

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Dwight A. Kruse, Keith Olsen, and Richard L. Lehmkuhl. Also present was Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley. County Attorney, Kevin Hill was present for a portion of the meeting via Zoom. Dwight Kruse opened the meeting at 8:10 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Richard Lehmkuhl led the meeting with a prayer.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Don Pounds, Brown County Emergency Manager, discussed distribution of breathing apparatuses.
Motion by Keith Olsen to give authority to Don Pounds to distribute the nine CAPR units to Mission Village Living Center, Town and Country EMS, Amberwell Horton Clinic, Hiawatha Community Hospital, and Maple Heights. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried.
Pounds also discussed USD #415 SPARK funding. The funding was reviewed and they will be giving back \$90,000 to the county. Pounds discussed what Nemaha County is doing with redistribution of funds and suggested the county do the same.
The commission requested Pounds get a committee together by Wednesday to disburse the money that has been returned.

CITIZEN

Lucas Heinen, Brown County Resident, was present via zoom to discuss COVID policies. He discussed the side effects of the policies that have been put in place due to the pandemic. Heinen spoke about how his family and business has been effected by the mandates. He also discussed his concerns concerning policies to be put on the agenda and discussions that the commission has had that the public was unaware of.

CITIZEN

Steve Chartier, Brown County Resident, was present via zoom to discuss quarantine policies. Chartier discussed the shortened quarantine policies that other counties have adopted. Chartier requested the commission look into the seven day quarantine period.

AMERICAN LEGION

Curt Weldon, Commander of Post 66, met with the commission concerning the Hiawatha Senior Citizens Building. Weldon asked if the commission would consider paying for 1/3 to ½ of the cost of a new façade. Weldon stated they would be adding a new awning and a door to better accommodate anyone with a disability.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to allow Don Pounds, Emergency Manager, to use a county vehicle during the pandemic to deliver PPE. Seconded by Keith Olsen. Motion carried.

BROWN COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Brown County Clerk, Melissa Gormley, requested the commission consider a bonus for county employees since the decision to not give raises for budget year 2021 was made.

BROWN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Kristina Romine, Brown County Health Department, was present via Zoom to discuss pay for contact tracers. Romine requested \$15,000 from the county to cover the first quarter of 2021. The SPARK funding cannot be used because it has to be expended by December 31, 2020. The commission tabled the decision until next Monday.
Romine stated that Robin Downard plans to share information on a shortened quarantine today. Romine also discussed testing in Brown County. She stated they would get the information out to the community as soon as they could.

MINUTES

Minutes by Richard Lehmkuhl to approve the minutes of December 7, 2020. Seconded by Keith Olsen. Motion carried.

TAX CHANGE ORDERS

Tax change orders 2020-5 through 2020-10 and 2020-12 through 2020-24 were approved and signed.

COMMISSION

Commissioner Lehmkuhl left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

GLACIAL HILLS

Gary Satter, Glacial Hills, updated the commission on current projects and programs. Satter requested funding from the county in the amount of \$3000.00.
Motion by Keith Olsen to give a \$3,000.00 donation to Glacial Hills. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried.

UNITY

Deb Duncan, Director, spoke with the commission concerning Unity. She explained that Unity is the new version of DoVES. Duncan said any donation from the county would be helpful. The commission would like to speak with some of the board members before making a decision.

ESP

Duke Snider, ESP Project Manager, updated the commission on the jail project. They have completed the work on the lights and are preparing for the HVAC.

Motion by Keith Olsen to adjourn. Seconded by Dwight Kruse. Motion carried. Meeting closed at 11:00 a.m. The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 21, 2020.

ATTEST:

MELISSA GORMLEY, COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED BY:

DWIGHT A. KRUSE, CHAIRMAN

KEITH OLSEN, MEMBER

RICHARD L. LEHMKUHL, MEMBER