

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

December 13, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 13th day of December 2021 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse. Commissioner Bender was not in attendance.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Stephen S. Dlabal, Jr, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for December 6, 2021. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Bob Fredrickson wanted to follow up on looking for a county administrator for Ellsworth. Mr. Fredrickson contacted Representative Steve Johnson to ask if a County the size of Ellsworth needs an administrator. Mr. Johnson said that not many of his counties have administrators, but he feels it would be beneficial for counties going forward to have an administrator. The main problem is how to fund the cost of hiring an administrator. The cost of an administrator with salary and benefits would cost close to \$100,000 and the only way to get that money is to cut funding from already struggling senior centers, museums and other small county funded programs or raise taxes. Mr. Fredrickson believes if we had an administrator Ellsworth County could possibly get broadband into the rural areas bringing back alumni that could work from home resulting in Ellsworth County thriving. Mr. Fredrickson asked Mr. Johnson why AT&T is not doing anything for Broadband in Ellsworth County. "If the County had an administrator, this would be followed up on," Mr. Fredrickson said.

APPOINTMENTS:

Emily Benedick, representing NCRPC (North Central Regional Planning Commission), updated the Commissioners on the Ellsworth County Comprehensive Plan. Because the County of Ellsworth does not have a planning and zoning commission, this plan will only be a guide and information for the County. Keith Marvin has taken over Ellsworth County and the new completion date is February 1, 2022. After all revisions, the County will have the completed version by March 1, 2022. There will be one more public meeting to answer any questions from the public. Bob Fredrickson asked Ms. Benedick if this is a plan or a resource. "This will be a resource," Ms. Benedick replied.

Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director, asked the Commissioners to impose a burn ban for Ellsworth County. The national weather service forecasts 55 mph winds and it is dry in Ellsworth County. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021R14, a resolution declaring a state of emergency for a burn ban as of December 13, 2021, until rescinded. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to hereby appoint Keith Haberer to represent Ellsworth County on the North Central Regional Homeland Security Council for the 2022-2024 term. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve Abatements 2021 #21 through 24 for a total of \$3,090.03. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to adjourn at 10:54 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk