

Observer Reports for the October VOTER

SEAMAN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Sept 2024

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School Website <https://www.seamanschools.org/>

Under Board Docs

Superintendent Mr. Brad Wilson

School Board Members

President Michelle Caudill

Dianna Brodine

Donna McGinity

Kyle McNorton

Chris Travis

Christi Weiler

Braden Werner

	YES	NO	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	X		
Was the agenda available	X		
Were any items not on agenda discussed?		X	
Did it appear that agenda items were discussed ahead of time?		X	
Were there any items amended?		X	
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Was media present?		X	

Did any members recuse? X

Was there an executive session and for what reason? How long? X

Was there a public comment period? If so who appeared? X

Was this group relevant to LWV? X The district budget was published

Board of County Commissioners: 9/9/24

Elvera Johnson, observer

2 of 3 Commissioners present (Mays absent)

In old business, Brian Cole, Corrections, brought up a previous request for the County to pay a daily rate of \$100 per inmate to the Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation for housing the nation's inmates. The questions the Commissioners had previously raised have been resolved. The contract was approved.

Consent agenda, voucher payments and correction orders were approved.

The Planning Department presented a resolution to establish a fire station in the 5400 block of SE 61st St in the Shawnee Heights area. In a previous public hearing, 2 individuals responded. One positive, one negative. The committee recommended that the resolution be approved, as the population has been growing in that area. Commissioners opened another public hearing. The fire chief was present and spoke in favor of the resolution to enhance public safety. No one had any negative comments. The resolution was approved.

A County Counselor representative presented a resolution to provide property tax relief for Brian Ronsse on his property located on Belle Avenue which was destroyed by fire. Granted.

For Public Works, Commissioners approved a bid for sand to be used in intersections on county roads during the winter season. They also amended the contract for the SW Auburn Road reconstruction project to include construction engineering,

Commissioners approved the hiring of an applicant with extensive experience to fill the vacant auditor position in the Audit Finance department.

For Parks and Recreation, Commissioners approved the application for a grant to begin the process needed to construct rentable cabins at Lake Shawnee Campground. The grant would require a 50% match.

For Corrections, Commissioners approved the request to replace the 1998 boiler in the industrial laundry room.

For Information Technology, Commissioners authorized extension of the contract for nodes with software and licensing.

In public comment, Henry McClure said that he has been pushing retail development, but isn't getting much support.

Mr. Niehaus from Public Works announced that the bridge over the Wakarusa River on South Topeka will be open soon.

Commissioner Riphahn said that many events will be happening at Old Prairie Town this weekend.

Board of County Commissioners: 8/29/24

Elvera Johnson, observer

2 of the 3 Commissioners Present-Commissioner Mays was not present.

Commissioners quickly approved the consent agenda, voucher payments and correction orders.

For the Department of Corrections, Commissioners approved 4 items. They reinstated a contract with Orion Education & Training to provide adult diploma completion services for inmates in the Adult Detention Center at no cost to the County. It had been discontinued during covid. They authorized a contract with Family Service and Guidance Center and the Juvenile Detention Center to provide behavioral health consultations, funded through state grant funds. They amended the Food Services agreement to cover increased costs. They amended the first phase of the site construction services for the Behavioral Health Unit.

For Parks and Recreation, they approved the filling of a vacant Recreation Program Supervisor position; they approved a reclassification of a full-time Partnership Development Coordinator to work with volunteers; they approved the request to solicit bids for demolition and removal of the old Oakland pool. The new one has been completed.

For Public Works, they accepted and authorized a Safe Streets Demonstration Grant awarded to Shawnee County by the US Department of Transportation.

For Solid Waste, they authorized requesting quotations for a 1-ton four-wheel drive pickup truck to service narrow roads. This is funded by user fees. They approved purchase of a dump truck, also funded by use fees.

For Information technology, they authorized 40 hours of prepaid service for support of the County's current infrastructure.

For the Sheriff's office, they acknowledged purchase of LPRs and cameras using Federal Grant Funds. They approved going out for bids for agency ballistic vests.

In public comment, a member of the Dornwood baseball and softball association requested an update on progress in Park renovations. Mr. Laurent explained that they had purchased new lighting and scoreboard, leveled playing fields resurfaced the parking lot and painted restrooms. They still need to redo the back stops and dugouts. Mr. Laurent also explained that they are responsible for many parks and have to spread the resources between all of them. Commissioner Cook acknowledged that the association is doing a good service in providing scholarships for participants at the Dornwood location.

In Administrative Communications, The County Attorney spoke about the Public Hearing on September 5 related to the budget. There will be a 4-minute time limit for each speaker and each person may speak only once. He cautioned that some budget hearings in other counties had continued for 4 or 5 hours; this is the reasons for the time limit.

There will be no work day on September 2, Labor Day.

No executive session was called.

Board of County Commissioners: 8/22/24

Elvera Johnson, observer

All 3 Commissioners present

Facilities Management withdraw the deferred schematic design and preliminary project budget contract and will instead put out bids for vendors for the restroom renovations plan at the Courthouse. Commission approved 3 requests from Stormont Events Center. One was ordering 600 new chairs for Heritage Hall renovation. One was a capital expenditure request to repair an underground sprinkler that had developed a leak in the pipe. The third was a capital expenditure to repair a boomlift that worked only sporadically. The later 2 had already been completed. The capital expenditure funds had been previously approved.

The County Counselor received approval to issue RFP disaster debris management and removal and debris monitoring services in case of a disaster. The recent wind storms did not qualify as disasters, although one was close.

For Corrections, they approved hiring a new re-entry coordinator to assist discharging inmates in adjusting to community life. They approved execution of an annual maintenance of the whole body scanner system. In the adult detention booking operation. They authorized a contract with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services to receive grant funds to support the construction of the Behavioral Health Unit facility.

For Parks and Recreation, they approved a bid for grass seed and approved a bid and subsequent agreement for installation of a pool slide and pump at Hillcrest Pool. This slide is bigger than the kiddie slide that is already there. It will be open for this weekend before it closes for the season.

For Public Works, they acknowledged the change order to the contract for a bridge replacement project on NW 78th St. The cost was well under the estimate included in the project budget approved in January, 2024.

The Commission decided to cancel the August 26 work session because of conflicts.

The rest of the session was a long budget discussion led by the Audit Finance director. Commissioners went through the remaining budget requests item by item, as there had been a request that each department attempt to decrease their request if at all possible. There was concern that Old Prairie Town and Great Overland Station, for example, are operating at a loss. Some of the items that inspired a great deal of discussion were approved so that the total budget request could be presented on September 5 for a public hearing.

There was no public comment or administrative communication other than acknowledging that the new Family Park ribbon cutting had occurred. Children and pickleball players were happy.

An Executive Session was called to negotiate with unions and to protect the privacy of an attorney consultation.