

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

March 22, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 22nd day of March 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 Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for March 15, 2021. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Rusty Varnado, Ellsworth City Administrator, provided an update on the 8th Street project in the City of Ellsworth. Mr. Varnado said everything that could go wrong with this project has gone wrong. He is confident that the contractors are headed in the correct direction and the project will be done in May.

Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director, bestowed the information available at this time for the American Rescue Plan of 2021. She said the plan is direct aid that will need to be administered. Ms. Schmidt said to be careful if you receive a request for the aid because it will need to be handled correctly for the reporting process. She will come in to update on the new grant when she has more information.

Andrew Bair, Ellsworth County Medical Center CEO, discussed the need for replacing aging equipment and updating the infrastructure on the Hospital. The HSSA funds to help with the fight on COVID19 have helped with equipment purchases but he wanted to thank the County Commissioners for the sales tax money that has been set aside for aiding the hospital's betterment. Mr. Bair is anticipating necessary maintenance on several projects such as the deteriorated parking lot and single pane windows. The sales tax money will also help to update the lobby and check in area that no longer accommodates the current health care needs.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, & Dr. Whitmer, Health Officer, previously asked the Commissioners to leave the mask mandate in place for two more weeks. Dr. Whitmer wanted to see the effects the State of Texas would have from removing their mask mandate before making decisions in Ellsworth County. Dr. Whitmer said Texas is doing very well so the Health Advisors were not going to push leaving the mask mandate, however he still wanted to urge individuals to wear masks. Commissioner Bender visited several businesses throughout the County and the consensus was the businesses were okay if they took the mask mandate off or left it on. Commissioner Rolfs made the motion to rescind Resolution 2020R12, a resolution requiring masks or other face coverings within Ellsworth County. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bender made the motion to approve Resolution 2021R03 a resolution opting out of the Governor's executive order 20-68 requiring the wearing of masks. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve abatements 2020-78 for \$46.52. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Bender moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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