

February 1, 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 \$28,508.73 for the budget year 2020 were reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$633,700.98 for the budget year 2021 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Board to give an update on the Clay Center Medical Center. Mr. Gillard reported that in the last 7 days they have ran 100 COVID tests and out of those there were 24 positives cases. Phase A construction at Clay Center Family Physicians is complete and will be moving to the next Phase. They are hoping to complete the project by the end of July. CCMC has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 through Cerner. The grant funds will be used for the purchase of equipment like beds and exam lights at Clay Center Family Physicians. Mr. Gillard reported that Brett Canfield, RN, has been awarded the Daisy Award through CCMC. This individual is chosen through the patient surveys and reports. Patients stated that Ms. Canfield is calm, kind, and compassionate, while being efficient with her cares in the emergency room. The Riley Clinic is going well. They are seeing an average of 5-8 people daily. They expect these number to continue to increase. Mr. Gillard reported that the Medical Center has a daily average of 15 patients, and out of those, 2-3 are COVID patients.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to ask permission to hire a part time Administrative Assistant. This position will be for 20 hours a week with benefits. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to allow Mr. Mason to hire a part time employee for 20 hours a week with benefits. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Commissioner Carlson asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 20 minutes beginning at 9:06 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 9:26 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Last week the Department placed the snow chains on the graders, installed the salt and sand spreaders, worked in the shop, took the truck with plows out on the roads, sent the graders out to remove snow off of the roads, salt and sanded the roads and intersections, replaced road signs, burnt brush pile at Fair Grounds, hauled scalping's, and hauled rock.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The bids for the Annual Vehicle Inspections were reviewed as follows:

TSI Kansas, Inc - \$68.00 X 4 Units = \$272.00  
Friesen CDJR - \$190.00 X 4 Units = \$760.00  
Glavan Ford - not able to do DOT inspections  
Kansasland – not able to do DOT inspections

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to accept the bid from TSI Kansas, Inc. in the amount of \$272.00 for the Annual Inspection on 4 Units. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed

unanimously. The radio in Unit #4 has stopped working and will need to be looked at and repaired. The paint has been purchased for the bedroom project. Mr. Cramer stated that he would like to sign up to use the company named Lexipol for online training for the EMS Employees. There is a one-time set-up fee of \$400 and then it would be \$50 per user to use. There are 27 employees so it would be a cost of \$1,750 for this year. At annual renewal time you can adjust the number of employees that are currently employed and will be using the online training. Mr. Cramer feels that the employees need to have training that is required for their recertification. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to sign up with Lexipol for the employees of the EMS Department to do online training at a cost of \$1,750. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Timothy Penner, Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, and Jimmy Thatcher, Mayor of Clay Center, were also present. Ms. Rickley reported that we had an additional 12 positive cases over the weekend. As of Monday morning, there were 1,420 individuals registered to receive the COVID vaccine. Currently Clay County is receiving 100 doses per week. So, this will take a while to receive enough vaccine to administer to the individuals that are wanting the vaccine. Each vaccine vial contains 10 doses and they have 6 hours to give the shots once the vial is opened. If someone does not show for their appointment, they call another individual to come in and receive the vaccine. There will be no vaccine wasted. Ms. Rickley stated that they do not know when or if they will receive a larger number of doses any time soon. Commissioner Carlson stated that the mask mandate will need to be reviewed today. Ms. Kemp stated that even if the County was to remove the mask mandate that does not mean that the School District would remove theirs. She feels that the Schools would continue to mandate masks to be worn during school. We have been very fortunate that the children are able to continue to go to school. Ms. Rickley believes that the masks are helpful in maintaining our number of positive cases. It also helps the schools and businesses that are requiring masks to be worn. Everyone needs to be responsible for themselves, eat healthy, exercise and take care of yourself. Dr. Penner stated that he feels that masks are doing some good. No, they are not helping 100% but this pandemic is a serious Public Health Issue. We have learned a lot about the virus but we have a lot to still learn. The concern is, if they remove the mask mandate, people will think that the pandemic is over and that is not true. The trends that are reported by KDHE are encouraging. Since December 20, 2020 our County had a 19% positive rate and over the last 6 weeks it has dropped to 7% on January 24, 2021. Another concern of Dr. Penner's is that the hospitals are still running at a full capacity. Last week one of the doctors spent 6 hours searching for a hospital that could take a patient having a heart attack. This is a serious matter when trying to transfer a patient to a larger hospital for care that is not available at CCMC. Dr. Penner stated that there is not a magic date that says to remove the mask mandate and he would ask that the Commissioner consider renewing the mandate. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to renew the mask mandate for an additional month and to review it again on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff and Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board. Sheriff Benninga reported that they had a sewer line backup in the basement of the jail last Friday. There are two drains that are causing the issues. One is located in the hallway and one in Block B. The drains are set in concrete and will need to be drilled out to be replaced. The Board stated that this has to be fixed and granted permission to fix both drains. Sheriff Benninga stated that he had received the prices on the

replacement light fixtures for the jail cells. They had ordered one fixture to see if it was the correct kind and provided the safety that is needed in the cells. They will need to order 6 additional fixtures from Relight Depot at a cost of \$1,542.90 plus the labor to install them. The Board granted permission to purchase the light fixtures plus the labor to install them. Every jail cell currently does not have a camera installed, and if we were required to quarantine a prisoner, they would not be able to monitor them. We could add a 16 G hard drive and 8 cameras for \$3,100 plus an additional monitor or could purchase a new system with a 32 G hard drive with 8 cameras and we would not need the additional monitor for a cost of \$4,700. The current system is approximately 5 years old. After discussion it was decided to transfer the current system to the County Landfill and to purchase the new system for the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Office will keep the current cameras and purchase additional ones to install with the new system. The Landfill will need to purchase cameras to work with the system that is being transferred. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase the new camera system in the amount of \$4,700 and to transfer the current system to the Landfill. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Joel Mason, County Attorney, asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 5 minutes beginning at 10:51 a.m. with Joel Mason, County Attorney, Alan Benninga, Sheriff, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow 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 10:56 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to accept the Separation Agreement and to authorize Sheriff Benninga to execute and sign on behalf of Clay County. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Abatement 2020A23 in the amount of \$318.42 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Sheila Backstrom, 2021 After Prom Fund Raising Committee, met with the Board to request a donation of funds for the 2021 After Prom Party. There are 79 Juniors and 71 Seniors at CCCHS that are able to attend this event. The Prom and After Prom will both be held at Life's Finer Moments on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Ms. Backstrom stated that they would be very appreciative for any amount of a donation that is available. This is a great event for students to attend after Prom. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to raise the amount from \$12 to \$15 per student to be paid for out of the Alcohol Fund. This will include students from CCCHS, Wakefield High School, and Clifton/Clyde High School for students that reside on the Clay County side. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Shannon Stark, Interim EDG Director, and Steve McMahan, EDG Member, met with the Board to present the Annual Agreement between Clay County and Clay County Economic Development Group. Mr. McMahan stated that the agreement was the same as last year only they have changed it to cover the calendar year from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. McMahan stated that they are moving forward with the possibility of combining the Chamber of Commerce with EDG. The joint membership drive that was done this year has been good. Businesses like being asked one time for dues and writing one check.

Jody Thorman met with the Board to discuss returning to the Clay County Park as the part time summer help with no benefits. Ms. Thorman has been handling phone calls and issues at the Park and has not been paid for her time since she resigned as Park Manager at the end of December. The Board stated that she could leave her camper parked and not pay the monthly rent. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to hire Ms. Thorman for part time summer help with no benefits effective 02/01/2021. Also leave Ms. Thorman's camper parked at the current location with no monthly rent being paid. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Argo, Fair Board President, met with the Board to give an update on the Fair. The dates of the Fair have been changed so that they could have a carnival this year. The new dates are July 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Rodeo will be held on the original dates of July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> they were unable to move the Rodeo to the new dates. They will be hosting Jayhusker Racing four times this year. The race dates are July 24<sup>th</sup> during the Fair, July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>, and September 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Argo reported that they had one beer garden during a race last year and had no problems at all. 15-24 Brew House was in charge of it and it was located inside the stands. 15-24 Brew House would like to provide a beer garden at all of the races except the one held during the Fair on July 24<sup>th</sup> again this year. After discussion, Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to allow a beer garden inside the stands for the three races that do not involve the Fair. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Argo provided a Clay County Fairgrounds Usage Rules and Rate Sheet to each of the Commissioners. The rules and rates were reviewed and Mr. Argo explained the increased rates on some of the rentals.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to present the quotes on roll-off containers to rent out to Clay County residents. The quotes were reviewed as follows:

Custom Manufacturing – 20 yard - \$5,920 each X 2 = \$11,840  
30 yard - \$6,225 each X 2 = \$12,450  
Shipping - \$1,186  
**TOTAL - \$25,476**

Gregory Container Inc – 20 yard - \$4,630 each X 2 = \$9,260  
30 yard - \$5,877 each X 2 = \$11,754  
Shipping - \$1,475  
**TOTAL - \$22,489**

Chuck Henry Sales, Inc. – 20 yard - \$5,215 each X 2 = \$10,430  
30 yard - \$5,750 each X 2 = \$11,500  
Shipping - \$2,400  
**TOTAL - \$24,330**

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to accept the quote from Gregory Container, Inc in the amount of \$22,489 for the purchase of 4 roll-off containers and shipping. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Carroll stated that she has received notice from KDHE that the storm water pipe on Phase 3 will need to be capped off soon. They are not exactly sure which type of closure procedure they will need to follow at this time. Ms. Carroll presented the proposal for the Clay County Landfill to contract with Schwab Eaton for Solid Waste Engineering Services. The Board stated that they are very satisfied with Schwab Eaton for the services that they provide the County. The Chairman signed

the proposal agreement for Schwab Eaton to provide Engineering Services for the Clay County Landfill. Ms. Carroll stated that the 20-year old air compressor has stopped working and will need to be replaced. The Board instructed Ms. Carroll to get quotes on a new compressor and return at a later date for review. Ms. Carroll reported that it is time to put out for bids on propane at the Landfill. The Board granted permission to put out for bids on 4,000 gallons of propane.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to discuss the sewer repairs at the Law Enforcement Center. Mr. Knoettgen explained how the drains are placed in the concrete floor and may need to be move slightly to miss the drilling into a concrete beam. The Board instructed Mr. Knoettgen to do what it takes for they have to be fixed.

The Board adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

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Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
February 8, 2021  
Clay County, Kansas