

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 22, 2024

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 22nd 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 for April 22nd with the addition of a discussion on Avenue R and 21st Road. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the minutes from April 15th meeting. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Jim Kirkbride, Ellsworth County Medical Center, CEO, said the hospital had another good gross month in finances; however, the budget is off two million in employee benefits. Employee benefits are higher than expected due to increased employee HRA claims. Also, key employees are on leave causing staff shortages being filled by agency nurses and doctors.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, requested money from the expanded infrastructure grant. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow the Ellsworth County Health Department to proceed with purchase from INA Alert for security doors from ELCEI grant for a total of \$26,296.62. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bender made a motion to allow the Health Department to pay \$26,296.62 out of the Health Capital Outlay Fund to pay INA Alert and be reimbursed by the ELCEI grant. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow Kerianne Ehrlich to apply for the CLPPP grant to purchase a lead testing machine for \$3,180. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron Etchison & Garry Wilkens, representing the Holyrood Senior Center, presented the 2025 budget request for \$15,000, an increase of \$1,000 or 7.1%.

Alma Deutsch, Jamie Reed, and Julie Phillips, representing Ellsworth County Council on Aging, presented the 2025 budget request for \$32,800, an increase of \$1,200 or 3.7%. Ms. Deutsch wanted the Commissioners to know they were trying to come up with \$20,000 for a new van.

Kirby Fox representing LockIT Technologies, joined the meeting via phone call to discuss the email accounts being used for Ellsworth County and Microsoft 365 Government Licensing. Mr. Fox said several Departments are using generic emails and 15 email accounts are set up through GoDaddy. Mr. Kirby supplied a quote that includes the emails for ellsworthcounty.org and ewclerk.com. The Commissioners decided to meet with the Department Heads and have Mr. Fox explain this before deciding on the quote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve abatement 2023-88 for \$12.52. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Commissioners asked Shelly Vopat to have the Goldberg Group Architects look at the Mid-Continental Restoration bid and said they were holding off on the Glassman Corporation Bid for now.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Thomas said the sewer back up in the courthouse was fixed around 5:00 p.m. on Friday. He apologized on behalf of Ellsworth County for any inconveniences from closing the courthouse at 3:00 p.m.

A landowner contacted Commissioner Thomas to look at the culverts on Avenue R just north of the 21st road. Commissioner Thomas asked the County Clerk to forward the picture of the culverts to Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Superintendent to be fixed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn at 11:42 a.m. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk