

County

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due to product usability for future county projects, to purchase approximately 5,000 tons of P2-09 base rock (equivalent to AB3 rock) at \$4 per ton, FOB to the Coffey County Landfill, from Ideker, Inc. (from the Coffey County Airport project).

- Advertising and hiring one full-time truck driver (in-house). No new position is being added and this request will only fill a current vacant position within the department due to a position transfer.
- Soliciting formal bids and purchasing various culvert pipes and end sections for inventory at the county shop.

Post Election Audit

Coffey County Election Officer Angie Kirchner presented a document from the Kansas Secretary of State that provided guidance about how to conduct a post-election audit, as required by state statute. Based on the document, Coffey County must hand count all ballots from one precinct for the following contested races: U.S. House of Representatives Dist. 2 Democratic race; Kansas House 76th Dist. Republican race; and Coffey County Treasurer Republican race.

In order to determine the township to audit the ballots, Elections Clerk Brad Jones presented a box with slips of paper for each township. Chairman Huginin was hesitant to draw a slip of paper, so he deferred the drawing to Commissioner Saueressig, who drew Burlington Township from the box.

Kirchner said a board made up of two Democrats and two Republicans will hand count all of the ballots from Burlington Township in the three mentioned races.

Election Questions

Citizen Laura Hawkins asked several election-related questions she heard from concerned voters while campaigning for county treasurer.

Hawkins asked how the paper ballots are tabulated. County Election Clerk Angie Kirchner said advance mail ballots are available to any citizen requesting them. Once a mail ballot is filled out and returned to the county clerk's office, it remains sealed and is stored in the office vault. The mail ballot remains sealed until it is opened on election night and counted by poll workers. Kirchner, who was a candidate, said she could not touch the ballots. An election board verifies the ballots during the process.

Hawkins asked about an election-related document received by county employees in their paychecks. She asked if all employees received the document, or only certain departments. County Counselor Wade Bowie II responded, saying all county employees received a multi-page document about the county's policy and state law pertaining to elections around March 1.

Hawkins noticed that in the 2016 primary and in the 2020 primary, her votes totaled around 600 votes. Kirchner said she hadn't looked too closely at the election numbers as far as comparing the two primaries. She did say the 2020 primary had a 40 percent voter turnout, which is the

highest primary voter turnout since she has worked elections in Coffey County.

Hawkins heard that some people, just prior to voting at the polling location, were told why they should or should not vote for someone. Kirchner said she was "800 percent certain" that wouldn't be one of her employees. "(That) is taken very seriously by my office ... if something like that happens, my office should be contacted immediately," Kirchner said, explaining that if she is notified about this happening, she would immediately call the police. In addition to talking about a candidate, people cannot promote a candidate by wearing caps or clothing within 250 feet of a polling place.

Miscellaneous

Kirchner said Election Day went well with "minimal" issues during the day. One of the more notable issues was losing the Internet at the courthouse for more than two hours; however, it had no effect on the election.

Kirchner received a letter from MedTrax with \$9,080 in pharmacy rebates.

At Bowie's request, commissioners entered into a 15-minute executive session for consultation with the county counselor for the purpose of providing legal advice for potential legal action under the attorney-client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act. No action was taken upon return to open session.

Commissioners decided to schedule interviews Aug. 17 or Aug. 24 with each of the three applicants for the economic development director.

Kirchner informed commissioners she has had a signifi-

cant number of open records requests, which she has been trying to keep up with during the election season. Earlier in her tenure, she cut a position in her office. She is contem-

records requests.

Commissioners authorized the chairman to sign one tax abatement to the county tax roll in the amount of \$493.46. Commissioners will meet at

9 a.m. Monday in the basement meeting room. The agenda includes (9:05) health department administrator's monthly report and (9:25) county engineer's weekly report.

Graphs

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as presented by Dr. Norman does not prove a causal relationship and it did not give us an apples-to-apples comparison.

Intentional or not, the data provided to us on this graph was undeniably misleading. Go ahead and Google "dual-axis graph" and the majority of the descriptions will talk about how this style is not an ideal approach for graphing and the word "misleading" will show up often.

The use of this obscure style of graphing begs the question - was this graph created to push a narrative? It's unfortunate that we even have to ask that question.

