

January 18, 2022

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

The 2021 NRP first half of tax refunds in the amount of \$128,313.82 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to pay the annual membership dues to North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) in the amount of \$3,500 for the year 2022. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to re-appoint Kyle C. Bauer and Steven C. McMahan to the Non-Lawyer Members of the Judicial Nominating Committee. This is a 4-year term beginning March 7, 2022 to March 2, 2026. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper reported that he filled the Operator 2 vacant position last week. This person has some experience and his CDL. Last week the Department graded roads, removed trees from under bridges, trimmed trees, removed trees in three locations, and hauled materials that APAC donated to the County from the plant site in the southern part of the County. Commissioner Carlson asked Mr. Shomper if he had driven the County roads on Friday night. Mr. Shomper stated that he was out on the roads and did not feel that they were in need of calling the road crews out until Saturday morning. Commissioner Carlson also asked what the status was on moving to the County. Mr. Shomper stated that he has access to the house he has purchased and will be moved in February. Commissioner Carlson stated that he needs to get moved to the County so that when a winter storm hits, he knows how the roads are and if the crews need to be called out. This needs to happen now. The CDL that Mr. Shomper stated he would get was discussed.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, and Diedra Stout, Assistant Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department has been very busy and is averaging 4.5 emergency runs per day. CCMC is having issues with finding hospitals that will accept a patient because of the staff shortage in the medical field. Mr. Cramer explained to the Board that Ms. Stout was present to request sick leave hours from the County Sick Leave Pool. After reviewing the issue, Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to donate 90 hours of sick leave from the County Pool to Ms. Stout. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This will be re-accessed after February 2, 2022.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that as of last Friday there were 141 positive cases in Clay County. KDHE has announced that as of February 1, 2022 they will discontinue the COVID-19 contract outreach and monitoring, otherwise know as contact tracing. Janet Stanke, KDHE Acting Secretary, said "As we enter the third year of this pandemic, public health has to begin to adjust the level of response to help alleviate the strain on the Public Health system. The pandemic is far from over, but this step is a move toward managing COVID-19 as an endemic disease. The responsibility of

protecting yourself and others belongs to all of us.” Ms. Kemp stated that one of the concerns is with the School District. Their main goal is to try and keep the kids in school. Ms. Rickley reported that she attended a meeting with the School District and they reviewed several different scenarios. With the positive cases on the rise, you can call County Health and they will make arrangements with individuals after hours to receive the vaccine or booster. The Board granted permission for County Health to hire 2 additional temporary Disease Mitigation employees.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give a weekly report. Sheriff Benninga presented quotes for the purchase of 4 replacement tires as follows:

Kansasland Tire - \$857.56 – Wrangler All-Terrain Adv OWL

Friesen Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram – \$800 - Wrangler Workhorse All-Terrain

After reviewing, Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to accept the bid from Friesen Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for the purchase & installation of 4 Wrangler Workhorse AT tires in the amount of \$800. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Benninga reported on the issues with staffing and possibly hiring two individuals as PRN Corrections Officers. The Board granted permission to fill the full-time vacant Corrections Officer position and to hire two PRN Corrections Officers to fill in when needed.

An NRP Application was presented to the Board for approval. The Board signed and approved the application for a new residential dwelling.

Trell Grinter, OCCK Transportation Director, and Michelle Griffin, Mobility Manager for North Central Kansas Coordinated Transit District, met with the Board to introduce themselves and to provide information about OCCK, INC. Ms. Grinter reported that in the 1st quarter of 2021 they provided rides for 5 individuals in our County and in the last quarter of 2021 they provided rides or services to 53 individuals in our County. Ms. Grinter stated that word is getting out about their services. They will take people to all kinds of appointments that are out of town and bring them back home. They have a fixed route bus service for north central Kansas that has a connecting pick up at the 81 intersection and will provide transportation to Salina and back. Ms. Griffin stated that they will provide training for the Guide and Go Travel so that individuals will know how to use the service with OCCK Transportation. They wanted to provide the Board of Commissioners with this information and can be used as a resource. Their main goal is to provide the service so that people can get to where they need to go and to be able to get around to other locations.

The Board adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
January 24, 2022
Clay Center, Kansas

