

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

June 14, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 14th day of June 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 Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Minutes for June 7, 2021, with a correction. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Jerry Marsh addressed a comment he heard Commissioner Rolfs had made at a public meeting on June 9, 2021. Mr. Marsh said a friend told him Commissioner Rolfs made disparaging remarks towards the Independent Reporter and the owner Linda Denning. Commissioner Rolfs apologized for the disparaging remark he made against the newspaper. Mr. Marsh thanked him for his apology.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, asked the Commissioners to sign the contract with Saline County for the WIC agreement.

Jeremiah Brown, EMS Director, informed the Commissioners that he was sending a letter to the Kansas Board of EMS stating Tim Korbe is responsible for Ellsworth County EMS until a new Director is hired. Mr. Brown's last day as Ellsworth County's EMS Director is June 18, 2021.

APPOINTMENTS:

Ginny Boots & Ron Etchison, Representing Ellsworth County Council on Aging (ECCA), submitted the 2022 Budget for \$33,000 an increase of \$4,000 or 13.8%. \$3,000 of the increase is to pay the NCFHAAA match for the Senior Care Act.

Alex Winters, Caitlin Schlesener, Nancy Karst, Jenny Curnutt, Alexis Karst, Stacey Jordan, Gaye Woods, Shawn Simmons, James Stout and Luke Brandenburg came to show their support for Stacey Jordan and bring letters of support from the community. Ms. Jordan was terminated June 7, 2021. Ms. Karst expressed concern that the Ellsworth County EMS no longer had a paramedic in the community. If the hospital needs to transport a patient that requires paramedic skills, they will have to use other agencies or they will need to be flown. Ms. Karst said, "I do not know what the community will do if we lose half our EMS crew". It has been rumored that several of the staff have threatened to leave if Ms. Jordan is not reinstated. Commissioner Rolfs said, "I do not like being coerced into hiring or firing employees." "We hired a director to handle these matters." Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel, the firing of an employee with Alex Winters, Caitlin Schlesener, Gaye Woods, Nancy Karst, Jenny Curnutt, Alexis Karst, Stacey Jordan, Shawn Simmons, James Stout and Luke Brandenburg from 9:40 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioners returned to open session at 9:55 a.m. Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel, the firing of an employee with Alex Winters, Caitlin Schlesener, Gaye Woods, Nancy Karst, Jenny Curnutt, Alexis Karst, Stacey Jordan, Shawn Simmons, James Stout and Luke Brandenburg from 10:02 a.m. to 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:12 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Joyce Kraus and David Trowbridge, representing the Wilson Heritage Museum, presented the 2022 budget request for \$3,000 an increase of \$2,000 or 200%.

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session with **Paul Kasper, County Attorney**, to discuss Attorney Client privilege employment matters from 10:47 a.m. to 11:02 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 11:02 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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