Kansans have a simple request - give us information and guidance that is clear and concise, based on science, and tell us what you know for certain and what you have yet to learn. The information should be so transparent there would be no need for anyone to question it or think it might be politically motivated.

Manipulated data isn't helpful. Instead, it stokes the fears of people who are simply trying to find the best way through the pandemic.

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City

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Marshall said the school district did not receive an \$188,000 early childhood block grant intended to remodel the former board office into a daycare facility. "That does not mean that project is dead at all," Marshall said. "We are looking for funding for the project." Marshall said other funding sources are being pursued.

Marshall also told the council that Aug. 21 will be the first day of school with students attending classes at school; however, a remote option will be available. The first day of sports practice will be Aug.

17. Marshall said any student choosing the remote learning option will not be able to participate in organized activities.

Also during public comments, Verl MacTaggart voiced his concern about highway traffic not slowing down at the city limits and some traffic exceeding the speed limit in town. He specifically mentioned a little girl he saw attempting to cross the highway and the possibility children attempting to cross the highway might misjudge the speed of traffic. He wanted to know what the city was going to do about the problem.

Mayor Luke said he has talked about the situation with Police Chief Doug Jones. He also said police cannot watch every person all of the time. Luke

said the police committee will continue to work with the police chief to explore options.

Department Reports

Department heads gave updates that largely included normal duties.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Danny Hawkins said everything went as planned making the new backup generator functional at the water plant. A chlorine burn-out is under way and workers are flushing hydrants.

Parks Superintendent Kevin Boyce reported a nuisance lot at 1110 LaMoille had been mowed and four vehicles were towed, as well as hauling off a dump truck load of brush and a dump truck load of trash. The property owner will be billed. Boyce said all hail-damaged roofs have been repaired on city buildings.

The council approved Claims Ordinance No. 2020-14 in the amount of \$349,067.26, Payroll Ordinance No. 2020-15 in the amount of \$88,674.73 and Payroll Ordinance No. 2020-16 in the amount of \$89,816.42.

The Burlington City Council will meet next at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19 at city hall.

USD 244

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all other funds and for capital outlay, the assessed valuation increased \$25,767,995 and stands at \$513,302,348.

The district will levy 2.185 mills for the USD 244 Recreation Commission in 2020, which is a .635 mill decrease from last year - that amounts to a \$7.30 decrease for the owner of a \$100,000 house, who will pay \$25.13 for the Recreation Commission portion of their tax bill. Included in that levy are 2.0 mills for the Recreation Commission and .185 mills for employee benefits and special liabilities related to the Recre-

ation Commission.

The district has no outstanding general obligation bonds, as the bonds for the outdoor swimming pool have been paid off.

All seven board members were present for the budget hearing and meeting, Monique Hart, Stacy Augustyn, James Higgins, Shane Fejfar, Michael Thorp, Lucas Allen and Selena King. Also attending, in addition to Marshall, Moerer and Freeman, were Technology Director Doug Vander Linden, Special Education Director Lindsey Graf, BHS Principal Stacy Reed, BHS Assistant Principal/Activities Director Dave Watkins, BMS Principal Matt Spring, BES Principal Darla Long, and a couple of patrons.

Upcoming Photo Contest for Coffey County Calendar

Submit your photos today! Prizes will be awarded.

Wolf Creek Generating Station, Coffey County, and Coffey County Emergency Management are putting together the annual Coffey County calendar featuring the sights from each of our communities. Together, we invite you to submit pictures you feel best displays Coffey County's rich and beautiful surroundings for a chance to be featured in our calendar for 2021. Prizes will be awarded for the top four submissions including \$250 to the overall winner!

To submit the photos, go to the following link:
<https://form.jotform.com/201966413257154>

The contest ends and all submissions need to be received by August 20, 2020. We look forward to seeing your submissions so get out and explore your Coffey County!

The following requirements need to be met to qualify.

- Photos must be taken in Coffey County—recently
- The photo resolution needs to meet or exceed 2550x3300 ppi.
- Must be copyright owned by the individual person entering the image
- Photos cannot capture individual citizens without an accompanying release form for use.
- Photos of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station are appreciated but not required.

Prizes to be awarded by Wolf Creek Generating Station for:

- Overall contest winner • Second place
- Third place • Honorable mention to the others selected to be included in the calendar

Let's celebrate the community where we live and play.



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