

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 29, 2024

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 29th 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 29th as printed. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes from April 22, 2024. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Peyton Tenbrink, Ellsworth Jr./Sr. High School Student, was in attendance but did not wish to speak with the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Clint Laflin, Jessica Kootz, Craig Dinkel, and Karrie Van Winkle, representing K-State Midway Extension District, provided an update for their current projects. The Ellsworth County Fair will be July 19 through July 25 this year. Mr. Laflin said there will be a strong beef showing this year. Mr. Dinkel said the wheat looked promising this year but has diminished in the last couple of months. Ms. Kootz said the Simple Produce has been a wonderful program to provide people with fresh fruits and vegetables. Ms. Van Winkle said there are 120-youth enrolled for the County Fair as of today.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, requested to purchase a new server from LockIT Technologies. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow the Health Department to purchase a new server from LockIT not to exceed \$7,517.59 to paid with the ELCEI grant. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Hannah Bett, Saline Deputy County Administrator, wants to raise the fee for Environmental Services. Ellsworth County pays Saline County \$12,500 a year to maintain Ellsworth County's Sanitary Code. Commissioner Thomas said he would like to see how the cost is broken down for the County currently before making any comments on raising the fee. Ms. Bett said she would

come up with the hours, mileage, and direct expenses for Ellsworth County and provide them to the County Clerk.

Lori Miller and Julie Yarmer, representing Freedom Claims Management Inc., reviewed Ellsworth County's savings for the first quarter on the employee medical plan. Prescription claims were \$16,000 in 2023 in the first quarter, and they are \$1,631.79 for this quarter leaving the savings 20% better than projected for the year. Commissioner Thomas asked when we could get the new rates for 2025. Ms. Miller said she would ask to receive them at the end of August. Ms. Yarmer said there is a brokerage firm going around to the 26 counties she works for and comparing themselves to Freedom Claims. The brokerage firm is not showing the fee for claims, and this is like comparing apples to oranges.

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Superintendent, was asked how much it would cost to put in a culvert by the historic bridge just outside of the City of Wilson. Mr. Houston said it would take two culverts and cost around \$30,000. Mr. Houston said his traffic counter only had 12 crossings in 4 days. The commissioners said they would think about the culverts. Mr. Houston said he would talk to the Robinsons about putting a crossing on their property.

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session with **Shelly Vopat and Paul Kasper** to discuss non-elected personnel benefit from 11:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 11:30 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Carl Miller, Ellsworth County Appraiser, presented his 2025 budget request for \$201,310, an increase of \$16,940 or 9.2%. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to go into executive session with Carl Miller and Shelly Vopat from 11:37 a.m. to 11:42 a.m. to discuss a non-elected personnel contract of County Appraiser. At 11:42 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve abatements 2023-90 and 91 for a total of \$83.46. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to proclaim June 10-16, 2024, as Men's Health Week in Ellsworth County, Kansas. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn at 12:16 p.m. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk