

## ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

### MINUTES

**May 13, 2024**

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

***Members Present:***

*Dennis L. Rolfs, 1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner*

*Gregory C. Bender, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner*

*Shawn Thomas, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner*

### **OPENING BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> agenda. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the May 6<sup>th</sup> minutes as printed. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No one was present for the public forum.

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Judge Hipp, Lundy Settle, Kristy Battershell, and Heather Schlochtermeyer, representing the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court District,** presented the 2025 budget request for \$104,980. No increase from 2024.

**Pamela Hays, Troy Soukup, Phil Chegwidan, and Jack Janssen, representing the Ellsworth County Conservation District,** requested \$37,500 for the 2025 budget request, an increase of \$1,192 or 3.3%.

**Dale Houston, Road & Bridge Superintendent,** presented an application from Dalton Pruitt. The Commissioners said they did not see a problem with hiring Dalton Pruitt as long as he does not work with his Dad. Mr. Houston said the pipeline is closing 16<sup>th</sup> Road bridge, commonly known as Rice Bridge, for four to five days beginning today.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to go into executive session with Paul Kasper for attorney client privilege for statutory questions for county administrator and emergency management from 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 9:40 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

The Commissioners asked **Kerianne Ehrlich, Nathan Florian, and Murray Marston** to openly discuss the current structure of the part-time emergency management position. Ms. Ehrlich said while the assistance with resources and the knowledge she has received has been invaluable, she feels the LEPC (Local Emergency Preparedness Committee) is only checking the boxes. Ms. Ehrlich said that in other counties the emergency manager is in charge of the LEPC whereas Ellsworth County has a chairperson. If Ellsworth County had a full-time emergency manager, we could have more productive LEPC meetings and be more prepared. Mr. Florian agreed with Ms. Ehrlich and said sharing this position is hampering Ellsworth County. Sheriff Marston said having that one person that has the training and knowledge is invaluable. Ms. Ehrlich said she feels like the hospital is missing from this conversation because she feels as though they are also just checking the boxes for emergency management.

**Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director**, presented her renewal of understanding between Saline County and Ellsworth County to provide a dietician for the WIC (Women Infant Children) program. Saline County provides 16 hours currently at no charge to Ellsworth County.

**Sue Arensman, Register of Deeds**, presented the 2025 budget for \$127,336.80, an increase of \$11,797 or 10.2%.

**Marie Ranker** said the Appraiser's office needs a new vehicle and the EMS Department has a 2008 Expedition they will give the appraisers. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow EMS to transfer the 2008 Expedition to the Appraisers office with no funds exchanged and sale the of Blazer to go to the County General Equipment Fund. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Commissioners asked to have an appointment with Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed Superintendent, to discuss the policy for past due amounts.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn at 12:03 p.m. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk