

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 18, 2022

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 18th day of January 2022 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse. Commissioner Rolfs was not in attendance.

Members Present:

Gregory C. Bender, 2nd District Commissioner

Stephen S. Dlabal, Jr, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Dlabal moved to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2022. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Bob Frederickson addressed the Commissioners about the expansion of broadband and his conversations with lawmakers and local companies.

APPOINTMENTS:

Amy Boxberger, Central Kansas Community Corrections, updated the Commissioners on CKCC's year-end report and requested the Commissioners' signatures on the report. The annual goal for 2021 was to keep incarcerations below 25% and was exceeded at a total of 15% for 2021. Commissioner Bender commented that the program they run must be working well to exceed their goal by so much. Commissioner Bender made a motion to accept CKCC's year-end report. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Brandon Koch & Allison Koch, H & B Communications, & Stacie Schmidt, Ellsworth County Economic Development, talked to the Commissioners about the Kansas Broadband Acceleration Grant. It is a 50/50 match grant and Mr. Koch would like the Commissioners to sign a Letter of Support. He would also like the Commissioners to consider earmarking as many funds from the ARPA monies as possible because the more funds Ellsworth County is willing to give the more money the grant will give. The application for the grant is due February 11, 2022, with the fund awarded in May 2022. The project must be completed by 2023. Commissioner Bender said he was all for them applying for grants. Mr. Koch requested the Letter of Support be signed at the next Commissioner's meeting including the amount the Commissioners are willing to earmark for the grant. Commissioner Bender suggested a special meeting be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022, including Commissioner Rolfs. Commissioner

Dlabal agreed. Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Koch will create a Letter of Support for the Commissioners to sign at the next Commissioner's meeting including the ARPA funds amount the commissioners agree on.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve Abatement 2021-33 in the amount of \$309.00. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Add 2021-34 in the amount of \$192.30. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Commissioners held a special meeting on **January 20, 2022**, to discuss the dollar amount they were going to provide for ARPA funding. The Commissioners decided to allot \$225,000 to H & B Communications for broadband infrastructure. Commissioner Bender made a motion to allow Nathan Florian to hire an additional EMT with the intention to use ARPA funding for the 1st year. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Florian sought approval for a seven year or 50,000-mile extended warranty for the 2020 Dodge Durango. Commissioner Bender made a motion to purchase the Motor Assist Plan from Davis-Moore for \$3,953 to be paid out of the equipment fund for the extended warranty on the Dodge Durango for EMS. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Bender moved to adjourn at 11:18 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

January 18, 2022