

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

March 4, 2024

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 4th 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 March 4, 2024, agenda with the addition of the discussion of the hospital board meetings at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the minutes for February 26, 2024, as written. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Nathan Florian, EMS Director, informed the Commissioners that the EMS department passed the State Board inspection. Mr. Florian was proud to say they had no issues on the inspection. Mr. Florian requested permission to apply for the AFG grant to fund all but \$2,500 of a Polaris UTV. Mr. Florian said EMS could use the Memorial fund for the cost share of \$2,500. The Commissioners granted the EMS permission to apply for the grant. Mr. Florian asked if he could be reimbursed for the difference in cost for internet on his personal phone instead of getting a county issued cell phone. Commissioner Bender made a motion to allow Nathan to run a hot spot through his personal phone for State Board Meetings, paid for by the County, not to exceed \$16.50 a month. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Florian invited the Commissioners to attend the Ellsworth County Safety Program for 6th graders on April 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. hosted by the Ellsworth County EMS.

Shawn Harding and Adam Kuehl, representing HMN Architects, will evaluate the entire building if hired and then assess between new buildings or remodeling. Commissioner Thomas said we have a solid courthouse but we need to have renovations. Mr. Harding said their fee would be between \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Commissioner Rolfs left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Jeff Lane and Andy Pitts, representing Treanor Architects, said their goal is to find solutions that work for the county and work with the money the county has to spend. Mr. Lane said they will evaluate what the current facility and find the right solution. Treanor will help us with tax credits to offset some of the cost. Mr. Lane said their fee would be \$20,000 to \$25,000 for just the jail.

Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, informed the Commissioners that CB Trucking, who takes Ellsworth County's recycling, has shut down due to lack of employees. Ellsworth County recycling will tentatively re-open June 1, 2024. Citizens can take their recycling to Great Bend or Salina.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bender moved to approve Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses 2024-3 for Hart Marina LLC in original and unopened containers and 2024-4 for Hart Marina LLC for consumption on premises. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve abatements 2023 - 75 and 77 for a total of \$538.02. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve added tax 2023 - 76 in the amount of \$241.34. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the February accounts payable for \$878,026.31 plus prewritten warrants of \$11,490.54 for a total of \$889,516.85. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the February payroll in the amount of \$275,206.22. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

The Commissioners do not feel they can force the Hospital Board to change their meeting process because of HIPPA and non-elected employees. Commissioner Thomas will ask Jim Kirkbride, CEO, if they can make a small space for a public forum but understands this could have implications.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Thomas moved to adjourn at 12:26 p.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk