

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

August 9, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 9th 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 August 2, 2021. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Alan Rusch, representing the Ellsworth Independent Reporter, asked the Commissioners to purchase an ad for the Cowtown Days Edition. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to purchase a quarter page ad in the August 19, 2021 edition promoting the Ellsworth Cowtown Days. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Greg & Celia Heller thanked the County for putting the 30-mph sign at the Kanopolis City limit. Mr. Heller said he has already noticed that traffic has slowed down in that area.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

A Department Head Meeting was held with the following present: Teresa Shute, Sue Arensman, Carl Miller, Nathan Florian, Geneva Schneider, Dale Houston, Paul Kasper, Kerianne Ehrlich, Kristy Battershell and Shelly Vopat. Mr. Miller asked what the County's protocol was for a cyber-attack. The Treasurer's office must call the State because they host the State's server for Driver's License and motor vehicle. The Clerk's office must call the Secretary of State because of elections and Wilson Communications, whom they have managed services through. Mr. Kasper informed everyone that the Courthouse has a firewall through H&B Communications that gives us some basic protection. It is each department's discretion to acquire their own protection. Ms. Arensman said the Courthouse has issues with all three water fountains. The water fountain on the main floor

shoots water onto the wall, the water fountain in the basement has such low pressure you almost have to put your mouth on it to get a drink. The water fountain on the top floor has not worked 30 years and is covered with a trash bag. The Commissioners said to get price quotes for the water fountains and bids for the installation. **Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director**, said she believes this could be paid through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds so we should submit a request.

Carl Miller, County Appraiser, requested permission to hire a part-time/seasonal help to do property inspections. The State of Kansas has added two new compliance procedures he needs to focus on. Commissioner Bender told him to check with other Counties and see if they have a similar position maybe another county could even share this position with Ellsworth. The Commissioners said he could move forward on pursuing this position.

Sharon Condit & Doug Janssen, representing Post Rock Rural Water District, discussed the need to update their 40-year-old infrastructure that is deteriorating. Post Rock wants to install automatic read meters which will cost \$500,000. They are requesting ARPA funds from each county based on the percentage of customers in each County. Ellsworth County's Portion is \$146,649.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, feels that the EMS Department has been neglected. The crew has stepped up and did a good job getting the building and records in order. Mr. Florian and the EMS crew are excited to put the Department in order. On his first week as the new Director the State of Kansas showed up for an inspection. Most of the violations have already been fixed. The State has given a 60-day period to have the violations fixed. Mr. Florian may need to apply for a 30-day extension to complete the wall in the classroom that has exposed wires that must be covered. Mr. Florian explained that the Ambulance rates have not been updated in many years. For example, Ellsworth is charging \$9.00 a mile while surrounding counties are charging between \$15.00 to \$20.00 a mile. He is working with the Clerk's office and the County Counselor to see what action needs to be taken to update these charges.

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session with **Paul Kasper, County Attorney**, for non-elected personnel to discuss a severance package from 11:24 a.m. to 11:34 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 11:34 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Bender made a motion to accept the Settlement agreement for separation with a former employee. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.