

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 16, 2024

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 16th day of January 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:

Chairman Bender called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the minutes for December 27, 2023, January 2, 2024, and January 8, 2024. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Elizabeth George updated the Commissioners on the issues with the automatic locks. Ms. George said INA fixed the problem and she insured the Commissioners the County will not have to pay a bill for this.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel wages from 9:13 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 9:25 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Dale Houston, Ellsworth County Road & Bridge Superintendent, presented merit increases for the Road & Bridge employees. The Commissioners said they are looking at 75 to 80% of the merit increase from what Dale Houston requested. They will make the adjustments and send them back for approval.

Nathan Florian, Ellsworth County EMS Director, informed the Commissioners that the EMS building lost power Monday night and the backup generator only lasted a couple of hours. EMS

was able to borrow the Homeland Security generator until the EMS generator is fixed. Mr. Florian had a 12-year-old computer crash. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow Nathan Florian to purchase a new computer not to exceed \$1,800 out of the EMS capitol outlay fund based on LockIT's recommendation. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel employment status with Nathan Florian from 10:13 a.m. to 10:23 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:23 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Bender made a motion to approve an increase in wages for the EMS Director position of \$31.25 an hour effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Marty Sneath, Post Rock Wind Farm, did not show up for the 11:00 a.m. appointment. Commissioner Rolfs asked if Mr. Sneath could write down the answers to the Commissioner's questions because they do not necessarily need to see him.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve abatements 2023 – 54 through 57 and 59 for a total of \$979.80. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Thomas left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk