

## COMMISSIONER'S RECORD N

Douglas County Republican, Lawrence

December 11, 1942.

All members of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Clerk convened in regular adjourned session this 11th day of December, 1942.

Further claims against the county were inspected and allowed by unanimous approval in amounts as recorded on the Allowance Record in the office of the County Clerk.

The Commissioners Order for the apportionment of election expense for the General Election is as follows:

Order No. 270: "To charge the general fund of the respective townships and the City of Lawrence, in the amounts as indicated below to cover their proportionate share of the 1942 General Election expenses, and to credit the County General Fund with the total amount of \$1,823.48.

Charge to Clinton Township	\$ 39.61
Charge to Eudora Township	92.33
Charge to Grant Township	33.85
Charge to Kanwaka Township	46.32
Charge to Lecompton Township	61.76
Charge to Marion Township	63.32
Charge to Palmyra Township	185.12
Charge to Wakarusa Township	196.35
Charge to Willow Springs Township	52.56
Charge to City of Lawrence	1,052.26
TOTAL	\$1,823.48

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Attest: T. R. Gerhart County Clerk

Discussion was given to the termination of the services of J. Fred Harris, Clerk at the County Shops. Because of the lightening of the work connected with the shops, the Board considered Mr. Harris' services no longer necessary after the end of this month, therefore, he was duly notified by mail.

No further business appearing, the Board adjourned to meet Tuesday, December 15, at 1:30 P. M.

ATTEST:

*T. R. Gerhart*  
T. R. Gerhart,  
County Clerk.

*L. H. Griffith*  
L. H. Griffith, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

December 15, 1942.

All the members of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Clerk met in regular adjourned session this 15th day of December, 1942, for the specific purpose of holding a meeting with officials from Douglas County and from Jefferson County to discuss legislative matters affecting county government.

Those present from Jefferson County were: Guy Shultz, W. W. Detlor and Henry Hoffman, members of the county board; Max Engle, County Engineer, A. W. Hamilton, County Clerk, Jean Clark, Welfare Director, James Swyer, County Attorney, E. C. Bussing, State Representative and J. W. Roberts of the Oskaloosa Independent. Representatives of Douglas County were, other than the Board and the County Clerk: M. N. Penny, Commissioner-elect, Ed Abels, State Representative, Ray T. Wright, State Representative-elect, Dolph Simons of the Journal World and Mrs. Mildred LeSuer, Accountant.

The Commissioners from both counties emphatically opposed any change to the Benefit District Refund Law, although Rep. Ed Abels stated that he doubted if any effort would be made in the next Legislative session to change this plan. At the present time, the State still owes more than \$14,000,000 to counties, townships and individual taxpayers. Of this, Douglas County has a balance due of approximately \$534,000, Jefferson County \$845,000, Leavenworth \$960,000 and Shawnee County \$828,000. These four counties are entitled to nearly one-fourth of the refunds scheduled for payment. Mrs. LeSuer stated that approximately the refunds for the townships in Douglas County for next year were in the amount of \$21,000.00.

Because of the reduced gasoline tax income, there is anticipated a 40 to 50% reduction in the State revenue. In view of this, it was the opinion of some of the commissioners that the state would attempt to eliminate benefit district refunds in order that it may have more funds with which to maintain state highways. It was the opinion of Guy Shultz that if the State ever got started on this, it would be the beginning of the end. In setting up the budgets, the counties and townships took into consideration the anticipated refunds from the State, and there is no doubt that if such refunds were reduced or eliminated, it would work a great hardship on the local government units. It was pointed out by Mr. Shultz and Max Engle, that even with reduced income, the State was in a better position to maintain the state highways to a certain extent than the counties or townships could maintain county and township roads. If bonds were to be issued why shouldn't they be issued by the State rather than the county? County funds are constantly being pinched as it now is.

The legislators present did not commit themselves in regard to what action they would take on this much discussed matter, since both sides of this question had arguments of merit.

The Commissioners were opposed to a full time assessor for the counties, mainly for the reason that said assessor would be employed under the state merit system. As stated by several, in a full time assessor they would have a well educated man, with perhaps too much theory and not enough mature judgment or practical experience. Guy Shultz remarked that originally the object for employing a full time assessor was to get a better trained person for assessing, but now all our best talent is in the army. W. W. Detlor was very expressive in his statements about this position. He believes that the average farmer or a resident of long-time standing in the community is better equipped to assess property than a person with a college degree sent by the State. All commissioners were against too much centralization of power, and this seems to be one step in that direction.

Discussion of legislative matters affecting county government