

December 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Texas County Commissioners was called to order by Ted Keeling, Chairman. Dolan Sledge, Levi Bickford, members and Wendy Johnson, County Clerk were present. Aimee Midkiff, Treasurer, Tonde Christian, Emergency Manager, Eria Maddox, Chamber of Commerce, Justin Carnagey, 911 Director, Darrell Edwards, Marsha Strong, KKBS and Grant Wadley, Guymon Fire Chief were also present.

The agenda was filed on December 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Keeling verified we were in compliance with the Open Meeting Act with all board members present.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve the following claims and purchase orders for payment.

GENERAL: 242569, 939, **\$677.84**, Amazon Capital Services Inc., parts; 242633, 940, **\$80.08**, AT&T Mobility, services; 242172, 941, **\$75.00**, Seth Bartels, phone stipend; 242174, 942, **\$75.00**, Jason Colpetzer, phone stipend; 242166, 943, **\$75.00**, Marco Crawford, phone stipend; 242164, 944, **\$75.00**, Benji Fuentes, phone stipend; 242173, 945, **\$75.00**, Alex Gregoire, phone stipend; 242167, 946, **\$75.00**, Stanley Harper, phone stipend; 242594, 947, **\$217.07**, Britt Hicks, November travel; 242629, 948, **\$354.36**, Arleen James, November travel; 242593, 949, **\$814.11**, Arleen James, November travel; 242163, 950, **\$75.00**, Charles Mark, phone stipend; 242589, 951, **\$2027.16**, Mathis Oil Co Inc, fuel; 241234, 952, **\$20.00**, Mathis Oil Co Inc, supplies & services; 240372, 953, **\$1.60**, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, pass fee; 242171, 954, **\$75.00**, Monty Osborne, phone stipend; 242630, 955, **\$10,666.66**, OSU Cooperative Extension Service, contractual services; 240051, 956, **\$1406.94**, Otis Elevator Company, maintenance contract; 240015, 957, **\$10,000.00**, Panhandle Services for Children, charity; 242641, 958, **\$344.40**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc, postage meter; 242635, 959, **\$71.81**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc, postage; 242138, 960, **\$117.93**, SPC Office Products, shirts; 242595, 961, **\$15.71**, SPC Office Products, supplies; 242165, 962, **\$75.00**, Berta Vela, phone stipend; 242169, 963, **\$75.00**, Andrea Walters, phone stipend; 242640, 964, **\$18.00**, Water Barrel, water.

GENERAL RESERVE: 233840, 2284, **\$280.00**, The Compliance Resource Group Inc, services.

DISTRICT #1: 242389, 960, **\$4527.05**, Central Salt LLC, salt; 242281, 961, **\$941.92**, Ekkel Diesel Repair, parts; 242604, 962, **\$500.00**, Fronk Oil Company Inc, supplies; 242573, 963, **\$824.31**, Fronk Oil Company Inc, oil; 242564, 964, **\$1453.10**, Keating Tractor & Equipment Inc, parts; 242572, 965, **\$53.00**, Teddy P Keeling, reimbursement for License Renewal; 242562, 966, **\$159.55**, Liberal Magneto Co Inc, repairs; 242206, 967, **\$1854.00**, Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation, lease payment; 242642, 968, **\$344.40**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc, postage meter; 242636, 969, **\$71.81**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc, postage; 242510, 970, **\$1089.89**, Yellowhouse Machinery Co, parts & repairs; 242581, 971, **\$280.00**, The Victor L Phillips Co., parts.

