

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 15, 2024

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 15th day of April 2024 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Gregory C. Bender, 2nd District Commissioner

Shawn Thomas, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the minutes for April 8th as printed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Joe Gerace, owner of the (previously) Lorraine Bank, asked if Ellsworth County has considered becoming a sanctuary county for the 2nd amendment. The County Counselor believed this is a conversation that they should have with the Sheriff.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Superintendent and Jon Halbgewachs, representing Kirkham Michael, informed the Commissioners that bridge 308 on Ave J built in 1975 buckled and needs to be replaced. Mr. Halbgewachs said if selected, KDOT (Kansas Department of Transportation) would pay for 95% of construction. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow Kirkham Michael to design bridge 308 on Ave J at a cost of \$59,000 with KDOT paying for 95% of construction. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve signage project at a cost of \$66,180.32 to be reimbursed by KDOT. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Cortny Hutchison and Emily Ahlvers, representing Bukaty Companies, have been partnering with counties and cities to be brokers in the Midwest. Every year Bukaty gets the pricing from all 3 of the major carriers. The Commissioners agreed to receive a free analysis of the counties current situation.

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, performed the EMS shift supervising testing and Alex Winters was awarded the new shift supervisor position. Shawn Shipley is moving from part-time to full-time in May. Mr. Florian is excited to have him come on as a full-time employee but will miss him as a part-time employee because of the hours Mr. Shipley worked for EMS. On April 24th the EMS is hosting the Youth Academy.

Murray Marston and Katie Nelson, representing the Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office, asked the Commissioners to approve the proclamation for dispatchers who are often missed for being recognized as a first responder. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to recognize the proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week for April 14th through the 20th in Ellsworth County. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve Resolution 2024R04, a resolution to cancel certain county warrants with a period of more than two years has elapsed since signing of such warrants. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Thomas left the commission meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bender moved to allow Shelly Vopat to apply for the Water Technical Assistance Grant for populations under 500 people. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve abatements 2023-86 and 87 for a total of \$138.78. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn at 11:34 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk