

February 7, 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. Payroll in the amount of \$199,553.45 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$24,872.53 for the budget year 2021 were reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$740,821.69 for the budget year 2022 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason provided additional information on Diversion Fees that are collected by Clay County and proposes that a percentage of the fees be given to the Sheriff's Department through a grant to be used for training. Road closures, easements, and the maintaining of roads were reviewed concerning the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism areas. More research will be done on this issue.

The following employees were presented with Longevity Service Awards for the years of employment with Clay County. For 5 years: Teralee Barber, Dale Bechard, Ralph Mann, Jimmie Nichols, and Zona Siebold. For 10 years: Darci Ihnen. For 15 years: Daniel Mesalles. For 20 years: Robert Knitter and David Thurlow. For 25 years: Sharon Clark and Cindy Paillet. For 40 years: Kim Fry. The Board thanked the employees for their years of service with Clay County.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department worked on trimming trees on roadsides, prepared for snow removal if needed, worked on equipment in shop, bladed roads, and replaced 911 signs. They have completed the sign replacement in the southwest quarter of the County and have moved to the southeast part of the County. The Board instructed Mr. Shomper to place a Dead-End sign in the 2300 mile of Granite Rd.

John Gier met with the Board to ask permission to use the west side and part of the south side of the Courthouse Square for the Farmers Market this year. The market would begin on April 16th thru October 29th every Saturday with no sales on September 24th because of the Piotique Festival. Mr. Gier reported that they had a very successful event last year with more vendors than they have ever had. That is why they are asking for the south side of the square to extend the vendor area. It was a really good year for the vendors. The Board granted permission for the use of the west side and the south side of the square for the Farmers Market to setup every Saturday.

Abatement 2021A22 in the amount of \$1,352.62 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department has been so busy, they have made 146 emergency runs or out of town transfer so far in 2022. Staffing continues to be an issue with being short staffed and making this amount of emergency runs. The Board granted permission to run an employment ad again to try and fill vacant positions. Supplies are getting harder to get and are taking longer to receive and with making this number of runs, they are using more supplies.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that as of today there are 112 positive COVID

cases in Clay County. Ms. Kemp stated that they have been watching the State numbers that are decreasing but the hospitalized and the death numbers have increased. KDHE reported that Clay County has or has had 4 of the 7 variants of the COVID-19. Ms. Rickley reported that they were able to administer 25 first doses of the vaccine at the clinic held at the USD 379 Schools.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga presented the Lease Agreement between Clay County and the City of Clay Center for the purpose of providing office space for the Police Department of the City of Clay Center. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to renew the lease with the City of Clay Center Police Department. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman signed the single audit of the Clay County Landfill that is required by KDHE every year to provide the financial assurance for the closure and post-closure costs associated with the Landfill as of December 31, 2020. This audit is performed by Pottberg Gassman & Hoffman Chartered every year.

Libby Ohlde, After Prom Committee, met with the Board to report on the events of the 2022 After Prom. Ms. Ohlde stated that there are 75 Juniors and 62 Seniors at CCCHS that are able to attend this event. Ms. Ohlde asked if the Board would consider making a donation towards this event like they have done in previous years. This is a great event for students to attend after Prom. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to donate \$15 per student to be paid 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 Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Muruato, Economic Development Director, met with the Board to give an update on the Department. Ms. Muruato stated that she wanted to make sure that the Board was invited to the Grow Clay County Annual Meeting on February 17th, 2022 at PrairieLand Partners. She would encourage them to attend and enjoy the event. Ms. Muruato attended the Regional Tourism meeting and found it to be very informational. Clay County is one of three locations that are being considered for the building of a Veteran's Home. This would be a great honor for Clay County to be chosen. Ms. Muruato reported that she has been working with Cloud County Community College to provide in person College Courses at a location here in Clay Center. Individuals have expressed their interest of being able to take a college class in person and not online with zoom.

The Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang
February 14, 2022
Clay Center, Kansas