

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

July 19, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 19th day of July 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 Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for July 12, 2021. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Brandon & Allison Koch, representing H&B Communications, wanted a better understanding of the County Commissioner's vision for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Mr. Koch did not fill out a request form because he was not sure how much money was going to be dedicated to broadband infrastructure. The County Clerk said we are in the public comment stage in trying to find out how much to allocate to businesses and individuals based on the requests received. The form is the first step, and it states "if known" what is your fund request. Mr. Koch said he would complete a form and return it to the County. The Commissioners relayed their support in dedicating as much as possible to broadband infrastructure but want to have the public's opinion before making any decisions.

Murray Marston, Ellsworth County Sheriff, explained his 2022 budget request had the option to hire one or two dispatchers. Sheriff Marston would like to have two more dispatchers, 24 hours a day. Larry Sharp of KCAMP told him the entire County (governmental entities) would receive a better rating leading to a 15-20% savings on liability insurance. While we have ARPA funds, the County could get reimbursed for the dispatcher wages under "support public health response", but how will the County pay for those wages after 2024 when the ARPA funding is gone. What kind of savings will the County receive on their liability insurance? The Commissioners asked him to fill out a request for ARPA and they will consider it after checking on the potential savings.

Greg & Celia Heller asked who sets the speed limit on the County Road (Ohio Street) running through the City of Kanopolis. The State Statutes sets the speed limit and the City of Kanopolis adopted the Standard Traffic Ordinance. The County is responsible for putting the sign at the Kanopolis City Limit. Commissioners asked the County Clerk to have Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor, make an appointment with them next week.

Kim Travnichек & Jessica Bowlby, representing the City of Lorraine, asked if the Road & Bridge Department could chip and seal the Lorraine Road since heavy trucks including the Road & Bridge Department travel on the road. Commissioners will talk to Dale Houston to see if the County can help with this road. Ms. Bowlby thanked the County because someone from the Road & Bridge department graded Tullis Road and it helped with the major drainage issues. Tullis Road was lower than the ditches.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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