

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 30, 2023

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 30th day of January 2023 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 Rolfs moved to approve the minutes for January 23, 2023. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mary Ann Fredrickson asked the Commissioners if they had ever considered doing virtual meetings. Commissioner Bender said they have never talked about it.

Jody Britt asked if the Commissioners could lift the burn ban during the week or leave it up to the fire chief. Last week we had snow on the ground, but Ellsworth County had a burn ban in place, so they were unable to burn. The Commissioners said they can call a special meeting to lift a burn ban during the week. The Commissioners discussed appointing someone else such as Keith Haberer to make the decision. **Paul Kasper, County Attorney**, said it was statutorily the Commissioners job to put burn bans in effect. **Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director**, said with the burn permitting the Commissioners have in place they could ultimately leave it up to the fire chiefs and the sheriff's office. Commissioner Bender said, "we will look into it."

APPOINTMENTS:

Jim Kirkbride, Ellsworth County Medical Center CEO, requested to go into executive session to discuss confidential data for Ellsworth County Medical Center. Commissioner Rolfs moved to go into executive session with Jim Kirkbride, Stacie Schmidt, Clint Rogers, and Paul Kasper to discuss ARPA funds for confidential data from 9:17 a.m. to 9:32 a.m. Commissioner Bender

seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 9:32 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Stacie Schmidt, Economic Development Director, informed Commissioners the \$225,000 ARPA funds pledged to H&B Communications for broadband is being returned, because they were not a winner of the CPF funding. Commissioner Bender made a motion to reopen the ARPA fund applications with a deadline of February 17th. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the resolution continuing with Saline County to provide services for the Sanitary Code with the Tri-Rivers Local Environmental Grant Cooperative Agreement for \$12,500. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Paul Kasper, County Attorney, requested all 3 schools in Ellsworth County receive \$500 for after prom. Mr. Kasper said he puts more than enough in the general fund with the diversion program to cover this expense. Commissioner Bender moved to approve \$500 to Ellsworth, Central Plains and Wilson for after prom to be paid from the General Fund. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the 2022 Abatement #40 in the amount of \$586.16. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Bender adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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