

2021 JOHNSON COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION**3rd Regular Meeting Minutes****Monday May 10, 2021**CALL TO ORDER

The third regular meeting of the 2021 Johnson County Charter Commission convened on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom (virtual). Greg Musil, Chairman of the Charter Commission called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Roll Call

The roll being called, it was found the following Members were present and participated in the meeting, to wit:

Officers:

Greg Musil, Chairman	Dawn Rattan, Vice-Chair	Ed Peterson, Secretary
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Members:

Wendy Bingesser	Mike Boehm	Karin Brownlee
Vicki Charlesworth	Jim Denning	Jane Dirks
Jimmy Gaona	Tedrick Housh	Randy Hutchins
Chris Iliff	Laura Klingensmith	Joy Koesten
Brent McCune	Eric Mikkelson	Leslee Rivarola
Kyle Russell	Paula Schwach	Brenda Sharpe
Greg Shelton	Greg Smith	Zach Thomas

Don Roberts was absent. (Entered the meeting later at 4:37 p.m.)

Also present were Maury Thompson, Deputy County Manager; Cindy Dunham, Interim Chief Legal Counsel; Lynda Sader, Deputy County Clerk; Calvin Hayden, Sheriff; Steve Howe, District Attorney and Kelly Ryan, Chief Judge.

Chairman Musil welcomed the Commissioners, and the guest presenters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Musil stated that the approval of the agenda would be taken up first.

2. Consider the Approval of the May 10, 2021 Agenda

Joy Koesten moved to *Approve* the May 10, 2021 Agenda as presented. Zach Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (24-0).

[*Thereupon, the Board returned to its established Order of Business on the printed agenda.*]

1. Consider the Approval of the April 28, 2021 minutes.

Eric Mikkelson moved to *Approve* the April 28, 2021 minutes as presented, (revised by Lynda Sader, Clerk). Brenda Sharpe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (24-0)

[The following item had been taken up as the first item previously at the meeting.]

2. Consider the Approval of the May 10, 2021 Agenda

OLD BUSINESS

[None]

NEW BUSINESS

1. Future Meetings – Chair Musil

- Location and COVID Protocols

Discussion was had on this topic, and a statement was made to offer an alternative to attend virtually when we start in-person meetings. Maury Thompson, Deputy County Manager stated that staff was working with KU-Edwards Campus about possibly meeting there.

2. Website Review- Lynda Sader, Deputy County Clerk

Lynda Sader, Clerk reviewed the proposed website and received consensus from the Commission to make the Charter Commission Website publicly accessible after a few updates were made.

3. Rules of Order Plan- Greg Musil, Chair

Chairman Musil stated that Rules of Order should be reviewed by the Commissioners and would be discussed at the May 26, 2021 meeting with action taken at that meeting

4. Discuss Plan to Prioritize Department/Agencies/Offices-Chair Musil

Chairman Musil stated that the list would be sent to the Commission and would take a poll of “Definitely Yes”, “Definitely No”, or “Maybe”. This would then be discussed further at the May 26, 2011 meeting.

5. Discuss: Questions for Current County Commissioners and Former County Managers-Chair Musil

Chairman Musil stated that the Charter Commission members should think of questions and information that they would want the current Board of County Commissioners and former County Managers to answer/provide and forward those to the Chairman and the Clerk as soon as possible.

[Don Roberts entered the meeting at 4:37 p.m.]

6. Presentation- Overview of Sheriff, District Attorney, and Chief Judge

- Sheriff- Calvin Hayden

Sheriff Hayden presented the 2020 Annual Report of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's office consists of 18 different divisions. He spoke to many of the divisions.

Civil and tax Division serves almost all civil papers unless it's done by a private service. Such as evictions, wage collections, handing out thousands of papers including tag and property tax collections.

Communications Division: dispatching calls, serving a population of 231,425 of the unincorporated, many cities, and the Johnson County Park Police and the local Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Wardens. He stated that the sheriff's office is unique, that when you call the police (sheriff's office) you get a certified law enforcement officer on the line.

Court Security: Security for the new courthouse, and the Justice Annex Building. But this last year, they were able to use video for some hearings which cuts down on some expenses for security. They are now reviewing security at all county buildings.

Crime Lab: It is a state of the art facility. It includes scientists and a mix of police officers.

Detention: It is a large part of the department. They house inmates and work with the Correctional Health Care and also the Mental Health department to take care of the inmates.

Fiscal Division: The Sheriff's Budget for 2021 is \$91,992,820, seventy-eight percent of which supports payroll expenses.

Fleet Services: During 2017, the Sheriff's Office hired mechanics in an effort to control escalating cost of outsourcing vehicle repair and maintenance. The result is saving over one million dollars.

Investigations Division: They are a regional resource and work investigations for many organizations across Kansas. They also work cold cases.

Northeast Kansas Drug Task Force: This has been very successful. They work with many other departments and Federal divisions.

Patrol Division: They patrol all of unincorporated Johnson County and also for the cities of DeSoto and Edgerton.

Professional Standards unit: They investigate and review any complaints.

Property Division and Records Division: It is the property room, managing a secure facility to store stolen, seized, or collected items for use as evidence in court.

Training Division: provides training for officers, civilians and outside agencies. One important part of training is learning to deescalate situations.

Warrants Division: All criminal warrants are served by this division.

