

February 27, 2023

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed.

Abatements 2022A17 and 2022A18 in the amount of \$5,903.12 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Board approved a bill from SPT Architecture in the amount of \$1,170 for the new Multi-Purpose Building.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss county business. Mr. Mason asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception for non-elected personnel beginning at 8:23 a.m. for 20 minutes with Mr. Mason, County Attorney, Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is employee performance. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:43 a.m. with no decision being made.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed roads, hauled rock, removed a tree at the Fair Grounds, patched asphalt roads, and removed a fallen tree from a cemetery. They have taken the mini excavator to Salina for repairs because it keeps losing power. This will all be covered under warranty.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer stated that the Department continues to be busy. They have received several employment applications and will be setting up a date for the agility testing before hiring to fill vacant positions. The Department has been working on events for the EMS Week and would like permission to purchase educational items to hand out. The Board granted permission to spend up to \$400 for EMS Week. Mr. Cramer reported that Mr. Tony Bach, EMS Instructor, at Manhattan Area Technical School invited Clay County EMS to participate in a Career Fair at the School on March 21, 2023. Mr. Cramer stated that they will be accepting the invitation and will be setting up at the Career Fair. The Board signed an Event Approval for three employees of the EMS Department to attend a workshop in Junction City, Kansas.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Rickley reported that there has been a stray dog bite out in the County, so the County will be responsible for the bills for having the two dogs quarantined as per Resolution 2000-04. Ms. Rickley would like to remind pet owners to make sure that all of their pet animals have their rabies shots with spring coming and wild animals are out more. Clay Counts has received another grant from KDAS in the amount of \$35,000 that will be used for suicide prevention and Clay Counts received another grant from Public Health & Community Officers in the amount of \$9,241 to be used for suicide education. The Board signed four Event Approvals for employees of the Health Department to attend training in Manhattan and Topeka, Kansas.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, presented a quote from Mel's Plumbing for an alarm that can be placed on the sump pump in the Law Enforcement basement to help inform staff when pump is in need of assistance in the amount of \$250. The Board approved the purchase of this alarm for future notices.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga presented an Event Approval to provide training for a Deputy. The Board signed the Event Approval. Sheriff Benninga asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes beginning at 10:31 a.m. with Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Alan Benninga, Sheriff and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is employee performance. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:41 a.m. with no decision being made.

Whitney Baer, Noxious Weed Director, met with the Board to present the 2023 Management Plan and the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report 2023 for signatures before sending reports to the State. Ms. Baer stated that the old Cadet mower that they have had for years is in need of repairs. Ms. Baer asked if they could possibly trade this mower in for a newer one with a larger deck. The Board granted permission to collect quotes for a new mower. The Board also approved overtime hours for the Noxious Weed Department with spraying season beginning soon.

Angela Flegler, AG Teacher & FFA Advisor, Candice Lippe, and Adalyn Pfizenmaier, FFA Members, met with the Board to report that there will be 3 students and 1 Advisor that will be attending The Washington Leadership Conference in June. Ms. Lippe stated that she is excited to meet people from other places and to be learning new skills. Ms. Pfizenmaier stated she is excited to have the experience and to bring back new ideas to use in our community. Ms. Lippe asked if the Board would be willing to make a donation towards the Conference for those attending. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to donate \$500 out of the Alcohol Fund to put towards the cost of attending the Conference. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Brett Ohlde, BHS Construction Superintendent, met with the Board to give an update on the new Multi-Purpose Building at the Fair Ground. Jason King, BHS Construction Project Manager, Mike Argo, Fair Board President, were also in attendance for the meeting. Mr. Ohlde reported that the building is coming along nicely and they hope to have the building enclosed and secure early next week. Some of the interior materials are being delivered this week. Garage Doors are in Manhattan and they just need a day or two notice and they will deliver them to Clay Center. Mr. King reviewed the keying of the doors and how they would like them to be programmed. Mr. King also reviewed the appliances that will be needed for the kitchen. Mr. King stated that he will get the measurements to Mr. Argo for the size of appliances that need to be purchased. Mr. Argo will call the internet provider and start the process of getting service in the new building.

Natalie Muruato, Executive Director Grow Clay County, met with the Board to give an update on Grow Clay County. Ms. Muruato provided the Board with the 2022 Annual Report and told that they had a great turn out for their annual meeting. The Annual Report contained highlights and accomplishments of Grow Clay County during their first year of operation. There were 240 people that attended the banquet

and the awards ceremony. They have been doing frequency testing for the downtown speakers that are being purchased. They will do the 2nd phase testing and hopefully get the new speakers installed soon. Ms. Muruato stated that she continues to work with child care grants and trying to help new daycares open.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Noxious Director, met with the Board to ask permission for an employee to use his accumulated leave. The Board granted permission for an employee of the County Landfill to use the accumulated hours of vacation time before their one-year anniversary.

The Board adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
March 6, 2023
Clay Center, Kansas