

## ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

### MINUTES

**March 8, 2021**

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

***Members Present:***

*Dennis L. 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 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 Dlabal moved to approve the Minutes for March 1, 2021. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Ron Etchison, Holyrood Senior Center**, presented the 2022 budget request for \$11,500, the same as last year.

**Shawn Esterl, Environmental Services**, provided the 2020 year-end wastewater statistics. Mr. Esterl stated 2020 was a busy year. Ellsworth County had 22 septic systems for the year. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020, Mr. Esterl had to cover all three Counties by himself.

**Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Supervisor and Isaac Wright & Jon Halbgewachs, representing Kirkham Michael**, wanted to visit about the cost share program with the State of Kansas that could potentially pay for 60% of the river bridge south of Wilson City. The cost to the County (40%) is estimated at one million dollars. Commissioner Bender made a motion to authorize Kirkham Michael to proceed with the grant application for the KDOT Cost Share Program for the bridge South of Wilson City. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed, Landfill & Recycling Supervisor**, requested the Commissioners sign her year-end report.

**Lori Miller & Lori Likes, representing Freedom Claims Management Health Insurance**, explained how Ellsworth County could save money with their plan. The Commissioners said to get with the

County Clerk and get the information she need needed to work something up for them to look at the numbers.

**Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, and Dr. Ronald Whitmer, Ellsworth County**

**Health Officer**, met with the Commissioners to answer questions about the face mask mandate. Also in attendance were Shawn Nemnich, Chief Emil Halfhill, Carol & Scott Clemenson, Keith Haberer and Jeremiah Brown. Dr. Whitmer just lost a friend to COVID-19 and would really like to see them leave the mask mandate on for another two weeks. He believes masks really help decrease the spread of COVID-19. If the Commissioners remove the mask mandate, Dr. Whitmer is asking the public to continue wearing masks until more people are vaccinated. Mr. Nemnich, owner of the local True Value, reported that most people are not wearing the masks into the store. Commissioner Rolfs said one of the reasons he would like to see the mandate lifted is that it has caused a division and ill feelings among the public. Commissioner Bender said he would like to wait at least a week if not two. Commissioner Dlabal said he thinks another two weeks would be okay. With no official vote, it was decided to review the mask mandate in two weeks.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

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Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk