

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 8, 2024

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 8th 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 with no further additions. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Thomas moved to table the approval of the minutes for January 2, 2024. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Angie White, DVAC Victim Advocate, presented two proclamations. The first was for National Slavery/Human Trafficking Prevention. And the second was for the National Stalking Proclamation. After reading each she asked the Commissioners to sign them. Commissioner Bender made a motion to proclaim January as National Slavery/Human Trafficking Month. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bender made a motion to proclaim January as National Stalking Month. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Carl Miller, Ellsworth County Appraiser, came in to discuss the 2024 Ag Use Value and the 2024 Final Review-CBN. He told the Commissioners that valuation mailings must be mailed by March 1st. There are 30 days given to appeal and then the values will be certified in the County Clerks office by March 31st. A motion to go into executive session to discuss Non-Elected Personnel Salary Discussion from 9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. was made by Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The meeting resumed at 9:50 with no action taken.

Nathan Florian, Ellsworth County EMS Director, met with the Commissioners to give his Year End Review. He provided a detailed breakdown of his budget. All in all, he said they came in under budget. Mr. Florian also needed to discuss the state of the roof and what needs to happen to get it fixed. He contacted High Plains roofing, unfortunately, due to other repairs done to the building, the warranty was voided. It will cost \$10,460.00 to fix the EMS roof and renew the warranty for future issues. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve payment of \$10,460.00 to repair the roof to be paid

out of the County Building Fund. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Lastly, Mr. Florian said that the Fire House Subs Grant is open and asked the Commissioners for a letter of support. All three Commissioners signed the letter.

Marty Sneath, Post Rock Wind Farm, didn't show up for his appointment. Commissioners need an update from him on the Turbine teardown/crane and road closure. Ms. George will contact Mr. Sneath to see if he can make it to the next meeting, Jan. 16th, 2024, to give an update.

Sheriff Marston, Jaime Montoy, Mariana Kinnard & Katie Nelson, Ellsworth County Sheriffs Office, came in to share their concerns with the Commissioners about the County insurance. They were concerned that Aetna insurance was not active yet. Commissioner Thomas said that he would reach out to Lori Miller, FCMI, to try to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

Dale Houston, Ellsworth County Road & Bridge Superintendent, came in to give an update on the Bridge project. He said the project is about 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Commissioner Bender made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Non-Elected Personnel for Wages from 11:33 a.m. to 11:53 am. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The meeting resumed at 11:53 a.m. with no action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commissioners requested Ms. George to reach out to Kirk Robson to see if he would be able to fix the granite issue on the front of the courthouse. Ms. George called Mr. Robson and he showed up about 5 minutes later to look at the situation. He will speak with Ralph Doubrava and let us know what, if anything, they will be able to do to help.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve abatements 2023 – 53 for a total of \$12.00. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs left the meeting at about 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Thomas moved to adjourn the January 8th meeting at 1:09 p.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk