

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

August 23, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 23rd 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 16, 2021. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

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

APPOINTMENTS:

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor, and Jon Halbgewachs, Kirkham Michael Sr. Vice President, were seeking approval for the biennial Bridge Inspections. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to approve Kirkham Michael to do the routine biennial and inventory bridge inspections for a total cost of \$20,600. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Houston asked if he could purchase a new ice machine that the Road & Bridge department shares with Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed Supervisor. Commissioner Bender made a motion to allow Road & Bridge and Noxious Weed to purchase an ice machine not to exceed \$4,000. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, presented a bid for fixing the wall in the upstairs EMS classroom. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to hire Crome Construction to insulate and install wood paneling to the exterior wall in the classroom at the EMS building for \$2,400. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Florian supplied the proposed new EMS billing rates for Ellsworth County. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to approve Nathan Florian's proposal to raise the EMS base fees. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Florian had two ambulance bids one from Osage and one from ARV. Mr. Florian has put a request in for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to pay for the ambulance but wants to move along because they need a new ambulance and both companies are 365 days out from receiving the new ambulance due to supply and demand. Commissioner Bender made a motion to allow Nathan to check with Osage Ambulance supply for more

details on what they need to move forward with the purchase for an ambulance. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Dlabal called the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate) Hearing to order. Ellsworth County's RNR rate is 49.799 and the Ellsworth Commissioners are proposing the tax rate for Ellsworth County to be 52.791. Commissioner Bender made a motion to go over the RNR 49.779 to 52.791. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion Carried 3-0.

At 10:10 a.m. Chairman Dlabal called to order the 2022 Ellsworth County Budget Hearing. Commissioner Bender made a motion to approve the Ellsworth County Budget for 2022. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jim Kirkbride, Ellsworth County Medical Center, CEO, is working closely with Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, to keep track of Ellsworth County's COVID numbers and be prepared for a huge spike in COVID cases. Dr. Casey is joining the ECMC staff next Monday and after orientation she will begin seeing patients October 1, 2021.

Dave Cox, representing Maico Industry, wanted to follow up on the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. Mr. Cox said Maico has definitely experienced a hardship and would like to keep the momentum going forward on this funding.

Teresa Richards and Mike Slechta, representing the Ellsworth Senior Center, are requesting funds for COVID relief through ARPA. Ms. Richards figured what the Senior Center should have collected for room rentals and donations during the shutdown in 2020. Ellsworth Senior Center is requesting \$1,348.26 through ARPA. The Commissioners said they would take the request into consideration when they budget the ARPA funds.

Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director, had the first round of policies for ARPA to show the Commissioners. Paul Kasper, Ellsworth County Counselor wants to thoroughly go through the policies. Ms. Schmidt encouraged the Commissioner to also go through the policies with a fine-tooth comb. Ms. Schmidt told Dave Cox, Maico Industry, that Ellsworth County would have to find a sub-recipient to handle the type of request he is seeking through ARPA.

Teresa Shute, Recycling Supervisor, was advised to start looking for a new place to recycle by CD Trucking out of Lincoln KS. Ms. Shute will keep checking into local entities for the best solution for the future of Ellsworth County recycling.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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