

February 21, 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 \$196,970.17 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$14,255.99 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason stated that he had been in contact with Brandon Gibson, SPT Architecture, on the RFO for the new Exhibit Hall at the Fair Grounds. Mr. Mason will continue to proceed with the next step of this project.

The Commissioners would like to remind the citizens of Clay County that before they light a controlled burn, they are to call into the Sheriff's Office to report the burn and to see if it will be allowed on a certain day. Everyone needs to remember how dry it is and how fast a fire can spread.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed dirt roads, worked on 911 signs throughout the County, hauled rip rap, fixed several tires, trimmed trees in several locations, installed two driveways, and worked at the shop. Mr. Shomper stated that he has loaned the City of Clay Center a dump truck to use while theirs is being repaired. Permission was granted to purchase a finishing attachment for the new Sharp copier in the amount of \$495 from Central Office Service & Supply.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that staffing continues to be an issue, but they had held interviews last week and will be making a decision soon. They are currently 51 runs ahead of the same time last year. The Department has been extremely busy so far this year. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to approve the invoice from Zoll for the renewal warranty on 4 X Series Monitors in the amount of \$6,102. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to renew the KEMSA membership which includes the Squad Membership and the Administration Society Dues in the amount of \$515. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cramer asked permission for an employee that has not been here one year to use 24 hours of accumulated vacation hours. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to allow an employee of the EMS Department to use 24 hours of vacation before their one-year anniversary. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to report that the positive cases of COVID are continuing to decrease. Ms. Kemp stated that she did not have the update to report this morning. The Board approved an amended repair bill from Five Creeks Automotive to a total amount of \$1,504.32 for the repairs made on the Emergency Management pickup. Ms. Kemp reported that the Clay County Emergency Operations Plan has been approved by the State.

Brett Nelson, USD 379 Superintendent, met with the Board to extend an invitation to the Commissioners for a representative from the County to participate on a Citizens Review Committee. This committee will be asked to provide feedback to the USD 379 School Board as they develop short and long term plans

for the district. The committee will meet 3-5 times over the next few months to discuss the ten recommendations presented by Education Consulting Services and any other areas that might be beneficial for the students of the district. Mr. Nelson stated that the Clay County Medical Center and the City of Clay Center have declined and will stay neutral. The Board will discuss this invite and will get back with Mr. Nelson later today.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that he has received three applications for the vacant Corrections Officer position. They will be holding interviews and will be offering the job soon.

Danny Mesalles, Appraiser, met with the Board to give a department update. The Board approved an Event Approval for an employee of the Appraisers Office to attend training in Topeka, Kansas. The Building Permits have been slow in issuing so far this year. They believe that the increased costs on materials may have an effect on this. Mr. Mesalles reported that he will be placing an article on KCLY and in the Dispatch on the 2022 Values and would like to have it placed in the minutes. The article is as follows:

## Residential and Commercial Valuations to increase in 2022

The Clay County Appraiser's Office would like to advise property owners that their 2022 Change of Value notices will be mailed on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Overall, the total valuation of taxable property county wide increased by 10%, adding an estimated 50+ million in value.

Residential values surged with an average increase of 15 to 20% and commercial properties increased with an average of 4 to 5%. For Clay County, the residential increase was historical, and Clay County hasn't seen an increase quite like it since 2008, when residential values increased approximately 10%.

Agricultural values were mixed with Dry Crop and Irrigated land decreasing in value, but with Native Grass and Tame Grass increasing approximately 2 to 4%.

Property owners are reminded that each property is distinct in its own right, not all property will see the same impact on their values as indicated.

After much discussion, the Board of Clay County Commissioners made the decision to decline the invitation to serve on the Citizens Review Committee and the Board feels that they should remain neutral.

The Board adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
February 21, 2022  
Clay Center, Kansas

