

January 3, 2022

Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Commissioner Thurlow were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Board to give a report on the Medical Center. Mr. Gillard reported that they have been very busy in the Emergency Room with COVID patients. They currently have 14 patients and of those there are 5 that are COVID. They continue to have difficulties on finding hospitals that are willing to take transfers because of the staffing issues in the larger hospitals. Over the past weekend the Covid testing had a positivity rate of 35%. This is a lot higher than it has been. The Clinics in Riley, Clyde, and Glasco are doing well and continue to a gradual increase in clients.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. The Chairman signed two Settlement Participation Forms pertaining to the Distributor Settlement and the Janssen Settlement with Clay County joining the Kansas Fights Addiction Act allowing municipalities to access the opioid litigation settlement funds.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper asked to go into Executive Session for 15 minutes. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 15 minutes beginning at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow, Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is employee performance. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Regular meeting reconvened at 9:15 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Mr. Shomper stated that it has been discovered that the Assistant Highway Administrator salary has been set at the years of service in the position and he is requesting that it be set at the years of service with the County like all other employees are. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to change the Assistant Highway Administrator to the salary with years of service with the County. Also the Board approved the change of the title on the Wage Scale from Head Mechanic to Mechanic Foreman. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Last week the Department bladed roads, hauled rock on Limestone Rd. between 14<sup>th</sup> Rd & 16<sup>th</sup> Rd. to change a dirt road to a rock road for a new dwelling to be built, removed trees and brush from under bridges, and they expect to have the tree saw out for use next week.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department ended the 2021 year with 942 emergency runs and transfers. The new recliners have been ordered, but they are saying that it will be 14 weeks before delivery. They will start to work on the KDEM license renewal that will be due in March.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Kemp stated that she had finished the estimated damage assessment and impact statement for the FEMA Declaration on the wind storm and sent it to KDEM on Thursday. Ms. Kemp stated that she did not have an updated report on the COVID-19 pandemic but knows that the Emergency Room was really busy over the Holiday weekend. Also, CDC has announced a shortened COVID-19 quarantine period and KDHE has adopted CDC's guidance with modifications. There are two different guidelines, one for the General Population and one for the Health Care Workers in Hospital setting.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that the new window in the lobby will be installed this week. Staffing has been an issue with having a vacant Corrections Officer position and employees being off for several other reasons.

The Board approved a fee to be paid in the amount of \$2027 to bring in an expert witness on an upcoming court hearing.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve and sign the contracts in the amount of \$1,380 monthly for Michael P. Hinkin, Jennifer L. Dahlstrom, Joshua K. Douglass and Charles Lindberg to serve as the Indigent Attorney's for Clay County, Kansas. This contract will be for a period of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 thru December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to pay the annual membership to Kansas Association of Counties in the amount of \$2,805.12. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-01 setting the salaries for the Clay County Elected Officials for the 2022 year. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-2 authorizing the participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program for calendar year 2022. Clay County will allocate \$4,500 per year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to a qualified individual. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve the 2021 Departmental Inventory for Clay County. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved a fund transfer from the General Fund (014-008) to the General Equipment Fund (045) to balance out funds that have purchased equipment in previous years.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to approve and sign the Clay County Wage Scale for the 2022 year. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Abatement 2021A19 in the amount of \$19.78 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

A letter of support for the Tourism Marketing grant was signed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

The Board adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
January 10, 2022  
Clay Center, Kansas

