

Osawatomie, Kansas. **June 14, 2021.** The Joint Council Meeting with the USD 367 Board of Education was held at Osawatomie High School located at 1200 Trojan Drive. Mayor L. Mark Govea called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Wright, Macek, LaDuex, Dickinson, Diehm, Hampson and Caldwell. Council member Walmann was absent. City Staff present at the meeting were City Manager Mike Scanlon, City Clerk Tammy Seamands, and Assistant to the City Manager Sam Moon. USD 367 Board of Education members present were DJ Needham, Gordon Schrader, Marsha Adams, Jeff Dorsett, Kristal Powell and Justin Burchett. Ben Wendt arrived at 6:36 p.m. Board of Education member Josh Barnett was absent. Board Clerk Tammy Booe was present. Members of the public present were Kari Bradley, Chris Cardwell and Shay Hanysak.

**SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE** – Justin Burchett gave an update on the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA). It takes five years for the school to become fully accredited. Due to COVID the school took a year off of this cycle. The school district is currently in year four of the cycle. At the end of year five, KESA decides if the school will be fully accredited. The school board has selected two goals to work on: 1) community engagement and 2) post-secondary success.

During Covid the community engagement was sidetracked and the community was told not to come to the school building or to attend events. During the next year we want to bring the community back into the buildings and to the events. The school district wants to increase the number of community events that are available and to give the kids more opportunities inside and outside of the building. We have to recognize that not all students will go on to a four-year traditional college.

Kansas State Department of Education has come up with a tool for measuring success of schools not based on one test score. They say a high school graduate is successful if they do one of these things: 1) attend college and stay in college for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year after graduation. 2) earn an associate's degree in the first two years after graduation or while still in high school. 3) earn an industry recognized certificate within the first two years out of high school or while still in high school. The school currently partners with Fort School Community College. They offer a CNA program, criminal justice program, welding program and a construction trades program. Kids can attend Fort Scott during their junior or senior year. Their tuition is covered by the State of Kansas and is free to the students. They also partner with Neosho Community College. They offer a HVAC program and a welding program. The school has also recently partnered with Flint Hills Technical College with an auto mechanics program. There are programs on Osawatomie school campus that they are trying to increase enrollment in so that they can also lead to an industry recognized certification. Those programs are business, welding, industrial arts and agriculture. 4) military service 5) graduate enters the workforce in a full-time entry-level position earning a middle-class wage of \$15.00 per hour. The school is currently looking for partners for their students to do internships or job shadowing that would give them high school credit and get them out of the building and working in a job that is appropriate for them.

**CITY MANAGER UPDATE** – Michael Scanlon stated that the single most beneficial thing you can do in terms of economic development is education in the community by supporting your school district. Scanlon believes that to be true and the city wants to do everything they can to leverage what the school has for talent and people and turn that into jobs in our community and

hopefully entrepreneurs on Main Street. The community has come up with five goals: 1) clean up the community, 2) repair and maintain the streets, 3) economic development, 4) housing of all types and 5) infrastructure. The city began working on these goals last July and August. To help clean up the community the trash service is being billed to the property tax bill. With this change everyone has trash service, a trash can and recycling. There has been a noticeable improvement in the alleys. Under repair and maintain the streets we have taken an inventory of the streets and will do a sealing project later in the year. Economic Development has increased as the city has received 10 new home permits, 11 rehab homes, 57 roof and siding projects and the city is working on a solar array project in the Northland. For housing of all types, we are working on accessory dwelling units and have identified parcels that the school could use for housing for young teachers in proximity to the schools. For infrastructure, the wastewater treatment plant will have a consent decree in about a month. We have been approved for a KDHE loan and a CDBG grant to help repair our wastewater treatment plant. We also have a water investigation committee to look at all the alternatives for providing water. The city will also be doing an influent and infiltration study to see how water is getting into the sewer lines that should not be there. We need a plan to update our distribution system in the next ten to fifteen years.

#### JOINT TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

FLINT HILLS TRAIL – Scanlon reminded everyone that a few months ago he was talking about hike/bike huts located on school property. These could improve economic development and provide a unique experience on our portion of the Flint Hills Trail. South Street has been cleaned up and it makes it easier to get to downtown. Scanlon asked for feedback from the school board. Schrader didn't feel that they had enough information about the project. Dorsett said that Humboldt has some hike/bike huts on their trail. Scanlon will check with places that have them and see if they had issues.

Chris Cardwell with Miami County Conservation District discussed a potential project to join forces in a large-scale conservation project at the western edge of the sports complex. This project would transfer the stream corridor into a wet land that would reduce flooding and allow for a native plant demonstration site. It would also improve the erosion challenges at the edges of the sports complex. The Miami County Conservation District would like to be available for technical assistance to the residents, city and school district. Burchett said that the school district is in need of erosion control on the edge of field 5 to keep it from washing out under the fence. They would like to partner with the Miami County Conservation District on this. There is a property that the school district owns that the school is working on a land lease agreement with the city to maintain and use the land area.

FUTURE UTILITY NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT - Burchett said that the middle school failed a fire inspection due to a water pressure issue in that area. There is not enough water pressure to trigger the sprinkler system. The school ended the year under a fire watch. Scanlon confirmed that the problem is a water pressure problem in that area. A preliminary cost analysis of the problem is \$325,000 to make those changes to the water distribution system. That cost would surpass our fund balance in our water distribution fund. At looking at our distribution system this change will be at the top of the list because our best economic development is investment into the

schools. The city has to figure out how to improve that suppression and also improve the neighborhood. Scanlon has some ideas on how to use Covid money to help fund this.

OHS EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF OSAWATOMIE – Burchett said that the district is actively seeking partners to get their juniors and seniors out doing externships. They are working on getting through some red tape to make the externships count towards graduation credits. The big thing is finding places for the kids. The city is here and has needs. The school would like to not only partner with the city and local businesses but also tie in with the Fort Scott Community College. The college is trying to start up a waste water program. Burchett said that he knows the city would like to see more employable community members in that area. Getting kids out to get a look at different jobs can help them determine what they want to do. This also gives the kids the opportunity to try out things that they think they might want to do and then determine that the job is not for them. Scanlon replied that the city has a bunch of STEM jobs. These jobs have a lot of biology and chemistry to them. For example, working at the water plant and learning how to make the water taste better. These jobs pay very well but the city struggles to find people to do these jobs. These jobs do not require a college education but they do need some basic science and math skills. These positions come with the opportunity to be licensed and certified. It would be great if we could create an academy to train operators for the wastewater and water plant so that they would then have the opportunity to move on to larger communities in this region. The city looks forward to rethinking how we do things and to work with the school district to make this possible. Also, probably half of the communities in the metropolitan area are seeking building inspectors. It would be nice if we could also grow some building inspectors in the area. That job also pays very well. We have recently hired an Ottawa graduate student that had graduated from Osawatomie to operate our GIS system.

FUTURE MEETINGS – Mayor L. Mark Govea suggested that the City Council and the USD 367 Board of Education start with holding a joint meeting annually.

ADJOURN – Board of Education DJ Needham thanked the City of Osawatomie for the dinner. There is a lot of common interest and we all care about our community so it is good that we come together. Needham then declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

/s/ Tammy Seamands  
Tammy Seamands, City Clerk