

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

March 11, 2024

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 11th day of March 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 the addition of Dale Houston at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes for March 4, 2024, as printed. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Stacie Schmidt, Ellsworth County Economic Development Director, invited the Commissioners to the March 27, 2024, annual meeting. Marci Penner, founder of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, will be the keynote speaker. Ellsworth County, Lincoln County and the community of Lucas will host the Kansas Big Road Trip in May 2024.

Brad Homman, Goldberg Group Architects, asked if the Commissioners had any other questions for him about the Sheriff and Courthouse project. The Commissioners said they did not have any questions at this time.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Superintendent, told the Commissioners and **Paul Kasper, County Attorney**, a historic bridge outside of the City of Wilson was unsafe to travel on and the cost to repair the bridge to historic code would be around \$280,000. Commissioner Bender made a motion to temporarily close bridge #13 on 16th Street out of Wilson due to safety concerns. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow Dale Houston to purchase the 2021 772 GP motor grader for \$350,000 with the intent to sell the 770 G once the 772 GP is available in October to be paid out

of the Road & Bridge Equipment fund. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to go into executive session with **Keith Haberer, Ellsworth County Emergency Management Director**, to discuss non-elected personnel contract from 10:23 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:45 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to go into executive session with Keith Haberer to discuss non-elected personnel contract from 10:45 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:55 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve payment for KCCA dues in the amount of \$365.16. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve abatements 2023 - 78 and 79 for \$254.82. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn at 11:08 a.m. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk