

January 31, 2022

Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow, and Commissioner Carlson met 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 an update on the Clinic and the Medical Center. Mr. Gillard stated that they have seen a small decrease in COVID patients at the hospital. The Family Physicians Clinic receives between 500 and 600 phone calls a day and this is too many for the staff to answer, so they have hired a company named National Re-Call to help in answering the phone calls. This Company will answer and then send a message to the clinic and they will then call you back. Mr. Gillard stated that with the CMS vaccine mandate for the medical fields, the Medical Center is 96% compliant at this time. This mandate includes all volunteers, vendors, students, and employees. The Medical Center has over 1,000 vendors that have to abide with this mandate also. With the recent COVID surge in patients, CCMC has joined the Bryan Health out of Lincoln, NE to help manage this type of critical care. They provide telehealth to help CCMC staff with this type of specialty care. One of the goals that they have set for 2022 is that Family Physicians will provide same day appointments. They will try to get you into see a Physician the same day that you call the office. Mr. Gillard informed the Board that CMS has awarded the Medical Center with a five-star rating. They are one of ten hospitals that received this award out of 128 hospitals in the State of Kansas.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason asked permission to pay for West Law Legal annually in the amount of \$1,611.37. Permission was granted for this purchase. Mr. Mason presented to the Board a proposal for the use of the Diversion Fees that are being collected. He would like to propose that a percentage of the fees be available through a grant for Law Enforcement to attend training. The other expenses such as wages, meals, and lodging would have to be covered by the Department. The Board will discuss this with the Sheriff and make a decision at a later date.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper reported to the Board that he has moved and is now a resident of the County. Last week the Department bladed roads, worked in the shop, installed a field driveway, trimmed trees, and replaced several 911 signs that had disappeared. Mr. Shomper reported that Justin Wren, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism had contacted him several times to see if there had been a decision made on the proposal that was discussed back on April 26, 2021 concerning vacating roads, easements, and who is responsible for maintaining the roads. Joel Mason, County Attorney, joined the meeting. The Board reviewed different options and some of the expenses that go along with this request. The Board asked Mr. Shomper and Mr. Mason to provide more information at next week's meeting pertaining to the request.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that the Department has been extremely busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. They have had 120 runs in the month of January. The annual State EMS inspection has been completed and there were no issues that they were written up on. Supplies are becoming an issue with shortages when ordering. Security Solutions were here last week and fixed the entry issue on one of the doors. The Board approved two Event Approvals for employees of the EMS Department to attend training in Concordia and Great Bend, Kansas.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that there are as of this morning 102 positive cases in Clay County. This has been a significant decrease, but there are still individuals that are getting sick and being tested every day. This Thursday and Friday, County Health will be going to the USD 379 Schools to provide vaccine clinic for students and staff. Ms. Kemp stated that on one of their webinars they have discussed the shortage of testing supplies. This is an issue that is being seen statewide. The Board discussed the additional \$5.00 an hour that three employees have been receiving for the contract tracing of positive COVID cases. Since there is no longer tracing being done then this pay would need to end. Ms. Rickley stated that all of these funds are being reimbursed with Federal funds through June of 2023 and that this is not just for contact tracing. It can be used for other jobs as long as it has ties to COVID. With being short an RN Nurse, the office staff has picked up a lot of that job until one can be hired and she would like to continue this additional pay for two of the employees at this time. After much discussion, Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to discontinue the contact tracing additional pay and continue the additional \$5.00 an hour for two employees under the title of Disease Mitigation Team until February 28th, 2022 and it will be reviewed at that time. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that the new intercom system is installed and working and the renovation project for moving the Riley County Corrections upstairs and out of the basement is progressing well.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to ask for a donation of 11 hours out of the Clay County Sick Leave Pool for an employee of the Landfill that has not been employed long enough to receive accumulated leave time. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to donate 11 hours out of the sick leave pool to an employee at the Landfill. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, met with the Board to report that she has received the new Poll Pads for Elections and would need to pay for them out of Election Equipment Fund under the General Fund instead of the Election Fund as previously stated. Permission was granted.

Commissioner Mayo reported to the Board that he had been contacted by a taxpayer with concerns on the operations and the length of time it is taking on the filing of a document in the Register of Deeds Office. Commissioner Mayo stated that he would express these concerns to Susan Mall, Register of Deeds.

The Board adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
February 7, 2022
Clay Center, Kansas