

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

May 23, 2022

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 23rd 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 16, 2022. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, informed the Commissioners that Ellsworth County does not qualify for the REAP grant because the county is a government entity. Mr. Florian asked if the county would still like to pursue with Richardson Brothers Construction to reskin the EMS building. The Commissioners concluded the EMS building must be fixed. Commissioner Bender made a motion to pay Richardson Brothers Construction \$26,919, the 25% down payment, to start the reskin at the EMS building to be paid out of the County Building Fund. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Glenna Phillips, Executive Director of Central Kansas Mental Health, presented the 2023 budget request for \$33,111, an increase of \$2,734 or 9%.

Jim Kirkbride, Ellsworth County Medical Center CEO, explained that the 2023 hospital budget was in its final stages of preparation. Charles Lewing, Executive Director of Finance, will present the preliminary budget to the hospital board for recommendations before final approval.

Pamela Hays & Troy Soukup, representing Ellsworth County Conservation District, presented the 2023 budget request for \$36,000, an increase of \$2,500 or 7.5%.

Allison Koch, representing H&B Communications, announced that their application for the grant from the Kansas Broadband Acceleration program was approved for \$300,407. Also in attendance was Stacie Schimdt, Ellsworth County Economic Development Director. Ms. Koch said with this grant, ARPA and H&B Communications the total contribution is \$600,814 to spend on expanding high-speed broadband access through a portion of Ellsworth County. Construction will begin this year and should finish late in 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

The tree removal decision was tabled until they could get a second bid.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender made a motion to appoint Rachel Barta the Ellsworth County Economic Development District 2 board position. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender made a motion to allow up to two employees to work on an average of 30 hours per week to qualify as full-time employees for the Sheriff's office. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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