

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

November 15, 2021

CANVASS OF BALLOTS

Chairman Dlabal called the Board of Canvassers to order at 8:00 a.m. to canvass the ballots from the November 2, 2021, City School General Election. Included in the canvass was Commissioners Greg Bender, Dennis Rolfs, Stephen Dlabal, Jr. and the County Clerk, Shelly Vopat. Through the write-in process, Kenny Gieselman & Pat Siemsen were elected City of Holyrood Councilmember, Tom Wilkinson City of Kanopolis Councilmember, Jim Zvolanek & Tom Wilkinson City of Kanopolis unexpired Councilmember, Brian Rush USD 327 District 3, Position 3, Jacob Svaty USD 327 District 3 Position 6 and Gunnar Hays & Julie Nienke Midway Extension Board Member. There were 6 Provisional ballots. The Commissioners, as recommended by election standards, elected to count five of them. After counting the Provisional Ballots, the totals were adjusted.

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 15th 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 with the addition of Nathan Florian at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for November 8, 2021. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Shelly Vopat, County Clerk, informed the Commissioners Janet Smith had wanted to replace the gate at Avenue E and 18th road. She was told an open road cannot have a gate even it only leads to her pasture because it would block access to the two current pasture owners on both sides of Avenue E.

APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel's leave time with **Nathan Florian, EMS Director**, and Shelly Vopat, County Clerk from 10:03 a.m. to 10:13 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:13 the Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Bender made a motion to look at funeral leave on a case-by-case basis

at this time. The Commissioners will grant a day this week for an employee at EMS. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jeremy Gilson, representing Gallagher, explained that Ellsworth County had a 3.41% increase with BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas (BCBS), so he negotiated a rate of 0.09%. Lori Miller, Freedom Claims, was also in attendance. This negotiated rate will save the County about \$105,000. The Commissioners are going to hold off on making their decision until they receive the surveys back from employees and make a vote to either stay with Gallagher or move to Freedom Claims.

A Department Head Meeting was held with the following present: Teresa Shute, Sue Arensman, Nancy Hysong, Nathan Florian, Geneva Schneider, Dale Houston, Paul Kasper, Kerianne Ehrlich and Shelly Vopat. Commissioner Bender discussed the importance of cyber security and wanted to know if all the departments felt covered because it is not a matter of if we will be attacked, but when. Everyone feels as comfortable as they can with firewalls and the antivirus on their individual computers. Mr. Florian has been discussing with the County Clerk's office the issue of when Holidays fall on the weekend and Holiday pay is designated to the Friday or Monday. This creates a problem for him to find part-time employees to work holidays on the weekends without the holiday pay. The handbook will be changed to say everyone who works on the actual holiday will be paid holiday pay for their hours worked. All employees who do not work on the actual holiday will be paid 8 hours according to the Holiday schedule.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

November 15, 2021