

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

May 22, 2023

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 22nd day of May 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 Bender moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the minutes for May 15, 2023. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

A Department Head Meeting was held with the following present: Sue Arensman, Carl Miller, Nathan Florian, Geneva Schneider, Teresa Shute, Keith Haberer, Dale Houston, Paul Kasper, Kerianne Ehrlich, Murray Marston, and Shelly Vopat. Department Heads were told to plan for a 3% wage increase for 2024. Sheriff Marston has an estimate from Waterworks to install air conditioners for \$8700 each. Commissioner Bender said to try and replace one air conditioner and see if it works. The Commissioners agreed that the \$8,700 could come from the building fund.

Jim Kirkbride, Ellsworth County Medical Center CEO, joined the meeting remotely. Mr. Kirkbride explained that gross revenue, deductibles, and net revenue are on budget. The operating expenses are the only issue in the budget at -\$153,079. The finance team will be working the operating expenses to make next year's budget more accurate.

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Superintendent, informed the Commissioners he has two employees quitting at the end of May and has one new employee starting in June.

Glenna Phillips, Executive Director of Central Kansas Mental Health, presented the 2024 budget request for \$34,643 an increase of \$2,266 or 7%.

Theresa Richards and Mike Slehta, representing the Ellsworth Senior Center, presented the 2024 budget request for \$54,000 an increase of \$8,000 or 17.4%. Ms. Richards said they have had an increase in meals served due to a new cook, so they have added the position of assistant cook. Ms. Richards asked the Commissioners to consider funding the health insurance for the center manager in 2024.

Steve Johnson, Lundy Settle, and Heather Schlochtermeyer, representing the 20th Judicial Court District, presented the 2024 budget request for \$104,980. No increase from 2023.

Geneva Schneider, Ellsworth County Treasurer, informed the Commissioners that she is getting two new desks. Ms. Schneider said she had the budget for the new desks but if any electrical work needs to be done, she may be back to request monies from the building fund.

Carl Miller, Ellsworth County Appraiser, presented the 2024 budget request for \$185,240, an increase of \$6,240 or 3.5%. **Paul Kasper, County Attorney**, also was in attendance to discuss the contract with Pattern Energy for the Post Rock Windfarm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk