

Weekly Commissioners Update

By ROBIN WUNDERLICH
The Eureka Herald

The majority of this week's Greenwood County Commission meeting was held in executive session. Although the meeting was 67 minutes long, executive sessions totaled 40 minutes of the meeting.

Greenwood County Commissioners met on Monday, Oct. 6 routinely; however, following a letter from Brandon Mizner with Ens & Jester regarding the Rader/Hoeffler road dispute, the commission held a 30-minute executive session with Mizner, County Counselor Paul Dean and Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson, to review discovery from the dispute. No action was taken.

The second executive session was with Vinson for personnel matters-evaluation, with Dean and the commission. No action was taken.

During the weekly Road and Bridge report, Supervisor Allen Greenwood shared that

due to the government shutdown, the Road and Bridge Department is unable to gather Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) studies. The H&H studies are used to analyze how water moves through a watershed, basin, channel or man-made structure (including culverts). The study wasn't previously made available so the county department is unable to share findings until the government reopens.

Greenwood also shared a bid from Ramsey Concrete for a deck repair to a bridge on River Road, near 1852 160th Street. It was noted in the bid that the deck has a hole that has opened up, showing separation and reinforcement. The commission approved the bid, totaling \$11,950, for Ramsey Concrete to cap and pin the split deck structure. As of press time, it was believed the project would begin on Tuesday of this week. A portion of River Road will be closed as crews work to repair the bridge. Greenwood had noted

the project was estimated to take 12 days. He further noted that a detour will be in place during the repairs. The commission also reviewed various road and bridge projects with Greenwood.

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming tax sale. It was noted that the Attorney General's office has not yet approved the journal entry in the civil case, which has delayed the tax sale. Counselor Dean stated the state has had the journal entry for approximately three weeks. Once approved, the case will be sent to the judge for the final order to be approved. After those steps have been taken, the tax sale will be scheduled and the public notice will be published in The Eureka Herald for three weeks. As of Monday morning, the earliest the tax sale would be held would be mid-November.

Health Department Director Jayme Lewis reminded the commission that flu shots would be available next

Monday in the commission meeting room for county employees.

Register of Deeds Sheila Smith shared that her office will be undergoing a computer migration on Thursday, Oct. 23. The office will remain open; however, will not be able to do data entry/requests that day due to the computers being down.

County Counselor Dean noted that he had filed a motion to dismiss on the county line road case.

The commission approved special payables for Oct. 6, totaling \$12,886.82; however, another motion to amend the amount was later approved, with the total being \$17,372.78. The commission also approved the Sept. 29 meeting minutes as written.

Greenwood County Commission meets weekly on Mondays at 9 a.m. Their next scheduled meeting is Monday, Oct. 13, in the commission meeting room in the Greenwood County Courthouse.



A Window into the Past

By Pastor Bob Robison

Meet Some Of Madison's 'Old-Timers'. Blanche Pearce

She was dead when they got to the hospital. They had hurried as quickly as they could, a sister and a friend, and their worst fears were confirmed. It was her, and she was gone. The report was that she had fallen down an elevator shaft at the hotel, she having been found lying on top of the elevator car. She had been removed from the elevator shaft/car, loaded into a taxicab, and taken to the hospital. Later it was determined that she probably fell nine stories. Her back was broken and there were numerous other fractures, and no indication that she had ever regained consciousness. Imagine the pain! And the possibilities – was it an accident? Suicide? Murder?

The year was 1924. Blanche Pearce was a relatively "new comer" to Madison. She seems to have been drawn to the area through a sister who had married into the Graham family. A man by the name of Clyde Graham owned Graham's Dry Goods in Madison. Blanche's brother-in-law, Clifford Graham, seems not to have been involved in that business, but it seems likely that this was the "key" to opening the door for Blanche to have a "millinery business" within Graham's Dry Goods.

The daughter of Arthur Washington and Louetta Wheaton Pearce, Blanche was born near Fillmore, Missouri, on September 1, 1895. She was the third of their nine children. When grown, Blanche went to work in Kansas City as a milliner (a person who designs, makes, trims, or sells women's hats). However, in August 1923, she left the city and moved to Madison, accompanied by her sister June. Here she set up shop in Graham's Dry Goods store. Though new in town, she seems to have earned the respect and appreciation of the community. Weekly newspapers ads called attention to her wares.

Some sources suggest

Blanche and June were going to Rosendale, Missouri, north of St. Joseph, to see their father. This may be so, but this also seems to have been a business trip to Kansas City so Blanche could replenish her millinery stock. Traveling by train, they arrived at Kansas City and checked into the Penn Hotel. They then went to the Raddison Hotel to meet a couple of ladies they knew who were living at the Raddison. Upon arrival, they discovered their friends were visiting in the room of a couple of Kansas City Blues baseball players – William Skiff and Pete Scott. They joined the gathering in the room of the baseballers where all were enjoying the phonograph.

At some point, and unnoticed, supposedly, by any of the others, Blanche left the room. Why? To go where? No one seems to know. But when the others realized she had gone, they went to find her. That's when they learned that a woman had been found injured. Hence, the trip to the hospital.

