

December 17, 2007

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Warren Ploeger and Glen Leitch. Also present were County Clerk Debbie Parker and Deputy County Clerk Marla Hathhorn. Warren Ploeger opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Lamar Shoemaker reported on the major ice storm which hit the area on Tuesday December 11. Brown County has been declared a disaster area and Shoemaker would like that designation to continue until the debris removal actually begins. Power company crews from Ohio, Kentucky, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Michigan, Tennessee, Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois and North Carolina have arrived in Brown County to aid in getting the electricity restored. Some price gouging has been reported to the media.

APPRAISER

Brown County Appraiser Tom Brown requested permission to turn the part time data collector position into a full time position, effective January 1, 2008.

Motion by Warren Ploeger to grant the request. Seconded by Glen Leitch. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

The budget amendment hearing will be held Monday December 31, 2007. General, Noxious Weed, Appraiser and Solid Waste budgets will be amended.

MINUTES

Motion by Glen Leitch to approve the December 10, 2007 minutes. Seconded by Warren Ploeger. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #07-15 & #07-16

Emergency Management Director Jennifer Ploeger presented Resolution #07-16, which extends the Disaster Declaration in Brown County for another seven days. The original Resolution #07-15 was signed Tuesday December 11, 2007 as an emergency measure.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Director Jennifer Ploeger, Sheriff Lamar Shoemaker, Horton City Mayor Tim Lentz, Horton City Administrator Levi Henry, Westar Representatives Steve Owens and Suzanne Pollman, KRW (Kansas Rural Water Association) Representative Lonnie Boller, Hiawatha City Administrator Lynn Ladner, National Guard Major Paul Schneider of Hiawatha, CPT Larry Leupold of Hiawatha, CPT Dave Wellman of Horton, Rainbow Communications Representative Beverly Armstrong, Kickapoo Fire Department Chief Curtis Simon, Kickapoo Tribe Representatives Adolph Cadue and Tom Conklin.

Shoemaker discussed what had been done in the past week during the ice storm disaster. First priority is life-sustaining actions including emergency shelters throughout Brown County, a generator for pumping water in Hiawatha, and the declaration of the emergency. The Red Cross organization has been in the area helping.

According to Westar Representative Steve Owens, Brown County is the hardest hit area in the state with almost 500 power poles down in the area. Owens stated that he had seen this much ice but not over such a wide spread area. The storm has had long-lasting effects with almost county wide power outages; some areas have been without power for over six days. The cities of Everest, Robinson, Reserve, Powhattan and Hiawatha still have areas out as of this point in time. People still without power are urged to again report the outage to Westar.

Debris removal has not yet started, but local crews are being organized to help with the clean-up.

Shoemaker requested that debris be brought to the street curb but not into the streets. Hiawatha and Horton both have designated areas for debris disposal.

Horton Mayor Tim Lentz thanked Brown County employees Richard Geiger and Darrin Matthias and Horton City employees for their aid.

Damage estimates at this time are unavailable. Known damages include house and car damage due to falling trees; only a few injuries have been reported.

DAVE CHRISTENSEN LETTER

A letter was read aloud from the Horton Headlight Editor Dave Christensen concerning the cancelled Yates Avenue project in Horton.

LELA SMITH

District Court Clerk Lela Smith discussed Outstanding Purchase Orders from the 2007 budget.

FENCE VIEWING

Motion by Warren Ploeger to appoint Glen Leitch as an official fence viewer. Seconded by Glen Leitch. Motion carried.

Motion by Glen Leitch to appoint Warren Ploeger as an official fence viewer. Seconded by Warren Ploeger. Motion carried.

At this point in the meeting, Commissioners Leitch and Ploeger and Deputy County Clerk Marla Hathhorn left to attend a fence viewing located at the SW ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 18, Township 2, Range 16E in Walnut Township. Mike Pyle, Doug Meyer and Craig Stover also attended the fence viewing.

Following the recommendation and research of County Attorney Kevin Hill, a motion was made by Warren Ploeger that Douglas Meyer is responsible for maintaining the section of fence viewed, according to the right hand rule followed in Brown County. Seconded by Glen Leitch. Motion carried.

Motion by Glen Leitch to adjourn. Seconded by Warren Ploeger. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at

12:51 p.m. The next meeting will be held Monday December 31, 2007 to approve the month end bills.