

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

August 2, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 2nd 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 Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for July 26, 2021. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Greg & Celia Heller, Kermit Rush, Scott & Carol Clemenson were in attendance but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Emily Benedick, North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) Executive Director, presented the North Central Kansas Regional solid waste management plan. Ms. Benedick explained this is an annual update for the six counties in the region and Ellsworth County had no changes this year. Commissioner Bender made a motion to approve Resolution 2021R08, a resolution to approve participation in and the adoption of the solid waste management committee update. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Ms. Benedick informed the Commissioners that Ellsworth County's Comprehensive plan will be half drafted by August. All the completed chapters can be reviewed on the website and there will be a place for public comment.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, updated Commissioners on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ellsworth County has two active cases, and the delta variant is most of the recent cases. The Health Department is the only location in Ellsworth County to receive the vaccine, so she is keeping the shots in stock. The KDHE is recommending children K-12 wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. She is meeting with the Superintendents from both school districts (USD 112 & USD 327) in Ellsworth County to discuss the upcoming school year and will recommend masks be worn but said since the County does not currently have a mask mandate in place, she will only recommend masks be worn. Commissioner Rolfs told Kerianne, "you are doing a great job, I wouldn't want it."

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor, presented the updated bid for the 2022 Kenworth dump truck from MHC Kenworth Salina. The quote for the Hilbilt that was approved July 26, 2021, for \$168,900 went up to \$170,100. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to add \$1,200 for the 2022 Kenworth dump truck for a total of \$170,100 to be paid for from the Road & Bridge equipment fund. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session with Dale Houston to discuss employment status of a non-elected personnel from 9:42 a.m. to 9:57 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 9:57 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, requested permission to have every EMS employee complete the survey he had created for the EMS staff and post a help wanted ad on EMS websites. The Commissioners said the survey looked okay and he could post the help wanted ad. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session with Nathan Florian to discuss non-elected personnel for the assistant Director position from 10:05 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:15 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director, informed the Commissioners that a ton of hay bale fires have been occurring between 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The temperature is too hot during these hours and the balers are catching on fire. The Commissioners asked if Mr. Haberer knew the cause of the Northern Natural Gas pipeline explosion on July 23, 2021. Mr. Haberer said the explosion is still under investigation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve July payroll in the amount of \$263,107.35. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the July accounts payable for \$116,497.58 plus prewritten warrants for \$765.68 for a total of \$117,263.26. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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