

## ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

### MINUTES

**March 28, 2022**

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

***Members Present:***

*Dennis Rolfs, 1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner*

*Gregory C. Bender, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner*

*Stephen S. Dlabal, Jr, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner*

### **OPENING BUSINESS:**

Chairman Bender called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Minutes of March 21, 2022. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the open forum.

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Dale Houston, Roberta Waymaster, Murray Marston, Carl Miller, Nathan Florian, Alex Winters, Teresa Shute, Sue Arensman and Paul Kasper** were in attendance to discuss the Leave Provisions for EMS shift workers to receive 12 hours sick a month, 12 hours vacation a month and 12 hours of personal leave annually, being proposed for the Ellsworth County Handbook. Mr. Miller asked the Commissioners to table the approval of the leave provisions. Ms. Arensman and Ms. Waymaster said they had to work for the County for 15 years before they earned 12 hours of vacation. Ms. Waymaster said she is very grateful for the County's benefits but would like to see longevity be recognized as well. Mr. Miller said when a department asks for certain provisions you create Department against Department. Ms. Waymaster asked if a handbook committee or team could revamp the handbook for the Commissioners to review and have in place for the beginning of next year. Ms. Waymaster said she appreciated the vital work the EMS employees do and would like to find an equitable solution for all the departments. Commissioner Bender said go out there and put something together with a committee to bring back to them. Mr. Kasper said this handbook was created with the traditional family, the meaning of family has changed, and we cannot cover every situation, supervisors should use some of their own discretion since they know their employees the best.

**Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor**, would like to paint and have new carpet installed in the office at the Road & Bridge department. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to accept the bid from

Wenz Interiors for \$7,603.50 to be paid out of the County building fund to pay for paint and new carpet. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Melinda Merrill, owner of Midland Hotel**, informed the Commissioners Wilson tourism received grant money to pay for half of the wages for an intern through Lead for America. The intern will start in August and the City of Wilson has agreed to pay half of the wages for the intern. The City of Wilson paid for a retail consultant to bring stores into empty buildings and hopefully bring in young families.

**Jim Kirkbride, ECMC (Ellsworth County Medical Center) CEO**, believes ECMC can support low end elective surgeries considering all the patients we send to Great Bend and Salina. Mr. Kirkbride said the Health Department will start April 4, 2022, as the infection prevention position at ECMC. The financials are in good shape overall.

At 10:40 a.m. a Zoom Meeting was held in the Downstairs Meeting Room with **Beth Tatarko, representing the Austin Peters Group**. Ms. Tatarko began with thanking all the Department Heads, Elected officials and the employees for all the information provided. The Austin Peters Group updated the job descriptions and provided the suggested minimum pay scales. Ms. Tatarko said we are very competitive with sick, and vacation pay and better than our peers for the first year of employment on our leave.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Bender moved to have Nathan contact contractors for repairs to the EMS building. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve Resolution 2022 R04, a resolution approving the execution of an agreement to release and assign the County's Opioid claims to the Kansas Attorney General. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to raise Ellsworth County's mileage rate compensation from \$0.50 to \$0.55 effective April 1, 2022. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Although no motion was made, Commissioners approved an additional 30 acres to the fence viewing approved last week.

Commissioners tabled the leave provisions for the Ellsworth County Handbook & Personnel Policy.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Bender adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

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Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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