An investigation was held. The ball players were questioned closely and suspended until matters could be cleared up. Safety measures for elevators in that day were nothing like they are in this modern day. Doors didn't always close when the elevator de-

parted or could be opened even though the elevator wasn't there. Alcohol didn't seem to have been a factor. There didn't seem to be any animosity toward Blanche Pearce by any of the others who were meeting together. So, what happened? A coroner's inquest was held to find out.

One theory was that Blanche mistook the elevator door for a door to the stairway. These were side-by-side and, it was discovered, the elevator door on the 10 th floor where these friends had gathered "lacked two feet of closing properly." (A quote from the city elevator inspector.) And the only warning was a sign that read "please close this door." There was no light over the elevator door. The findings of the inquest were that Blanche Pearce's death was accidental, that she had stepped through the wrong

door by mistake. The hotel management was 'censured' for "inefficient elevator doors and lack of warning over them." Censored? What does that mean? Was there a fine involved? Don't know, but it doesn't seem so.

The suspension on the ball players was lifted. A funeral for Blanche was held in the Presbyterian Church at Rosendale, Missouri, and burial followed at the Fillmore, Missouri, cemetery. June Pearce did not return to Madison, workwise, at least. She had a job lined up in Kansas City, and presumably took that on 'after the dust settled.' And we're left to wonder 'what might have been' had Blanche Pearce's life not ended so suddenly and tragically. In a short time she had made a name for herself that is etched forever in the annals of Madison history.

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LEGALS

ORDINANCE NO. 2410

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE CODIFICATION OF THE COLLECTION OF INMATE HOUSING FEES TO THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MADISON, KANSAS, AND THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH CODIFICATION IN LOOSELEAF BOOK FORM.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF MADISON:--

Section 1. That a codification of the Housing Fees Code §9-112 through §9-118 by this ordinance of the City of Madison, Kansas, which supplements Ordinance 1818 passed April 6th, 2015, as authorized by K.S.A. 12-3014 and 12-3015 et al., is hereby ordered and authorized. The codification of the below amendments are to be adopted by ordinance and shall be published together with this adopting ordinance in loose-leaf book form and 1 copy shall be published and made available for viewing during the regular work hours of City Hall as the official Code Book. The amendments to said code Chapter IX, Municipal Code shall be duly certified by the City Clerk and shall supplement the current provisions of Chapter IX. One copy of the code shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk and shall constitute the official ordinance book. Three additional copies shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and shall be designated for use by the public.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication once in the official city newspaper.

To-wit:

9-113 Housing fee.

A Housing Fee for housing, transfer, and medical care of each inmate, consisting of the amount actually paid by the City of Madison to the Greenwood County Jail, other facility, or medical provider, shall be and hereby assessed against every inmate housed for violation of the Madison Municipal Code or at the direction of the Madison Municipal Court, for each day prior and after conviction for an offense resulting in a conviction or the imposition of a sanction for failing to appear or contempt of court.

(Ord. 25-2410; Code 2025)

9-114 Notification and payment.

At the time of sentencing or imposition of a sanction, the Municipal Court shall impose the Housing Fee and notify the Defendant/Inmate of the amount of such Housing Fee, if known at that time. If not paid in full at the time of sentencing and imposition of a sanction, such Housing Fee shall be included in a single payment plan, along with the payment of costs and fines to the court. Any restitution, child support, court costs, or fines owed by any inmate shall take priority over this Housing Fee, however.

(Ord. 25-2410; Code 2025)

9-115 Waived and/or reduced fee.

If any inmate alleges the Housing Fee would create an undue hardship on the inmate, the inmate may, by a Motion to the Municipal Court, request that such Housing Fee on whether such Housing Fee will, in fact, create an undue hardship on the inmate. If the Court determines the Housing Fee will create an undue hardship, the Court shall waive or reduce the Housing Fee.

(Ord. 25-2410; Code 2025)

9-116 Failure to pay.

If the inmate fails to pay such Housing Fees, the City of Madison with approval by the Greenwood County Jail, may garnish such inmate's commissary account to recover such costs, if (a) the Municipal Court provided actual notice to the inmate that it intended to request garnishment and setting a reasonable deadline to challenge the proposed action by requesting a hearing with the Municipal Court; and (b) after hearing on the matter, if any, the Municipal Court determines the inmate owes the Municipal Court a Housing Fee, such Housing Fee has not been paid, and garnishment of the inmate's commissary account is reasonable and proper. In addition to all other remedies available to the Court to collect the amount due should the inmate fail or refuse to make the promised payments under a Municipal Court-ordered payment plan, the Court may forward the unpaid debt to the City Attorney or other authorized agency or contractor for collection.

(Ord. 25-2410; Code 2025)

9-117 Payment to Municipal Court Clerk.

The inmate shall pay the Housing Fee charged pursuant to this article, by cash, approved check or money order, or upon approval by the Greenwood County Jail, by release of funds in the inmate's commissary account. Any Housing Fees paid by the inmate, by garnishment or otherwise, shall be paid to the Municipal Court Clerk and the entire amount will be deposited in the City's General Fund.

(Ord. 25-2410; Code 2025)

Passed and Approved by the Governing Body this __ day of October 2025.

Paul E. Dean
Paul E. Dean, Mayor

Alice Grimm
ATTEST: Alice Grimm, City Clerk

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Senior Scams and Medicare Made Clear

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Topic of Discussion:
Learn how to spot the scams before you get scammed!
What plan is right for you? Traditional Medicare or Medicare Advantage.

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