

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

June 28, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 28th 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 Rolfs moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Minutes for June 21, 2021. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Alan Rusch from the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter urged the Commissioners to buy an ad in the Progress edition. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to do the Ellsworth County Independent Home-Grown ad for \$173.25 promoting businesses in Ellsworth County. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Terry Kueser was in attendance but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, presented the 2022 budget for \$386,597 an increase of \$9,743 or 2.6%.

Cherie Sauers, Cynthia Edgerle & Trisha Janssen, representing the Ellsworth County Historical Society, started off by thanking the Commissioners for their past support. Due to COVID they had low admissions, low dues, low donations and no fundraisers for the year 2020. The 2022 budget request is \$42,000 an increase of \$2,500 or 6.3%.

Shamarie Farthing, representing the Ellsworth County Medical Center (ECMC), reported that the ECMC board approved next year's budget. The 22-year-old hospital is having all the flooring and windows replaced this year.

Teresa Richards and Mike Slechta, representing the Ellsworth County Senior Center, stated the senior center needed to replace the guttering. The guttering has a huge hole in it and where the water drains into the parking lot there is not much sunshine so it's like having an ice rink. The 2022 senior center budget request is \$40,000 an increase of \$10,000 or 33.3%.

Rusty Varnado, Ellsworth City Administrator, informed the Commissioners that the old hospital is deteriorating at a fast rate and is a danger for the community. When it is torn down it will take up the majority of the landfill pit that the County is still paying for.

Stacie Schmidt, Ellsworth County Economic Development Director, is receiving a lot of phone calls about the ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act) funding. She will be back next week with a timeline of events that need to happen before we can consider disbursing any funds. She feels getting public comment how the funds are used will be helpful as well. Robert Fredrickson, Garfield township resident, said there is a task force for rural broadband and the County needs to be ready to take advantage of the opportunity. This is a decision we need to make as to using the ARPA funding to get broadband into the rural parts of Ellsworth County.

Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for the ongoing current EMS situation with **Alex Winters & Gaye Woods** from 10:44 a.m. to 10:54 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:54 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session with **Shelly Vopat, County Clerk**, to discuss non-elected personnel policy concerns from 11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session with **Shelly Vopat, County Clerk**, to discuss non-elected personnel policy concerns from 11:15 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor, presented the 2022 budget for \$2,387,442 an increase of \$89,843 or 3.9%.

Geneva Schneider, County Treasurer, presented the 2022 budget for \$184,773 an increase of \$17,095 or 11.35%.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the 2020 Abatement #87 in the amount of \$1,132.48. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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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