Sheriff Hayden stated that the Sheriff's Office's job is to keep the citizens of Johnson County safe.

- District Attorney- Steve Howe

Steve Howe, District Attorney, spoke to the responsibilities of the District Attorney office. He stated he has just about a \$10 million budget and 111 employees, 93 – 95% of the budget is personnel.

The DA prosecutes criminal cases, filing about 7000 cases a year. This involves all adult criminal cases, serious cases, felonies and, in some instances, misdemeanor violations. Johnson County is unique, in that all domestic violence cases both misdemeanors and felonies all come out to the District Court. This is to have consistency. With domestic violence cases, they have two members of SafeHome that work with the DA's office. They provide services to domestic violence victims, along with the DA's victim assistance units.

He stated that the Reformation bill that was passed about five years ago, Johnson County really was the model in how they approach juvenile justice. It is a little more than 50%, of the juvenile justice court cases are given deferred prosecution or diversion. This is proving to be very beneficial and the state is trying to model it.

They also handle 10,000 to 15,000 traffic cases. This involves tickets issued by the Johnson County Sheriff's office and the Kansas highway patrol.

Mr. Howe discussed how the Covid pandemic effected his office. They have a backlog of jury trials and are working on getting those scheduled. In many cases, they were able to use video technology and hope to continue this.

He spoke to other statutory duties they are required to do, such as what their Consumer Fraud unit deals with. They deal with all the Open Records and Open Meetings Act areas. They deal with cases that a person is in danger to themselves and file petitions with the court to have them placed in an inpatient facility. They must handle all the appeals and the post sentencing litigation which has tripled in the number of cases in his 30 year career.

The DA's office has 36 lawyers, and nine interns, (third year law students). The intern system allows the DA's office to work with the interns and get a true measure of the individual and their strengths and weaknesses. They have seven investigators, who play an important role and have

many different investigative skills. They provide many services to the youth and juveniles, which helps reduce the likelihood of them getting involved into the criminal justice system.

He stated the strength of his department are his employees. They are qualified and professional. He also spoke to the co-responder program which helps his department. He stated all the agencies of the county are great partners to his department.

One area that makes it tough is working with all the cities, and their numerous systems. They have went with a niche system, a software reporting system for the courts and that helps working with many different police departments in Johnson County. The new county courthouse, with the new technology is helping be more efficient. He stated that with E discovery, it is allowing defense attorneys to login and use technology and download at their convenience.

He stated they try their best to serve the community, keep people safe and their priority is the County.

- Chief Judge- Kelly Ryan

Judge Ryan presented information on the Johnson County Court system, the 10th Judicial District Court. He stated that back in 2014, they started a civics education program that they present to many school organizations and many others to educate about the three branches of government.

Judge Ryan talked about the District Court. There are 105 counties in Kansas and those are gathered together into 31 districts. Because of the size of Johnson County, it is the only county in the 10th Judicial District. He stated that we have over 400,000 people that come into the courthouse in a year. That tells you how many people's lives the courts are affecting, not just Johnson County, but other people who transact business either legally or otherwise in our county. Civil and criminal jury trials take place in the courthouse.

He stated that it is made up of 23 different divisions, with 19 District Court Judges and four magistrate judges that have general jurisdiction. He listed others of the court system, such as the Court Administrator and her office, the Trustees office, court reporters, administrative assistants for the judges, the Clerk of the District Courts office and court services officers. The number of employees is about 175 in the District Court.

Criminal cases make up a large part of their cases. They have traffic cases and also juvenile courts. On the civil side, they have divorce, family matters, domestic cases, abuse protection cases involving domestic violence situations. They also handle probate and estates, guardianships and conservatorships through the probate court.

He has six judges currently hearing adult criminal cases. This is the largest group of any division within the District Court because of the volume of criminal cases here in Johnson County.

Mr. Ryan went on and showed slides with information of the breakdown of all the areas of the court system. He stated that since the pandemic, they will be resuming jury trials primarily in June. Civil cases will resume in September. They have a backlog of 300 jury trials and are

working to get those scheduled. During the pandemic, the only trials they did not do were the jury trials. Other trials were handled by video.

Mr. Ryan stated that their District Court budget is mostly salaries, that is the responsibility of the State. The County is responsible for the operations of the court which includes the courthouse. The hard assets are provided by the County.

Mr. Ryan also discussed that the State is reviewing and looking at the salaries of the Court employees. Many of their salaries are below market value.

At this time a question and answer session was held.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA (Wednesday May 26 at 4:00 p.m.)

- Format
- Presentations – Airports, Wastewater, Public Works, and Planning/Housing/Community Development (tentative)

Chairman Musil noted that Airports, Wastewater, Public Works, and Planning/Housing/Community Development had been confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT


Chris Iliff moved to adjourn the meeting and Zach Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (25-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

PREPARED BY Lynda Sader

The journal entry for Monday, May 10, 2021, as recited above, having been read and considered by the Charter Commission, and having been found to be correct as written, was approved on this the twenty-sixth day of May 2021.

CHARTER COMMISSION
JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS


C. Edward Peterson (Jun 11, 2021 16:43 CDT)

ED PETERSON, *Secretary*

ATTEST:


Lynda Sader (Jun 11, 2021 16:52 CDT)

LYNDA SADER, *Deputy County Clerk (Clerk to the Commission)*