchasing Agent Kim Hartman, and Administrative Coordinator Amy Helsel, constituents Larry Christy, Chad Sawyer, Whitney Zoubek, Jason Myers, Olin Cox, and Shelley White, and with NewPress Greg Kozel

Presiding Commissioner Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

## Meeting Agenda

Presiding Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve today's agenda. Commissioner Hook seconded the motion.

## Meeting Minutes

Presiding Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve meeting minutes for Monday, November 27, 2023. Commissioner Hook seconded the motion.

## Business

Court orders transferring funds were presented and approved by Commissioner Burnham, Presiding Commissioner Nelson, and Commissioner Hook.

Court orders to void checks were presented and approved by Commissioner Burnham, Presiding Commissioner Nelson, and Commissioner Hook.

A court order authorizing Presiding Commissioner Nelson to sign the Mitigation Credit Purchase Agreement was presented and approved by Commissioner Burnham, Presiding Commissioner Nelson, and Commissioner Hook.

Commissioners and Purchasing Agent discussed options with inmate healthcare. The awarded bid will start January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Sheriff's recommendation is Turn Key Health, Purchasing Agent Kim Hartman agrees with Sheriff Puett. Commissioners agreed to award the bid to Turn Key Health. A court order awarding the inmate healthcare bid to Turn Key Health Clinics was presented and approved by Commissioner Burnham, Presiding Commissioner Nelson, and Commissioner Hook.

Discussion on the bid for aerial aquatic herbicide broadcasting for Lake Contrary was had. Presiding Commissioner Nelson stated the only reason to go forward with spraying is if we know for sure the lake is being dredged. Commissioner Burnham shared that he has some concerns. First, the levee sales tax states it has to be for maintenance or repair and there needs to be clarification if that covers dredging. Second, is whether the County has jurisdiction to dredge it? Commissioner Hook thinks the state gave the county a document to maintain the lake. Purchasing Agent Hartman is not aware of this document. Commissioner Burnham added; the county should have a consultant or engineer with credentials administering this project if it does move forward, he recommends putting the bid award on hold until some of these questions get answered. There are still 70 days before the bid expires. Purchasing Agent Kim Hartman will put on a calendar reminder to revisit in 60 days. Commissioner Hook added that the weeds have to be decomposed before the dredging can be done. Commissioners opened for comments. Larry Christy stated he is not opposed to dredging or maintenance. His concern on a slurry dredge is putting these chemicals back into the river, and not poison vegetation. The silt can be dug out and used for crops. Commissioner Nelson answered that the Department of Natural Resources has a permit process and would not allow things to go downstream. Chad Sawyer asked why hydraulic dredging over mechanical, and if there are permits to dispose of waste. Commissioner Hook answered, mechanical was the first thing looked at; dig, store it and decompose; the cost of doing that is prohibitive given that 600 acres would be needed. The rent, hauling, deep tilling and put back better than when first got it is costly. DNR talked to the County about hydraulic, we had a hydrologist come and dig down 3 holes;

8-foot, 10 foot and 12 foot to test. We have a water table; this was tested twice. DNR suggested to put back into the river and it wouldn't be so costly. We got written permission from DNR and Corps of Engineers. We did get the permit from DNR and are waiting on the permit from Corps of Engineer. Jason Meyer made the comment that every weed that comes up is because it is on poisoned soil. Whitney Zoubek added that these sprays cause health issues, there are other ways to deal with these plants. Shelley White asked the company and chemical name. Kim Hartman answered, Clear Cast is the chemical, Opterra is the company. Ms. White asked if the county has considered putting on crops? Spraying will devastate new plants in the area that have been planted for pollen. Commissioner Hook stated that there was discussion using drones or crop dusters, we were told the helicopter shoots it straight down and they claim when they spray it stays in the channel of the blade. Mr. Myers added that round up and these chemicals are a concern. All discussed the natural cycle of the environment and nature does adapt to the changes of their environment. Commissioner Hook added the property values have changed and we are trying to get the area cleaned up. Larry Christy, Chad Sawyer, Whitney Zoubek, Jason Myers, Olin Cox, and Shelley White, and with NewPress Greg Kozel left the meeting at 10:20 am.

Tim Miller joined the meeting updated the Commissioners and Purchasing Agent, the inside scaffolding will come down Saturday and Sunday, the outside scaffolding will come down on Monday. Tim Miller and Kim Hartman left the meeting at 10:35 am.

Commissioner Hook made a motion to go into close session for a work session with Buchanan County Counsel Josh Bachman. Presiding Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Commissioner Hook Aye, Commissioner Burnham Aye, Presiding Commissioner Nelson Aye. The meeting went into closed session at 10:35 am. All discussed the progress of projects. Presiding Commissioner Nelson left the meeting at 11:00 am. At 11:20 Commissioner Hook made a motion to go into open session. Commissioner Burnham seconded the motion. Roll Call, Commissioner Burnham Aye, Commissioner Hook Aye.

### **Adjourn**

With no further official business on the agenda Commissioner Burnham made a motion to adjourn to any unofficial business that may develop during the day. Commissioner Hook seconded the motion. All are in favor of adjourning. The meeting ended at 11:20 a.m.