

County

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the year with many back-to-school related appointments. Employees are also working on COVID-19 related cases.

Three new positive COVID-19 cases were reported Monday afternoon; one case is associated with a long-term care facility.

Payer said zero cases were associated with the Coffey County Fair, demolition derby, or plays.

County Clerk Angie Kirchner asked if any COVID cases were related to the election. Payer replied, "No. I voted and I felt very safe."

Payer reported several applications had been received for public nurse assistant.

County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn presented an update of construction activities throughout the county. At the landfill, he said construction on the clay liner floor should be done about mid-week. Chip seal and scrub seal work in the county is about three-quarters done.

Blackbourn and commissioners discussed the surface of Bridge 116, which will cost about \$37,450 to improve the ride-ability. Commissioners were unanimous in moving forward with the improvements, especially since the cost of improvements falls within about \$45,000 underrun on the bridge. Blackbourn will present a change order at the Aug. 24 meeting.

Upon Blackbourn's recommendation, commissioners approved Change Order No. 1 for A2002-C, Hot Mix Asphalt Project, which involves additional patching due to pavement structure failure repaired with fabric, milling and hot mix asphalt, amounting to a \$4,180 total net increase. Project A2002-C is an asphalt overlay project on 13th Road (Lynx Road to U.S. 75), Lynx Road (12th Road to 14th Road), 12th Lane (Lynx Road to Lynx Lane) and Lynx Lane (12th Lane to 13th Road).

Executive Session

Commissioners met in a 10-minute executive session with Noxious Weed Director Todd Bemis and County Counselor Wade Bowie II to discuss potential litigation and for legal advice regarding a noxious

weed issue under the attorney-client exception to Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Miscellaneous

County Treasurer Karen Maley held off buying some office-related equipment at the end of 2019. The excess money in her 2019 budget was placed in an Equipment Reserve Fund. She sought confirmation from the board that the cost of the equipment purchased now would be paid from the Equipment Reserve

Fund. Commissioners said that would be appropriate.

County Counselor Bowie briefly talked about the Coffey County Jail being undersized for the county's current needs. A jail study is currently underway to offer proposals to make improvements that would include the county jail. Bowie said Coffey County has had to "farm out" a number of jail inmates - usually around 10 to 12 - in another county. He said it costs from \$35 to \$45 per day to house each in-

mate. Using an example of 10 inmates at \$35 per day for 30 days, Coffey County will spend a minimum of \$10,500 per month to house inmates in out-of-county jails. Additional costs include transportation to and from those jails, not to mention a potential safety risk to officers having to transport the prisoners.

Commissioners also:

• Authorized the chairman to sign a real estate mortgage release, acknowledging satisfaction in full debt secured by

Grace M. Mirante, for a 100' by 140' tract in the City of Gridley.

• Appointed Samantha Kuhlmann as a member of the Coffey County Tourism & Visitor's Board, effective immediately and ending Dec. 31, 2020.

• Approved the revised capital improvement plan for Coffey County.

At 1:03 p.m., commissioners entered into the first of two 30-minute executive sessions to interview Candidate #1 for the economic development director position.

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