

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

November 1, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 1st day of November 2021 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 Dlabal called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for October 25, 2021. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Dan Finnegan was present but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Carl Miller, Ellsworth County Appraiser, provided the updated NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Plan) that is being proposed. The current NRP expires December 31, 2021. Also in attendance was Anthony Hopkins, Stacie Schmidt, Brandon Koch, Mike Peschka, Rusty Varnado and Mark Kennedy. The only change requested is for all of Ellsworth County except for the City of Ellsworth. Plan B will be much more aggressive. Wilson City Mayor Mike Peschka said Wilson is competing with Russell County, Barton County and Ellsworth City. Ellsworth City Administrator Rusty Varnado said he is fine with leaving Ellsworth City's plan the same. Mr. Miller said the next step is for all entities to sign interlocal agreements and lastly sign a resolution. Mr. Miller requested that employees be given the Monday after Christmas. Mr. Miller said Ellsworth County has good employees and we are lucky because other Counties have employees who refuse to show up during this pandemic and Ellsworth County has remained open. No decision was made at this time.

Stacie Schmidt, Ellsworth County Economic Development Director, asked for the ARPA check to the senior center be approved. Commissioner Bender made a motion to approve the Ellsworth Senior Center for the ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,348. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Ms. Schmidt informed the Commissioners that she researched the

eligibility requirements for a new daycare facility with ARPA funds in Wilson City that was requested at the October 25, 2021, meeting. A brand-new infrastructure is not an eligible expense for ARPA funding.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, requested that the bill from Crome Construction be paid for out of the County Building fund. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to pay \$2,400 out of the County Building fund for the paneling to cover the wall at the EMS building. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Craig Dinkel, Midway Extension, informed the Commissioners that there are two large holes that hold water and two tree stumps in the back parking lot, and he wanted to know if the County would take care of these issues. The Commissioners asked if the County Clerk would contact the Road & Bridge for the holes in parking lot and see if Fox Landscaping could remove the stumps when they come here in November. She said she would contact Road & Bridge and see if Fox Landscaping would be willing to remove the two stumps.

Telephone Conference with **Jim Carlson & Tracey Barton, representing Kansas Natural Resources Coalition (KNRC)**, began at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Bender asked, "what does Ellsworth County get for the \$5,000 membership dues?" KNRC monitors Federal legislation and policies that may have a footprint on the County. KNRC monitors the Federal policies coming out and removes the uncertainty of what can be done and how to deal with policies that do not favor our County. There are 22 Counties active in the KNRC. Mr. Carlson said landowners are very supportive of their mission. Commissioner Bender would like to do some more research before he can be in favor of the membership dues. The decision was tabled.

Shawn Estrel, Saline County Environmental Sanitation, reported on the first 3 quarters for year 2021. In Ellsworth County there were 72 hours in the 1st quarter, 137 hours in the 2nd Quarter and 94.5 hours in the 3rd quarter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve October payroll in the amount of \$246,125.29. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the October accounts payable for \$141,809.53 plus prewritten warrants for \$650.00 for a total of \$142,809.53. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 12:00 Noon

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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