

Douglas County, Republican, Lawrence

It was agreed by the Commissioners that the 60 HP Caterpillar tractor which was discussed in the meeting with Fred Martin of the Martin Tractor Company, be advertised for sale at the earliest possible date.

Minutes for the meeting held on April 3 were approved as read.

No further business appearing, the Board adjourned to meet Tuesday, April 18, 1944.

ATTEST:

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

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

April 13, 1944.

All members of the Board of County Commissioners met in special session this day, said meeting having been called due to the tragedy caused by the loss of the County Home by fire on the early morning of this day.

Fire of unknown origin, completely destroyed the structure known as the County Home, located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east and two miles south of Lawrence. Eight lives of aged inmates were lost in the fire. Those dead are:

Mrs. Alice Bebout, 86 years
Mrs. Ida Clark, 80
Miss Elizabeth Whitelaw, 76
Peter Luzius, 83
Fred W. Plateman, 88
William St. Clair, 88
Isaac Tabor, 71
Lafayette Tabor, 82

The facts of the destruction of the home are well covered in the newspaper stories attached hereto.

A personal inspection of the ruins was made by the Board, and the walls remaining standing were ordered to be torn down.

The Commissioners spent some time in a discussion with Mildred D. Watson, County Director, in regard to the placing of these old inmates formerly at the Home. Mrs. Watson said that they had already placed several and were working as rapidly as possible in getting the others in homes.

With Mrs. Hoskinson, Matron of the Home, and the County Director, the Board discussed plans in regard to the care of the stock at the farm and the acquisition of a new home to house the inmates. Mrs. Hoskinson assured the Board that she and Geo. Hoskinson, would remain at the farm to take care of the stock until further plans are made. The possibility of purchasing the old Perkin's mansion located at 1004 West 4th Street, was discussed. This old home is quite large and has been vacant for several months. It appears to be an ideal place for a new county home or hospital. The Board requested the County Director and Mr. and Mrs. Hoskinson to view this place, same having been inspected by the members of the Board.

The quarterly report of Court Stenographers' fees was signed by the Chairman of the Board.

The Board adjourned to meet Friday, April 14, in special meeting.

ATTEST:

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

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

April 14, 1944

In special adjourned session, the Board of County Commissioners, with all members and the County Clerk, present, met in the regular meeting rooms of said Board.

As per the request of the Board, the County Engineer appeared with several plans for the building of a house at the County Farm near the site of the recent county home. In order to properly operate the farm, the Commissioners have realized the necessity of building a dwelling for the use of the farm superintendent. It was the opinion that this should be a small home, four or five rooms, and should be constructed with as much salvaged material as possible, the work to be done mainly by employees of the road and bridge department.

S. C. Hinshaw, agent for Louis Lowenstein, owner of the house, known as the old Perkins' Mansion, appeared to discuss the sale of said property to the county. With authority from the members of the County Board, M. N. Penny, Commissioner, had, the preceding night, signed a contract for the purchase of this property, based on Mr. Hinshaw's telephone conversation with Mr. Lowenstein in Kansas City. The purchase price of the property is \$3500.00 plus the payment of the second half of the 1943 tax. In accordance therewith, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, due to the loss of the Douglas County Home, said structure having been destroyed by fire of unknown origin on the early morning of April 13, 1944, and

WHEREAS, it is the imperative duty of the County Board to take the necessary action for the acquisition of additional property for the purpose of maintaining a home for the ill and aged of this county.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, State of Kansas, that the purchase of the residence located at 1004 West 4th Street in the City of Lawrence,

Purchase of house for the aged