



## DELAWARE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners of Delaware County met in Special Session at 2:00 p.m. on March 17, 2022. The agenda was posted March 15, 2022 at 12:27 p.m. and placed in the kiosk located on the courthouse lawn as well as the county website. Members of the Board present were Commissioner David Poindexter-Chairman, Commissioner Jake Callihan-Member, Conley Chesney, Designee for District #3 and County Clerk Barbara Barnes -Secretary. The Board of Delaware County Commissioners is hereby authorized to act on the following items:

The meeting called to order by Chairman Poindexter followed by the flag salute and roll call by the chairman.

**AGENDA #1** - A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Conley Chesney (designee) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting dated March 15, 2022. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Conley Chesney (Designee)-yes. Motion carried.

**AGENDA #** - A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Conley Chesney (designee) to open the floor to citizens participation or comments. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Conley Chesney (Designee)-yes. Motion carried.

"I'm flying in the dark because I don't know what's going to happen," Mike Major said. Major said his concern was "premium pay" and he believes everyone who worked during the pandemic should get it as well as the solid waste department. Susan Bass of Second Chances animal shelter in Grove said she is a 35-year resident of Delaware County. Bass said the shelter's application for \$304,155 was too low as it left out funds which come from fundraisers, contributions and proceeds from the thrift shop which were unavailable during the pandemic. Shelter Manager Lisa Boston said using money for animals will benefit the community by making it a better, cleaner, safer place to live.

Mark Ellison and Patrick Beehler were present on behalf of the Town of Bernice, along with Jeff Ceperley from Anderson Engineering who is helping them work on a water upgrade for the town. Ellison asked if they should talk about their project, but Commissioner Poindexter said this meeting was not the time to go in depth about specific projects since the purpose of the meeting was to allocate funds to specific categories. He pointed out \$1,000,000 was set aside for rural water under infrastructure.

Michael Lokey from Teen Challenge said their application was denied, and it that was because no Jay teens are in the program right now, Jay teens have been in the program many times, and teens from all over the county are currently in the program. Lokey said 30 local families work for him and the program provides distance learning as well as on the campus. He outlined several community projects completed by Teen Challenge, including painting classrooms at Jay Schools. "This is our community," Lokey said. "Some parents visiting their students here have decided to move here. I didn't understand what would determine Teen Challenge being denied and I want to make sure you know Teen Challenge is community based." Scott Palmer asked the total amount awarded to Delaware County through the American Rescue Plan Act. Poindexter told him \$8.3 million.

**AGENDA #3** - A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Conley Chesney (designee) to approve discussion with possible action distribution of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Conley Chesney (Designee)-yes. Motion carried.

Poindexter asked the county's attorney, David Floyd, if state ARPA funds could be used in conjunction with federal ARAP funds to complete projects. Floyd said the state has \$1.8 billion to distribute as it pleases. Floyd said the state set up an online portal for applications which will close at the end of this month. Floyd said 833 applications have been filed so far. The state has approved three projects, Floyd said, including a nursing project at Southwest Oklahoma State University, broadband mapping in the western part of the state. "The state is looking for long-term, far-reaching projects," Floyd said. "We can apply for anything we want, but it should have a long-term impact and be regional. This will be slow," Floyd said. He said the state wants to install new broadband services, not upgrade existing ones. Dena Tolle who has been working on the ARPA project from the beginning, said the county is still receiving applications. "Only one small business has applied, one rural water and the library," Tolle said.

Poindexter asked County Clerk Barbara Barnes about her project to digitize county records. Barnes said she is still working on getting a figure for the cost. "The company has to look at all the books to know how much work will be involved," Barnes said. "We must preserve those books forever. This is a world-renowned company. We can have the records indexed so people can find their documents with one click." Barnes said she is waiting for a price, but as a point of reference, Cleveland County, which includes metro Norman, is paying \$2 million to digitize its records. We don't have to do all the books as some of the newer ones have already been scanned." Barnes continued she would also like to digitize military and school records kept in the County Clerk's office as they are vital in many ways including things like applying for passports. Floyd said this request can be "double covered," or applied for down two avenues.

Floyd said tracking specific lost revenue during the pandemic is no longer required. A standard lost revenue amount has been established at \$10 million. "This is anything you do as county business that you would spend money on," Floyd said. Floyd said anything purchased with ARPA funds must still follow county purchasing guidelines.

Commissioner Poindexter made a motion for Floyd Law Firm to update the ARPA Plan for Delaware County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Callihan Roll Call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Conley Chesney-yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA #4-A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Conley Chesney (designee) to adjourn at 3:02 p.m. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Conley Chesney (Designee)-yes. Motion carried.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
BARBARA BARNES- COUNTY CLERK

DELAWARE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DAVID POINDEXTER, CHAIRMAN

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JAKE CALLIHAN, MEMBER

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