

## ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

### MINUTES

**February 21, 2023**

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 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 Rolfs moved to accept the agenda for February 21, 2023. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the minutes for February 13, 2023. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director**, presented the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge results. Ms. Schmidt reported the public turnout was excellent. Ms. Schmidt also informed the Commissioners that she submitted the Modern Income Housing grant on Friday.

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

Commissioner Dlabal joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. the review for ARPA Applications began with the following present; Doug Janssen, Stacie Schmidt, Jim Kirkbride, Katie Nelson, Sheriff Marston, and Jody Britt. The Commissioners allowed applicants; Mr. Janssen, Mr. Kirkbride and Sheriff Marston to give their statements on the need for ARPA funds. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion that the \$225,000 ARPA funds to help repay a portion of the Medicare prepayment to the hospital in the amount of \$200,000 and the sheriff for \$25,000 to pay for some of the radio replacement. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director, Chris Muse, Geneseo Fire Chief, and Ed Feil Rice County Fire Chief**, discussed Ellsworth County's current handling of Burn Bans. Also in attendance was Katie Nelson, Sheriff Marston, and Jody Britt. Ms. Nelson said the dispatchers

only document the information for controlled burns. Mr. Feil said Rice County does restrictions that are discussed between all the fire chiefs. Mr. Doubrava said it would be nice to have the flexibility for Ellsworth County Fire Chiefs to either put forth restrictions or loosen the restrictions based on moisture or the lack of moisture. Commissioner Bender believes if the Ellsworth County Fire Chiefs have good communications this would be a better solution. Ellsworth County Fire Chiefs will work on a solution like Rice County's burn restrictions.

**Shawn Estrel, Environmental Services,** reported his 2022 year-end report. Twenty-five percent of the wells inspected were not constructed to state standards. Mr. Estrel said this is due to wells completed prior to the state standards being updated.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve Abatements 2022, 59 & 60 in the amount of \$380.92. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

February 21, 2023