

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

May 16, 2022

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 16th day of May 2022 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 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 May 9, 2022. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Bob Fredrickson asked if we have heard from Nextlink Internet. Mr. Fredrickson thinks someone from the county should contact them. In the May 7th edition of the Salina Journal, it mentioned two companies that are bringing broadband into rural communities.

APPOINTMENTS:

Carl Miller, County Appraiser, will be certifying the 2022 values to the County Clerk today and then they will begin the 2023-year process. Mr. Miller will start physically inspecting 17% of the county which will include Valley Township, Sherman Township and Langley Township. Mr. Miller presented the 2023 budget request for \$179,370 an increase of \$4,020 or 2.3%.

Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director, delivered the 2023 budget request in the amount of \$75,000 an increase of \$5,500 or 7.9%. Some of Ms. Schmidt's current projects include working on the housing shortage and helping new businesses with their operations. Ms. Schmidt proudly announced that she was able to secure \$748,600 in 2021 to support Ellsworth County businesses with grants and small business loans.

Terry Kueser joined the meeting.

Blain Toman, who has provided janitorial work for Ellsworth County, explained to the Commissioners that he received a phone call from Alamo Specialties to assist with the installation of

three new water fountains at the Courthouse. Mr. Toman worked a week assisting Alamo with the water fountains and fixing leaking pipes. Mr. Toman is requesting the County pay the \$450 bill submitted for the extra work in assisting Alamo Specialties. No action was taken.

Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed, Landfill & Recycling Superintendent, requested a rate increase for spraying weeds on township roads. The current rate is \$10 a mile. To minimize the impact on the townships, the Commissioners agreed to \$20 a mile plus \$35 for two people this year and \$30 a mile plus \$35 for two people next year.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, presented two options for fixing the EMS building issues with water leaking into the building. To fix the problems it will cost \$87,000, but this is only a band aide for the problem and the same issues will resurface in 10 years. To re-skin (or seal) the entire building and fix the issue it will cost \$107,000. Mr. Florian said he will apply for a grant that would pay for 20% of this bill, but there is no guarantee Ellsworth County will be awarded the grant. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to approve Nathan Florian to go forward with re-skinning the building after he applies for the REAP grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director, informed the Commissioners that all the requirements have been met for the 2021 EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant). Ellsworth County will receive \$10,951 from the grant.

Murray Marston, Ellsworth County Sheriff, asked for a waiver from working 30 hours per week to be eligible for benefits. Sheriff Marston asked to change Ellsworth County Benefit booklet to say you must work an average of 30 hours per week. The Commissioners asked the County Clerk to speak with the County Counselor to reword the benefit guidebook.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cassidy Crites, representing Central Kansas Mental Health Care, read the proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Month.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve Abatement 2021-62 in the amount of \$327.72. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the estimate with Choitz Electric to install 6 new lights in the 4-H barn for \$1,300.90. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.