

March 18, 2024
All Commissioners present
Commissioner Thomas Presiding

1. Commissioner Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Courthouse.
2. Also, present were Rice County Clerk Aurelia Garcia, Sterling Bulletin Reporter Rene Wilson, Rice County Health Department Registered Nurse Sarah Ober, Robert Ober, Sterling Commissioner Richard Jones, Rice County Fire Chief Ed Feil, County Assistant Fire Chief / Lyons Fire Chief Brad Reid, Alden Fire Chief Russell Kocher, Alden Assistant Fire Chief Steve Nielsen, Geneseo Fire Chief Chris Muse, Rice County Treasurer Rita Smith, Rice County HR Director Cori Johanning and County Counselor Scott Bush.
3. Commissioner McCloud moved to approve the Agenda and the March 11, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner David.
4. Rice County Health Department Registered Nurse Sarah Ober submitted her resignation effective immediately.
5. Commissioner McCloud moved to accept her resignation as the Health Department Registered Nurse. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner Thomas.
6. Rice County Communications Director Josh Michaelis presented his quarterly updates. Josh also submitted a request to carry over an extra 14 hours in addition to the 40 hours max allowed and to be paid out for 40 hours of vacation.
7. Commissioner David moved to pay out 40 hours of vacation to Josh Michaelis and to allow him to carry over 54 hours of vacation. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner McCloud.
8. Commissioner McCloud moved to approve the abates in the amount of \$590.50. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner David.
9. Commissioner Thomas moved to enter an Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel from 9:48 – 9:58 to include the Commissioners, Road & Bridge/Planning & Zoning Supervisor David Larsen, and County Counselor Scott Bush. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner McCloud.
10. Commissioner McCloud moved to accept a resignation from the Road & Bridge/Planning & Zoning Supervisor. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner Thomas.
11. Sterling Fire Chief Brian Rife on behalf of the Fire Chief Group submitted information from surrounding Counties as was requested by the Commissioners on February 26, 2024 during the regular scheduled Commission meeting. The group felt that \$30,000 per year for the County Fire Chief and \$15,000 for the Assistant County Fire Chief would be reasonable. Commissioners will discuss the request and get back to the Group at a future meeting.

12. Rice County Public Works Administrator Tom Robl submitted a request to apply for a joint City of Lyons and County application for a cost share grant on shared streets and roads Estimated at \$781,204 construction costs with 85 percent covered by the Grant and \$237,181 engineering costs and remaining 15 percent of construction costs to be shared by the County and City.
13. Commissioner McCloud moved to approve the request from Public Works Administrator Tom Robl to apply for a KDOT cost share grant for overlay projects in conjunction with the City of Lyons for the following roads:
 - Century Road from US 56 south to Taylor Street
 - Taylor Street from Century Road East to the old railroad crossing (east edge of the ball fields)
 - American Road from K14 East to the East Salt Plant Entrance (end of pavement)
 - Dinsmore Street from Taylor South to American Road

The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner Thomas.

14. Commissioner David moved to enter an Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel from 11:10 – 11:30 to include Commissioners, EMS Director Greg Klein, County Clerk Aurelia Garcia, HR Director Cori Johanning and County Counselor Scott Bush. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner Thomas.
 15. Commissioner David moved to extend the Executive Session from 11:30 – 11:40. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner Thomas.
- No Action was taken
16. Director of the Coronado Museum Charlene Akers invited the Commissioners to an appreciation luncheon at the Museum on April 15, 2024 at 12 pm.
 17. Commissioner David moved to enter an Executive Session for Attorney Client Privilege from 11:45 – 12:00. To include Commissioners and County Counselor Scott Bush. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Commissioner McCloud.

Adjourned