



Disclaimer: These unofficial minutes are not official until approved by the Commission. Please contact the Saline County Commission Office or the County Clerk's office regarding any questions or accuracy of the minutes prior to the Commission approval

County Board Study Session

September 26, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
SCHD - Conference Room
125 W. Elm St.
Salina, KS 67401

Present: Commissioner Monte Shadwick - District 1
Commissioner Robert Vidricksen II - District 2
Commissioner Rodger Sparks - District 3
Commissioner James L Weese - District 4
Commissioner Joe Hay Jr. - District 5

A. Call To Order

Commissioner Robert Vidricksen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He declared that all five commissioners were in attendance.

B. Study Session

1. 2023 Vision

Phillip Smith-Hanes gave an overview of the Vision Steps to Improve Saline County. He asked the Commission for direction, discussed specific tasks that have been completed and stated today's focus is on actions. He asked the following questions: What questions the Commission have? Is there anything on the wrong track? Is there anything the Commission is done with? Is there anything the Commission thinks is completed or missing? The Commission discussed: County Workforce, Communication and Outreach, Working Relationships, Physical and Economic Community Health, and Service & Infrastructure. Commissioner Robert Vidricksen suggested a re-evaluation of the pay plan. Commissioner James L Weese stated the County has done that and asked how many staff hours were put in to this. Phillip Smith-Hanes stated 4-5 hours so far and asked how much time the Commission want him to invest in this. Commissioner Joe A Hay, Jr stated he agreed with having some type of survey to see what other counties are doing. Commissioner Rodger Sparks asked about

employees being mentors. Marilyn Leamer discussed a mechanic trainee and stated she is in favor of career ladders. Phillip Smith-Hanes asked about childcare and housing. Commissioner Monte Shadwick stated that is a huge recruitment tool, there has to be a better answer than just throwing money at it. He stated he doesn't know what else County staff can do and requested an update on the housing with the City of Salina. Phillip Smith-Hanes gave an overview of the City's projects they have invested in and what the County has invested for housing. He also surveyed the other five cities and their housing intent: Assaria has been the most aggressive; Gypsum and Smolan have had some success; Brookville and New Cambria haven't gone down that road. Commissioner Monte Shadwick stated he would be happy to be part of the housing committee. Commissioner James L Weese stated we wouldn't be a major player, but it would show support and assist in the process. Phillip Smith-Hanes stated we could facilitate the conversation. Commissioner Robert Vidricksen spoke about County Assets and on the farm property. He stated he didn't think we need to own it; he suggested taking that money and looking at the Health Department. Commissioner Rodger Sparks discussed the battery facility. He stated he attended the meeting about selling the land and he was asked how we can sell it without going to a vote. He stated we are here for a service, not to make money. He suggested looking at the Caywood land for the Health Department. Commissioner James L Weese discussed the old jail. He said he doesn't want to see something done with it that will continue to be a drain on the taxpayers. Commissioner Monte Shadwick asked about recent conversations about the juvenile center. Phillip Smith-Hanes stated he is hoping to get the study back in the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Robert Vidricksen stated maybe we should step up our thinking and ask how much of the jail can we use for our own use. Phillip Smith-Hanes stated it would cost \$1.2 million to tear it down. Commissioner Rodger Sparks asked about Commission meetings after 5 p.m. Commissioner Joe A Hay, Jr stated he didn't think changing it would make a big impact. Commissioner Robert Vidricksen discussed housing and stated we haven't utilized the North Central Kansas Rural Housing that much. Commissioner James L Weese discussed getting the mayors of the small towns involved with that organization and also asked about the sirens and need for the new system in smaller communities. Commissioner Robert Vidricksen suggested inviting each of the small town mayors and asking them how we can help and how they can help us. Commissioner Rodger Sparks suggested also talking with the school districts and what they

need/want. Commissioner Joes A Hay, Jr suggested a study session with the different communities.

C. Adjournment

Moved by: Commissioner Monte Shadwick

Seconded by: Commissioner James L Weese

To adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Motion Passed

Commissioner Monte Shadwick, District 1

Commissioner Robert Vidricksen, District 2

Commissioner Rodger Sparks, District 3

Commissioner James L Weese, District 4

Commissioner Joe A Hay, Jr, District 5

Jamie R Doss, County Clerk