

Brown Co Switches Health Insurance Providers

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission has decided to switch employee health insurance providers for 2014.

During their meeting on Tuesday, commissioner Keith Olsen joined commissioner Steve Roberts in approving a motion to rescind last week's decision to continue with the county's current provider, Preferred Health Insurance, for 2014. Commissioner Warren Ploeger abstained because he wasn't present for last week's vote on insurance.

The commission then voted unanimously to go with a plan from Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

County Clerk Debbie Parker told commissioners she and county insurance broker John Matalone felt it's a much better option for Brown County employees.

In other action, the commission voted to terminate two employees. Following a closed-door session, the commission voted to terminate community corrections employee Holly Merchant-Chandler, effective immediately. No reason was given for the termination. And following another closed-door session, the commission voted to terminate part-time taxi driver Kurt Killman, due to complaints from the public, effective immediately.

And bids were opened for the purchase of a new pickup truck for the county's noxious weed department. The commission accepted a bid from Hiawatha Ford for a 2014 F250 pickup for \$23,277. A bid had also been received from Aberle Ford in Sabetha.

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