

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 25, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 25th day of January 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 Rolfs moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Minutes for January 19, 2021. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Scott and Carol Clemenson were 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, Stacey Jordan, Geneva Schneider, Jessica Kootz, Dale Houston, Paul Kasper, Kerianne Ehrlich, Craig Dinkel and Shelly Vopat. Ms. Shute asked the Commissioners if the minimum wage goes to \$15.00 an hour what will that do to our wages. Commissioner Bender said he has been thinking about this a lot and all he knows is it will wreck a budget.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, did not get a chance to talk to Dr. Whitmer about changing the mass gatherings number. She did report that Ellsworth County numbers are declining, and she thinks masks really have helped.

Jessica Kootz, Midway Extension Agent, asked Ms. Shute when her Department was going to start picking up recycling again. Ms. Shute said when the shutdown first happened Keith Haberer and Kerianne Ehrlich did not think picking up recycling was a good idea. Ms. Ehrlich said they could start again but wear masks and gloves, maybe even gowns. Ms. Ehrlich told Ms. Shute to call her if she had any questions.

Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed Supervisor, informed the Commissioners if the new laws being proposed in legislation go into effect, she will need a warrant to visit a property where there is a complaint, such as Musk Thistle. Murphy Tractor picked up the landfill's dozer at the beginning of December to fix the outside rock guards. Instead of fixing the outside rock guards they installed new inside rock guards. Murphy Tractor billed \$200 for a quote that was never received and over \$12,000 for the inside rock guards. Almost two months later the landfill does not have an operating dozer. Teresa has called Murphy Tractor several times to try and resolve the situation, but said their communication is terrible. Commissioner Bender thinks we need to talk to the County Counselor, Paul Kasper to help with the bill and try to get them to work with the County.

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor, presented a bid from Coughlin Company I Inc. for asphalt rotomilling Avenue E in the City of Wilson. Commissioner Rolfs made the motion to accept the bid from Coughlin Company for cold mix recycled asphalt in the amount of \$194,820. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Andrew Bair, Ellsworth County Medical Center Administrator, discussed what COVID has meant to the hospital. Eight to ten percent of the staff is out on any given week due to actual illness or from being quarantined. Mr. Bair feels the most challenging problem is trying to transfer patients that are sick to hospitals they are unfamiliar with while still caring for the patient. The ECMC staff is tired.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners want to wait on cleaning the inside of the Courthouse windows by Crystal Clear Cleaning until the spread of COVID has significantly reduced.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Commissioners decided to leave the mask mandate as is.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk