

Tuesday, March 29, 2022
Newkirk, Oklahoma

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Kay County, Oklahoma, met in special session at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, the meeting was posted for public information on March 25, 2022, at 11:45 a.m. at the Commissioners Room, on the west entrance of the Kay County Administration Building in Newkirk, Oklahoma, and on the Kay County Website.

Chairman Jason Shanks called the meeting to order. Commissioners: Jack Godberson, Member, present; John A. Wilson, Member, present. Other's present were as follows: Brian Hermanson, District Attorney (DA); Christy Kennedy, Kay County Treasurer; Janell Leaming, Kay County Assessor; Marilee Thornton, Kay County Court Clerk; Carol Leaming, Kay County Election Board Secretary; Liz Nicholson, OSU Extension; Dennis Bonewell, Emergency Management; Claude Williams, Taxpayers for Transparency; Tammy Reese, Secretary/Kay County Clerk.

Dist#2 Commissioner to resign as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners: Chairman Shanks said he wants one of the other commissioners to take over as Chairman. Godberson told Shanks that he does a good job. Commissioner Wilson questioned what he and Godberson would be allowed to sign since both are up for reelection. Godberson asked Shanks if the reason he is stepping down is because he was not getting enough help; Shanks said he is in the process of building a new shop at his district and wanted to focus his attention at his district.

Motion was made by Shanks and seconded by Godberson approving and accepting Jason Shanks, Dist#2 Commissioner resignation as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Motion carried: Godberson, aye; Wilson, nay; Shanks, aye.

Selection for one of the Kay County Commissioners to serve as Chairman for the remainder of 2022: Godberson pointed out that he was not running for reelection and that he would be leaving at the end of his term, fiscal year end of June 2022. It was pointed out to Godberson that his term ended December 31, 2022; Godberson reiterated he was leaving at the end of June. This was a surprise to everyone in the room, as none of the officers knew Godberson was planning to leave his office in June.

Motion was made by Shanks and seconded by Wilson approving and selecting John Wilson as Chairman of the BOCC for the remainder of 2022. Motion carried: Godberson, aye; Wilson, aye; Shanks, aye.

Assignments of duties among the BOCC for the Kay County Courthouse, Kay County Administration Building, and the OSU Extension: Shanks said Dist#2 has always been in charge of the courthouse. He said he has had full responsibility of the new Kay County Administration Building, the OSU Extension, and the remodel of the courthouse, and he is stepping down from that duty. The responsibilities were briefly discussed and then it was asked if he would still do the snow removal at these buildings since distance wise, he is closer to these buildings than the other two BOCC. Shanks said he would continue to do snow removal. Wilson said he wanted in writing that he would do this because it would be difficult for him to do since he is located in Blackwell. Godberson asked if he was picking and choosing what he will do. Treasurer Kennedy said it has always been Dist#2's responsibility, and said Jason you knew that when you ran for commissioner. She said she understands his situation, but said all the officers have gone through similar times of being overloaded. Court Clerk Thornton said every time the Chairman changes it will be difficult picking up the pieces on the remodel of the courthouse. She said there are major issues already, and if the leadership changes periodically it will be hard to keep up with the plans/construction. Kennedy told Shanks this is not a good time to jump ship. Shanks said there is a meeting next Wednesday with the courthouse construction crew and architects and Wilson will need to be present. Thornton asked if Shanks would be willing to help Wilson; Reese said the two would only be able to meet in an open meeting with an agenda. DA Hermanson said Shanks has learned so much and done so well; he said the citizens were promised the county would protect the integrity of the courthouse/annex. DA Hermanson said we want to see this project done right; he also noted there is a possibility Wilson will have an opponent and have to run for reelection. Wilson asked Shanks if he was just wanting to walk away from everything. Shanks said he wanted to take care of his barn only. Thornton brought up the custodial staff; Reese said that item would need to be opened before discussion could be made.

Shanks opened Item #6 – which BOCC will be supervisor of the Kay County custodial staff (both Item#5 and Item #6 were opened on the floor): Godberson said since he is not local, we should select someone in close proximity to be in charge of the custodians; he then suggested Dennis Bonewell, Emergency Management. DA Hermanson said Bonewell could oversee the staff but would need to report to the BOCC, if problems occurred. Dennis Bonewell said he is already wearing three (3) different hats and he recommended Cody Blair who is one of the custodians for the job. Bonewell said Blair is familiar with the

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custodial department and explained to the BOCC it would be like the commissioner's foremen. More conversation was made regarding this topic.

Kennedy said the big issue is not the supervision of the custodial staff; she said that part is fairly simple, to put someone in charge and hold the custodial staff accountable. She said you do your job or you don't have a job. Kennedy said the big issue here is the multi-million-dollar operation that Shanks is bailing on – that is the bigger issue. She expressed to Shanks she understands these projects have been a nightmare for him, but you are bailing out on the county.

Motion was made by Shanks and seconded by Godberson putting Commissioner John Wilson in charge of the duties for the Kay County Courthouse, Kay County Administration Building, and the OSU Extension, and the supervisor of the Kay County custodial staff. Motion carried: Shanks, aye; Godberson, aye; Wilson, aye.

There being no other business, motion was made by Shanks and seconded by Godberson to adjourn at 1:34 p.m. Motion carried: Shanks, aye; Godberson, aye; Wilson, aye.

Approved this 4th day of April, 2022.

JASON SHANKS, CHAIRMAN

JACK GODBERSON, MEMBER

JOHN A. WILSON, MEMBER

ATTEST:

TAMMY REESE, COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF KAY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA SECRETARY, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
(SEAL)
