

January 19, 2021

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. Account payables in the amount of \$12,780.89 for the budget year 2020 were reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$5,050.74 for the budget year 2021 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

In March of 2020, a Memo was sent out to all Department Heads, because of COVID the Board of Commissioners were banning all out of County travel for County business with the exception of necessary trips such as patient transfers, prisoner transfers, and purchases of needed items not available within the County. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to rescind the out of County travel restrictions for all Clay County Departments. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason reported that his new laptop is up and running. The County Attorney's budget was discussed and the possibility of adding a part time position to his office. Commissioner Mayo asked Mr. Mason about the two cases that the Board of Commissioners appointed former County Attorney Rick James to continue as the Special Prosecutor on. Mr. Mason stated that once a new County Attorney takes office this can not happen on a civil case. The former County Attorney can only serve as the Assistant to the County Attorney. The current County Attorney assumes total responsibility. Mr. Mason stated that the Civil case has been dismissed thru the Court System.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, rocked several intersections throughout the County, trimmed trees, set up road closure signs for the bridge replacement on Frontier Rd. between 20th Rd. & 21st Rd., serviced loader and grader in the shop, hauled asphalt and guardrail from bridge site, removed hedge row, and installed a driveway. All employees attended safety training in two different classes with Blue Stem Electric. The estimated arrival time on the two new Caterpillar graders is the first part of April. Bridge Plank quotes were reviewed as follows:

Miltonvale Lumber Co. – 48 – 3"x12"x16' Ground Contact Treated Southern Yellow Pine - \$4,047.36
48 – 3"x12"x20' Ground Contact Treated Southern Yellow Pine - \$5,035.20

Miltonvale Lumber quoted the Yellow Pine with the MCA treatment due to its reduced toxicity compared to creosote and diesel fuel treatment.

Welborn Sales – 50 – 3"x12"x16' Treated Douglas Fir - \$6,696.00
50 – 3"x12"x20' Treated Douglas Fir - \$8,370.00
50 – 3"x12"x16' 100% Creosote Treated #10 Yellow Pine - \$7,344.00
50 – 3"x12"x20' 100% Creosote Treated #10 Yellow Pine - \$9,594.00
50 – 3"x12"x16' Treated Yellow Pine - \$4,500.00
50 – 3"x12"x20' Treated Yellow Pine – \$5,625.00

Clay County Lumber & Supply –

50 – 3"x12"x16' Treated Yellow Pine - \$3,359.50
50 – 3"x12"x20' Treated Yellow Pine - \$4,249.50
50 – 3"x12"x16' Treated Douglas Fir - \$5,509.50

50 – 3"x12"x20' Treated Douglas Fir - \$6,849.50

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to purchase the Treated Douglas Fir from Clay County Lumber and to double the quantity of planks requested and spend up to \$24,718.00. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. An estimate was received from Husker Steel for the labor and steel on the placement of new pilings for the bridge located west of Vining on Parallel Rd. in the amount of \$38,682. The Highway Department would purchase the bridge planks and complete the remaining repairs on the bridge for an estimated total of \$52,000. This would be paid for out of the Road & Bridge Fund. This bridge is located on the Countyline, so Washington County would pay a part of the final cost of this bridge. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to repair the bridge located on Parallel Rd. west of Vining with Husker Steel providing the steel and labor to install the pilings and the Highway Department will do the remaining work for an estimated total of \$52,000. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This project will be started immediately. An estimate was received from Husker Steel for the labor and the installation for 8 pieces of piling on a bridge located on 26th Rd. ½ mile east of Navajo Rd. in the amount of \$42,732. This will be paid for out of the Road & Bridge Fund. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve Husker Steel to install the piling on the bridge located on 26th Rd. ½ mile east of Navajo Rd. for an estimated cost of \$42,732. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Schwab Eaton inspected the bridge located on Limestone Rd. that had physical damage reported and the bridge is structurally safe but will need the concrete railing removed and new guardrail installed. The Board reviewed the quotes on metal culverts as follows:

J&J Drainage Products Co. – Galvanized Pipes & Bands - \$37,907.30

Aluminum Pipes & Bands - \$37,907.30

Welborn Sales, Inc. – Galvanized Pipes & Bands - \$37,222.39

Aluminum Pipes & Bands - \$37,647.96

Metal Culverts, Inc. – Galvanized Pipes & Bands - \$41,589.22

Aluminum Pipes & Bands - \$43,783.65

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase Aluminum Pipes and Bands from Welborn Sales in the amount of \$37,647.96. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department remains busy with 43 runs this month. The Annual Vehicle Inspections are coming due. Mr. Cramer asked if he should get quotes for the inspections. The Board decided that Mr. Cramer should get quotes from local businesses that provide the inspection service. The bedroom construction is moving along. The sheetrock should be done the middle of the week. The phone line has been run, the electrical is done, and they will finish the installation of the insulation today. Mr. Cramer asked permission to get quotes on the replacement of 2 monitors, purchase 1 additional monitor, and 2 replacement office chairs. Permission was granted.

The Chairman of the Board signed the contract with Varney & Associates to provide the services for the 2020 Clay County Audit.

The 2020 NRP first half of tax refunds in the amount of \$50,715.39 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Kemp reported that the copier in her office has stopped working but it is over 7 years old. Central Office Service & Supply prepared a quote on a Brother Workhorse series MF-CL9570CDW in the amount of \$1,095 plus a second drawer can be added for \$250. This will be paid for out of the Emergency Management Grant Funds. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase the Brother Workhorse printer plus the second drawer in the total amount of \$1,345. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Rickley reported that we had 6 additional positive cases over the weekend. We continue to see small increases in cases for Clay County. There is now a vaccine signup sheet available for individuals that are wanting to receive the vaccine when it is available. There has been a very positive interest in the amount of people that have currently signed up. Now we wait to see when we will receive vaccine.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga presented a drawing of the layout for the Law Enforcement Center. For safety reasons, Sheriff Benninga explained the drawing to the Board and stated that there are doors that should always be locked from both sides and areas that handguns should not be allowed to be carried in. There will be limited access for authorized personnel only for entry into the Sally Port. This will be used by Officers and Jailers only for the transportation of prisoners. Sheriff Benninga stated that they need to make changes for safety reasons to cover issues that might happen. There will be two separate areas to make secure, the Jail area and the Office areas. The following items would need to be purchased to accomplish the security.

- Commercial Door for the east side of the Building – 1 – estimated cost of \$12,000 for door and lock. (Not sure what type of lock for this entry door)
- Two-way locks for doors – 3 – estimated cost of \$500 each
- Handgun Lock Box – 1 - (move current handgun box to 2nd location)
- New Sidewalk on east side of building
- Handrailing to place on steps
- Cover inside window in Dispatch area

A quote was received for the handgun locker in the amount of \$286.95. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to purchase the handgun locker in the amount of \$286.95. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board granted permission to move forward on all of the projects listed above to make the building more secure. Part of these projects will be paid for out of the SPARKS funds. Sheriff Benninga reported that some of the lights in the Jail cells need to be updated to make them prisoner proof. They need to be ones that can not be torn apart and used as a weapon. The Board informed Sheriff Benninga to get bids from the local Electricians for this new light project. Sheriff Benninga stated that they are needing to purchase an additional radar for the patrol unit that currently does not have one in it. The quote was reviewed for an additional radar from Stalker Radar in the amount of \$2895. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase a radar unit from Stalker Radar in the amount of \$2,895. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Benninga informed the Board that they will be changing their policy and will have the Jailers or Corrections Officers certify to carry a handgun while they are on duty. Sheriff Benninga would also like to change the County policy that was adopted in the minutes on August 6, 2018 to include Officers, Jailers or Corrections Officer allowing the County to purchase the firearm and the Officer, Jailer, or Corrections Officer to reimburse the County through payroll until the total cost of the weapon is paid in full and then owned by the Officer. This agreement includes that there is a maximum of \$2,000 to be

spent on a firearm and accessories, the cost must be reimbursed back to the County within 2 years, and must be used as a duty weapon. The Board granted permission to include the Jailers or Corrections Officers in the purchase of a firearm policy.

Shannon Stark, Interim Economic Development Director, met with the Board to give an update. Ms. Stark reported to the Board that EDG and the Chamber of Commerce agreed to join together for their membership drive. This way they are only having to contact a business or individual one time. The membership investment will include benefits and opportunities from both the CCEDG and the CCACC. The response has been very positive and received well. The two organizations have not merged at this time but are discussing the idea for in the future. Ms. Stark asked the Board what they would like to see from the Economic Development Group. Commissioner Carlson responded with that he would like to see EDG take care of the businesses that are here currently in the County. We need to retain the ones that we have right now. Commissioner Mayo stated that the businesses are the backbone of the County. The Board agreed that Agriculture is very important to the Community and that the EDG is for the entire County not just Clay Center. Ms. Stark reported that the Mural Movement has been a huge positive for the City of Clay Center. The Board granted Ms. Stark permission to use the Courthouse Square for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 3rd, 2021. They would like to change how things are done and to make it an all-day event. This could possibly change with the events of the COVID pandemic. Permission was granted to place banners on the corners of the Square the week before advertising the Event. Ms. Stark reported that with Travel & Tourism they are working on the brochure that includes a map of Clay Center. A large version of this brochure will hang in the new Short Stop for visitors to be able to see what we have to offer. Ms. Stark is working with two designers on a quote to present to the Board at a later date.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to report that when she called to order the 4 dumpsters that the Board approved last week, the price had increased by \$900 each making it \$24,000 for the 4 dumpsters. The Board instructed Ms. Carroll to check with different suppliers and return next week with prices from them.

Drake Chaffee met with the Board to discuss his concerns of the mask mandate. Mr. Chaffee stated that he had several true facts of what the effects were of wearing masks. He stated that currently the survival rate of a person that contacts COVID is 98.3% and he does not feel that the Board should be mandating the wearing of masks. Mr. Chaffee provided the Board with websites to look up and to learn the true facts on the effects and the damage that the wearing of masks has on individuals. Mr. Chaffee asked the Board to consider removing the mask mandate for Clay County. The Board stated that they will look at the information that he has provided them and thanked Mr. Chaffee for coming and expressing his concerns.

The Board adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
January 25, 2021
Clay Center, Kansas