

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

July 8, 2019

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 8th day of July 2019 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Kermit Rush, 2nd District Commissioner

Stephen S. Dlabal, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Dlabal moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Rush seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rush moved to approve the Minutes for July 1, 2019. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Billy Kryger was in attendance but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Jeremiah Brown, EMS Director, requested approval for an EIG grant. Chairman Dlabal signed the grant for Mr. Brown.

Commissioner Rush made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a non-elected personnel's salary with **Dale Houston, representing the Road & Bridge**, from 9:17 a.m. to 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioners returned to open session at 9:35 a.m. and Commissioner Rush made a motion to appoint Dale Houston as the Road & Bridge Superintendent, effective August 1, 2019. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Brendon Giesick, Client Manager for Gilmore Strategic Technology Solutions, explained the services Gilmore provides to their clients, such as internet security with firewalls and access points. We have a contract with H&B Communications that sounds similar to the offer from Gilmore, so the Commissioners were not interested in the service.

Murray Marston, Sheriff, requested \$1,492,195 for the Sheriff's 2020 budget, an increase of \$192,195.

Sue Schlegel & Michael J Fox, representing the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway, wanted the Commissioners to consider a budget request for the scenic byway, because the taxpayers of Ellsworth County are saving \$526,000. When the County Clerk asked Ms. Schlegel "How did you figure the savings to taxpayers?". Ms. Schlegel said, according to the "Power of Travel Kansas 2018" brochure, tourism saves each household \$545. She took the 717 households along the byway times \$545 to come up with the \$526,000 figure. The Kansas Official Travel guide and Travel Kansas brochure cost about \$3,000 to \$4,000 and Ellsworth County Businesses do not advertise in the brochures like McPherson County Businesses, so we are not represented. They would like the Commissioners consideration to budget a percentage of the brochures cost. (Disclaimer: I did the math for the savings and I realize it does not equal \$526,000. This is the information I was given.)

Andrew Alexander, Attorney for Cheryl Dirks, attending by teleconference, **Shawn Esterl, Saline County Sanitation**, and **Paul Kasper, County Attorney**, discussed the permit needed regarding the variance approved on January 22, 2019. Commissioner Rush moved to approve the permit pursuant to the variance approved at the January 22nd Commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Rolfs second the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rush informed **Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Supervisor**, that they approved the Health Department opening at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays as stated in the June 24th meeting, but the two employees that open early will leave at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays so as not to result in overtime. The Health Department will not close at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays as previously stated.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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