DISTRICT #2: 242621, 972, **\$12.68**, Ronnie Bellar, meals reimbursement; 242436, 973, **\$75.00**, Ronnie Bellar, phone stipend; 242584, 974, **\$4000.00**, Direct Discount Tire of Stillwater LLC, tires; 242567, 975, **\$683.00**, Direct Discount Tire of Stillwater LLC, tires; 242513, 976, **\$807.00**, Direct Discount Tire of Stillwater LLC, tires; 242025, 977, **\$21,907.09**, Fronk Oil Company Inc, diesel; 242512, 978, **\$450.00**, Manny's Auto Glass, repairs; 242207, 979, **\$3998.43**, Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation, lease payment; 242208, 980, **\$2735.94**, Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation, lease payment; 242643, 981, **\$344.40**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc, postage meter; 242637, 982, **\$71.81**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc, postage; 242004, 983, **\$350.00**, S&S Services LLC, portable restrooms; 242554, 984, **\$1283.16**, Western Equipment LLC, parts; 242625, 985, **\$222.70**, Dolan Sledge, mileage reimbursement

DISTRICT #3: 242471, 986, **\$271.88**, Amazon Capital Services Inc., supplies; 242582, 987, **\$40.00**, Bar H Pest Control, services; 242626, 988, **\$235.80**, Levi Bickford, mileage reimbursement; 241806, 989, **\$140.00**, Mayfield Paper Company, supplies; 242209, 990, **\$1555.20**, Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation, lease payment; 242552, 991, **\$258.02**, PTCL, phone; 242644, 992, **\$344.40**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc, postage meter; 242638, 993, **\$71.81**, Quadient Leasing USA Inc., postage; 242551, 994, **\$5.77**, Scissortail Communications LLC, long distance; 242088, 995, **\$829.79**, Texhoma Supply LLC, parts; 242553, 996, **\$771.94**, Tri County Electric Coop Inc, utilities; 242091, 997, **\$803.89**, Unifirst Corporation, uniforms; 242093, 998, **\$824.69**, Western Equipment LLC, parts.

COUNTY CLERK LIEN FEE: 242591, 39, **\$206.91**, Amazon Capital Services Inc., supplies.

SHERIFF COMMISSARY: 242413, 27, **\$69.78**, Tiger Commissary Services, commissary; 242414, 28, **\$462.72**, Tiger Commissary Services, commissary.

SHERIFF SERVICE FEE: 242588, 75, **\$729.90**, AT&T Mobility, internet; 241763, 76, **\$41.00**, Goodwell Car Wash, services; 242612, 77, **\$322.63**, Guymon Tire, tires & supplies; 242029, 78, **\$3086.20**, Lexipol LLC, training; 242571, 79, **\$3121.00**, Prodigy Solutions Inc, phone; 242587, 80, **\$383.43**, PTCL, phone lease; 242586, 81, **\$78.74**, PTCL, services.

HOSPITAL SALES TAX: 240460, 22, **\$52,257.36**, Anchor D Bank, January payment.

60 % JAIL SALES TAX: 242537, 373, **\$996.49**, Affiliated Foods, groceries; 242523, 374, **\$1370.50**, Fire Alarm Specialist Inc., fire alarms; 242168, 375, **\$75.00**, Andrea Fuentes, phone stipend; 242160, 376, **\$600.29**, Mayfield Paper Company, supplies; 242170, 377, **\$75.00**, Jaron Rusch, phone stipend; 242585, 378, **\$75.26**, Scissortail Communications LLC, long distance; 242010, 379, **\$174.14**, SPC Office Products, supplies; 242009, 380, **\$299.34**, SPC Office Products, supplies; 242613, 381, **\$41.88**, Vyve Broadband, services.

Aye: Keeling, Sledge, Bickford. Nay: none.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve blanket purchase orders for usage.

GENERAL: 242659, The Compliance Resource Group Inc, \$50.00; 242660, The Compliance Resource Group Inc, \$50.00.

DISTRICT #2: 242661, L&J Auto Parts Inc, \$2000.00; 242662, L&J Auto Parts Inc, \$2000.00.

PUBLIC HEALTH: 242663, Capital One, \$200.00; 242664, Capital One, \$200.00; 242665, Capital One, \$200.00.

60% SALES TAX: 242666, SPC Office Products, \$450.00; 242667, SPC Office Products, \$450.00; 242668, Affiliated Foods, \$1250.00; 242669, Sysco Oklahoma, \$1250.00; 242670, US Foodservice Inc, \$1250.00; 242671, Water Barrel, \$100.00.

Aye: Keeling, Sledge, Bickford. Nay: none.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve the minutes for December 11, 2023 and December 14, 2023 meetings as written. Aye: Keeling, Sledge, Bickford. Nay: none.

Christian gave a report for the Emergency Management.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve the Emergency Operation Plan. Aye: Bickford, Sledge, Keeling. Nay: none

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve the Monthly Appropriations for the month of December. Aye: Bickford, Sledge, Keeling. Nay: none

There were no Transfer of Appropriations to be approved.

Jeanne Hershey joined the meeting.

Motion by Sledge, second by Keeling to approve Levi Bickford as Chairman and Dolan Sledge as Vice Chairman for the Board of County Commissioners for 2024. Aye: Bickford, Sledge, Keeling. Nay: none

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve the installation of a flood sensor in the elevator at the Courthouse in the amount of \$15,273.00. Aye: Bickford, Sledge, Keeling. Nay: none

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve the appointment of Christian Alexander as Part Time Deputy for the Assessor. Aye: Bickford, Sledge, Keeling. Nay: none

Doctor Hianto Te joined the meeting.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve the Texas County 911 Trust Authority Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023. Aye: Bickford, Sledge, Keeling. Nay: none

Judyth Campbell, Assessor joined the meeting.

Carnagey said that the old radios were purchased in 2011 and they are starting to fail. We do not want to do away with the old system because we need a backup. These radios will go county wide.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve 911 to purchase new radios from the 40% Sales Tax Fund in the amount of \$17,155.28. Aye: Bickford, Sledge, Keeling. Nay: none

Wadley reported that there was no need for the burn ban. The fire indicators are very low, and we are not expecting the wind to get up. We also received the grant, and they are going to give it to us today.

Dr. Te Spoke.

Again, I want to thank the County Commissioners for allowing us to speak. I just got a text from the other doctors, and they seem like they're busy. Again, thanks for allowing me to express our views as community doctors in our hospital. My name is Doctor Hianto Te. I'm a general surgeon serving the community for 34 years as well as my wife, Doctor Debbie Te as a pediatrician. We are totally against the proposed sales tax increase to 1% from 0.45%. Presently, the hospital finances are deteriorating and in a downward spiral. Three statements can be made about this hospital. #1. The CEO, Mr. Bill Ermann, the one and only employee of the Board of Control has misled and misguided the board. Consequently, mismanaged this hospital. The Board of Control is negligent in their fiduciary responsibility to the hospital. The 1% tax increase proposal is like giving alcohol to an alcoholic person. The hospital CEO never asks the medical staff for input and involvement with decisions and that is a violation of the required provision of the bylaws. The growth expansion plans without available funds are the reversal of what they should be doing. The Board of Control got blindsided, misled, literally fooled.

Some examples, among other issues, recruitment of orthopedic practice in Guymon, Oklahoma. The arrangement is for him to stay two weeks a month, and being paid more than \$3,000 per day, that comes to approximately \$45,000 per month for two weeks. He was here from February until May this year costing the hospital approximately \$160,000, a total waste of money because it did not work. The \$160,000 could have been spent more prudently. Another example of the CEO, he cut the anesthesia service and consequently basic surgery service and endoscopy services. For example, appendectomy, gull bladder, hernia repairs, colonoscopy, and esophagogastroduodenoscopy cannot be provided anymore while maintaining the over bloated administrative staff of the CEO with four vice presidents. We never had four vice presidents in my medical practice before, the lack of communication with the doctors, which is supposed to be his role and duty as a CEO has adversely affected the bottom-line finances of the hospital in a downward spiral. Another example, following the elimination of this anesthesia, the administration has added expense to advertise the emergency room of the hospital, hoping to increase the revenues from the shortfall of eliminating surgical services. The administration does not realize that our patients bypass our ER to go to other hospitals including Liberal and Amarillo because the patient knows that our hospital has limited services. The CEO administration's reason for eliminating those services was due to poor volume. The hospital has a problem with the billing process, especially timely filing to insurance companies. After the elimination of anesthesia and surgical service, the medical staff recognized this situation with no further appropriate cost cutting measures and we were very alarmed. The medical staff informed the Board of Control and the CEO's representative who attended the medical staff meeting. Without the presence of the CEO, we were not able to get answers to questions that we asked. The medical staff I don't blame. The CEO is supposed to be in the meeting, but he was not there. They need to cut administrators which cost the hospital \$1.3 million to conserve money. We

have a CEO, Mr. Bill Ermann, who cannot communicate or interact positively with the medical staff. Who are the customers of the hospital and ultimately the patients in the community... are the customers? For patients to get services with the hospital it will need the doctor's orders, for example blood tests, X-rays, CAT scan, MRI, and medical care in the hospital. In other words, we have a CEO who is not fit to serve as a manager of our hospital, he is flawed with this current business model, the hospital is doomed to fail. That is a basic business 101 concept. Poor performance is dragging the hospital rapidly downward. Another example, the Board of Control was alerted way back in May 2023, about absence of real cost cutting measures as mentioned earlier over bloated and the CEO staff, with four vice presidents? Hospitalist service that is unsustainable costing \$1.3 million per year, 100% loss of confidence of the CEO. But still, this board of control continued to employ the CEO with its flawed business model. Bill Ermann is costing \$325,000 not including benefits and severance pay of one year's salary. The standard severance pay is three months' worth of salary. We paid Mr. Tovilla a \$40,000 recruitment fee for hospitalist, Dr. Hernandez. I asked if that was ok because he was not employed at the time. He was hired four weeks later instead of treating the doctor's physicians as customers and allies in rendering healthcare to patients in our community. In the town hall meeting, sponsored by this Board of Control says that the medical staff's only motive is to get the CEO removed and that is false. The medical staff wants the CEO who can fulfill its role as outlined in the border control bylaws.

Requesting to apply for a loan of \$750,000 and this was about a week ago and after the executive meeting the amount was raised to 1.2 million, I wonder what changed? The financial reports are a disaster. They're not telling us something. The administration is not providing itemized statements or the expenses of the hospital.

So, in conclusion, We are going to just be complaining. We must have a positive solution, recommendation is a minimum change needed to move forward positively for this hospital is changed in leadership and change of attitude of this Board of Control and to learn some basic business in running this hospital through education, and to follow their own bylaws. To help the medical staff physician whose integral part of the health care system to be involved in the hospital matter as outlined in their bylaws. And thank you again.

Bickford asked Dr. Te if they had regular Medical Stall Meetings and if the CEO ever came to them. Dr. Te replied that Mr. Ermann has not been to a meeting since May.

Bid #12-23-24 for Ballot Printing for the Election Board was opened and the following bid was received: Royal Printing Co. 8x5 x 14 – 15.5¢ and 8.5 x 17 – 16.5¢. Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to award to Royal Printing due to they were the one and only bid. Bids can be viewed on the website www.Texas.OkCounties.org or in the County Clerk's Office.

Buddy Leach, District Attorney joined the meeting along with Matt Boley, Sheriff.

There was no need for Executive Session.

There was no one present for the Hospital.

Leach asked for direction on the agreement with Ryan Bellew and the Activity Center.


There were no Charity Requests to be approved.

Public Comment: Marsha Strong asked why it took so long to receive an open records request from Memorial Hospital of Texas County.

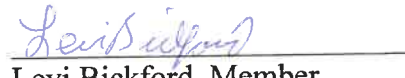
Adjourned.

I, Wendy Johnson, the duly elected and qualified County Clerk in and for Texas County, Oklahoma, do certify the above is a true and complete statement of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners held in this office on December 18, 2023.


Wendy Johnson, County Clerk


Ted Keeling, Chairman


Dolan Sledge, Member


Levi Bickford, Member