

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

August 16, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 16th day of August 2021 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Gregory C. Bender, 2nd District Commissioner

Stephen S. Dlabal, Jr, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

Chairman Dlabal called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Minutes for August 9, 2021. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Greg & Celia Heller asked if we have tried to caulk behind the bricks at the EMS building in reference to the leak discussed last week. Commissioner Bender said he visited EMS and there are layers of caulk in several attempts to stop the water leak issue.

Scott & Carol Clemenson were also in attendance but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Matthew Fulkerson, owner of the old, decommissioned base outside of Wilson, said he has been working on renovating the missile silo and giving tours. Mr. Fulkerson has been working with businesses in Wilson and believes this could be a great tourist attraction with interstate only a couple of miles away. The paved road leading to the base is in horrible condition. Mr. Fulkerson spoke with the township, and they do not have the money to fix the road. He wondered if the township and the County could collaborate to fix the road, so it is passible for RVs. The Commissioners said to talk with Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor, to get an estimated cost for fixing 4th Road and he should talk to Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director, to see if he was eligible for any grants.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director and Joshua Tipton, Ellsworth EMT, asked for the Commissioner's support on Joshua Tipton's application to the Regional Incident Command to become a member of the management team. Mr. Haberer said this program started after Hurricane Katrina. When a community has a major disaster, local emergency

management are often dealing with their own loss or severely damaged home and family. Team members from all over come to help deal with the disaster so local emergency management can tend their situations and families. Mr. Florian thinks Joshua would be an excellent asset to this program and fully supports his decision to join. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to allow Joshua Tipton to move forward with the application to be on the Regional Incident Command Team. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, had a bid to fix the exterior walls that have electrical cables exposed in the classroom. Mr. Florian thinks they can do this work themselves to save money. The Commissioners told him he could start looking into the cost for the EMS Department to fix the walls with cheap paneling or sheet rock. Mr. Florian asked permission to pursue a grant with Western Cooperative Electric to help finish the new classroom at EMS. The only thing they asked in return for the grant was if they needed to have a meeting in Ellsworth, they could use the classroom. The Commissioners said Mr. Florian could pursue the grant with Western Cooperative Electric. Mr. Florian said that since the Clerk's office could not find a resolution on the EMS billing rates, Mr. Florian is going to bring the rates he is proposing and get the Commissioner's permission to proceed with new rates.

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session with **Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor, and Shelly Vopat, County Clerk,** for non-elected personnel to discuss medical issues from 10:10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:25 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Bender made a motion to grant new employees up to 40 hours of paid leave COVID related quarantined. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Houston had bids for a vibrating hydraulic pile driver. Commissioner Bender made a motion to allow Dale Houston to proceed with the purchase of a Grizzle MG-60 vibrating pile driver in the amount of \$147,520 to be paid out of the Road & Bridge Special Equipment Fund. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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