

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

February 22, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 22nd day of February 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 with an addition. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender asked the County Clerk to change wording in the minutes for February 16, 2021. Minutes from February 16, 2021 will be reviewed at the next Commissioner meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Scott and Carol Clemenson asked the Commissioners to consider putting in a resolution preventing the Feds from taking our 2nd Amendment, the right to bear arms.

APPOINTMENTS:

Emily Benedick, North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPD), wanted to know if the Commissioners wanted to update the County's Comprehensive Plan. Also in attendance was Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director, and Marie Ranker, Appraiser Office Deputy II. There would be no cost to the County for the Comprehensive Plan, and everything would flow through the NCRPC. Commissioner Rolfs voiced his concern that he did not want to see the County end up being too restrictive. Ms. Schmidt said nothing would be done without the Commissioners approval and she was here in support of NCRPC. Commissioner Bender made the motion to grant NCRPC to begin the process of hiring a consultant to work on the Ellsworth County Comprehensive plan. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs made the motion to go into executive session with Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor and Shelly Vopat, County Clerk to discuss Road & Bridge non-elected personnel wages and the hiring of a new employee from 9:25 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 9:40 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Andrew Bair, Ellsworth County Medical Center CEO, discussed the incident command system that formed March 12, 2020 for COVID-19 has disbanded. Mr. Bair wanted the Commissioners to know that the Hospital is still trying to recruit two physicians.

Jeremiah Brown, EMS Director, inquired if the County would loan an ambulance to Life Touch. Life Touch would pay \$1,000 a month rental fee and would carry their own liability insurance. The Commissioners really wanted to help Life Touch but declined the offer because if one of our ambulance went down, Ellsworth County would not be covered properly.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Supervisor, informed the Commissioners that after discussing the Mass Gathering Mandate, the decision was made to drop the mandate with the understanding that Citizens cut down gatherings as much as possible and to practice social distancing while wearing masks. The Health Department has administered 560 COVID-19 vaccines in the County.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Commissioners are leaving the mask mandate and will review on a weekly basis.

NEW BUSINESS:

Shelly Vopat, County Clerk, supplied the Commissioners with the 2020 inventories.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve 2020 Abatements 73 & 74 in the amount of \$62.16. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve donating \$500 to the Ellsworth, Wilson and Central Plains High School's after prom for a total of \$1,500. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk