

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

October 24, 2022

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 24th day of October 2022 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 Bender moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Rolfs joined the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2022. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Terry Kueser asked the Commissioners if Dale Houston has talked about working on the low water crossing near his home. The Commissioners told Mr. Kueser that Mr. Houston would be in later for an appointment and they would address this issue at that time.

APPOINTMENTS:

Stacie Schmidt, Curtis Glaser, Justin Lindsley & Jon Halbgewachs, representing Ellsworth County Economic Development, and Colby Richard, representing Chamber of Commerce, discussed the possible merger of the two organizations. Mr. Richard said Tami McGreevy would like to semi-retire from the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce reached out to the Economic Development to see if a merger would solve the need for an assistant for Economic Development. Commissioner Bender made a motion to approve an additional employee for Economic Development for the new position. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Superintendent, was asked to maintain the road that leads into Yankee Run more often. Mr. Houston said that road was in bad shape, and he would talk to the road maintainer about working on the road. Terry Kueser asked for the low water crossing to either be fixed or the road needed to be closed. Mr. Houston said he looked at the low water crossing, and it just needs to be ripped out and redone.

At 10:00 a.m. the telephone conference with the Lincoln County Commissioners began. They discussed whether to sign the agreement prepared by both the County Appraisers. The Lincoln County Commissioners were discussing if it was not a good business practice to sign before the other party had a chance to review it. The Lincoln County Commissioners determined to send the agreement unsigned. If Pattern did not reach out to both Counties, then they could determine whether to sign the agreement and mail with the invoice at the end of November.

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for disciplinary reasons with **Nathan Florian, EMS Director**, and Julie Neuman from 10:22 a.m. to 10:37 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:37 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for disciplinary reasons with Nathan Florian, EMS Director, and Julie Neuman from 10:38 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:45 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director, & Andrew Van Der Wege, Russell County Undersheriff, informed the Commissioners that Russell County Emergency Management is now under the Russell County Sheriff's Office. Ellsworth County currently has a contract with Russell County to share the Emergency Management Director. Russell County Sheriff's Office is honoring the contract that will expire May of 2024. Commissioner Bender asked what prompted this change. Mr. Van Der Wege said that question would need to be addressed to the Russell County Commissioners. If they had any other concerns, please contact the Russell County Sheriff.

Murray Marston, Ellsworth County Sheriff, explained they are having a tempering valve that is creating an issue with getting hot water to all the jail cells. Sheriff Marston said he had no idea the best option for the valve and how much it will cost.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioners tabled the discussion of changing the private bathroom next to the Register of Deeds office into storage until permission is given from the Historical Society and the plumber gets back to us with a proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to purchase the same size ad as last year in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter Thanksgiving edition for \$198.95. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 Noon. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

October 24, 2022