

## ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

### MINUTES

**August 28, 2023**

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023 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 Bender 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 August 21, 2023. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Shawn Thomas** was in attendance but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Jim Kirkbride, Ellsworth County Medical Center, CEO**, informed the Commissioners that in July the hospital tripled their in-patient days and had two and half times as many swing bed days. Mr. Kirkbride said days with cash on hand fell to 21 days and he would like to be at 28 to 30 days. Mr. Kirkbride discussed building a surgical department that would cost twelve million to build and estimated it would bring in one million dollars of revenue a year. He wanted to know what the options were to borrow money with the county. **Paul Kasper, County Counselor**, asked will the bonds be in the County's name or the hospital's name. Mr. Kirkbride said his plan was for the operations to pay for the bonds.

**Murray Marston, Ellsworth County Sheriff**, informed the Commissioners that the air conditioning/heating units are expected to arrive in a couple of weeks, then it would take another couple of weeks to be installed.

Chairman Bender called the RNR hearing to order at 10:00 a.m. No one was in attendance to ask any questions about the RNR. Commissioner Bender made a motion to exceed the RNR of 56.693 to our projected rate of 58.981 to cover our budget. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Commissioner Rolfs, Commissioner Bender, and Commissioner Dlabal all voted yes to exceed the RNR. Commissioner Bender made a motion to adjourn the RNR hearing. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The budget hearing was opened at 10:13 a.m. No one was present for the budget hearing. Commissioner Bender made a motion to approve the 2024 budget. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Gavin Lusk, Leading Edge Technology Partners**, provided a quote for IT services for all county departments excluding the Sheriff's office. Mr. Lusk was under the impression that the Sheriff's office was not interested in changing providers. **Sheriff Marston** said he is willing to look at any proposals for IT solutions. Mr. Lusk said he would update his quote to include the Sheriff's office and EMS. Also included in the meeting was **Nathan Florian, EMS Director and Paul Kasper, County Counselor**.

**Justin Nash & Curtis Gregory, H&B Communications**, discussed their quote for managed IT. They would also be visiting with the Sheriff to discuss his needs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 Noon. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk