

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

July 6, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 6th 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. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Minutes for June 28, 2021, and July 2, 2021. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Brent Goss & Troy Soukup, representing the Ellsworth County Fair Association, presented the 2022 budget for \$18,000 an increase of \$4,000 or 28.6%.

Stacie Schmidt, Ellsworth County Economic Development Director, discussed the best use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Ms. Schmidt said the funds must be tied to COVID and well documented. She would like to notify the public today and give the public 45 days to comment on how the funds could be used. Ms. Schmidt will come up with a form for the public request and then they will be asked to present the request to the Commissioners. At the end of 45 days, the Commissioners will come up with a budget for the ARPA funds.

Dave Cox, Plant Manager at Maico Industry, Inc., is looking for assistance to pay the gas bill that cost \$100,000 for the three-day rigid cold snap that went through the area in February this year. He was in contact with Jordan at Senator Moran's office who informed him the ARPA funds could be used for utility bills for business. Stacie Schmidt said that there were other reasons she believed he qualified for ARPA funds but cautioned that this utility bill was not related to COVID. The Commissioners said they are working on a plan for the ARPA funds and would get him the information as soon as it came available.

Tim Korbe, EMS Assistant Director, present the 2022 EMS budget request for \$561,392 an increase of \$21,592 or 4%. Mr. Korbe explained that the increase was for building maintenance and payroll.

Alex Winters started off by saying he was proud of bringing the issues to the public's attention. At the request of Mr. Winters Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel's current issues with Alex Winters and Gaye Woods from 11:05 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. At 11:15 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Teresa Shute, Landfill Supervisor, addressed the need for a new landfill pit that Rusty Varnado had mentioned last week at the Commissioner's June 28, 2021, meeting in regard to the old hospital being torn down. Ms. Shute has had individuals ask if the brick could be recycled. Commissioner Rolfs said hopefully we could find someone to at least take the brick. The landfill must have a letter of proof from the State saying there is no asbestos before they can accept the hospital.

Commissioner Bender told **Nathan Florian** if you are interested in the EMS Director position, we are interested in you. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for new employee from 11:37 a.m. to 11:52 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 11:52 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for new employee from 11:54 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 12:00 Noon the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the 2020 Abatement #88 in the amount of \$100.02. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve June payroll in the amount of \$277,858.84. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the June accounts payable for \$381,370.94 plus prewritten warrants for \$891.26 for a total of \$382,262.20. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Commissioners met July 7, 2021, to hold a special work session with Randy Hofmeier to make Ellsworth County's 2022 Budget. Ellsworth County's Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) was 49.779. Even after making cuts to entities budget request the County's proposed mill levy is at 52.935. So, the County will have the RNR hearing on August 23, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Bender moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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