

March 1, 2021

Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Commissioner Thurlow were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes from February 22nd and February 25th, were approved as printed. Account payables in the amount of \$5,411.33 for the 2020 budget year was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$547,538.79 for the 2021 budget year was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Abatement 2020A28 in the amount of \$20.56 was 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 CCMC will be joining Clay County and working with Piper Sandler & Co. on the refinancing of Bonds for both the Medical Center and for Clay County. Mr. Gillard reported that Phase B at Clay Center Family Physicians will finish around March 19th. The Board of Trustees signed the document with GNP to start the Dietary Project in the Medical Center on March 29th.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason presented the bid for three new monitors for the County Attorney's Office. The bid that was received from Central Office Service & Supply was for 27" Acer V277BMIPX monitor in the amount of \$195 each for a total amount of \$585. They have two in stock and can get the third one within a week. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to approve the purchase of the Acer monitors from Central Office Service & Supply in the amount of \$585. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, patched blacktop roads, removed the old bridge planks from the bridge on Parallel Rd., filled in holes at the new bridge on Frontier Rd., worked on guardrail, hauled grader to shop for repairs, installed new deck and guardrail on bridge on Parallel Rd., hauled three loads of rock to the Clay County Park, worked in the shop yard, hauled scrap metal to Hess Salvage, repaired tires on low boy trailer, and picked up 250 gallons of used oil. Mr. Shomper and Jeff Germann made a trip to Washington County to present the bill for ½ of the bridge located on Parallel Rd. This bridge is on the County line so both Counties are responsible for the repairs made to the bridge. Mr. Shomper stated that he presented a bill in the amount of \$26,498.29 for the amount that Washington County will need to pay Clay County for their share on the bridge. Mr. Shomper reported that damage to barricades and road signs continue to happen. This is very costly for the County to repair or replace all of these damaged signs.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer stated that the Department continues to be busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. The Board approved an employee of the EMS Department to use his accumulated vacation time before his first-year anniversary. Medic 3 has been taken to Friesen CDJR Auto for repairs. Mr. Cramer presented the bids for a new ambulance compared to a box remount ambulance. The quotes are as follows:

Box Remount Ambulance - \$161,037.00 – 3 year 36,000 miles

New Ambulance - \$194,278.00 – Product Warranty – 3 years or 36,000 miles

Electrical Warranty – 6 years or 72,000 miles

Paint Warranty – 5 years or 100,000 miles

After much discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to order and purchase the new ambulance in the amount of \$194,278.00 with the better warranty. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the weekly COVID-19 pandemic update. Dr. Timothy Penner, Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, Jimmy Thatcher, Mayor of Clay Center, and Brett Nelson, Superintendent of USD 379 were also present for the meeting. Ms. Rickley reported that KDHE had a \$25,000,000 Federal Covid Relief Grant available and Clay County received \$100,000 from this grant. Ms. Rickley stated that this grant will cover the installation of a generator for County Health and the replacement of a roof top heating and air unit. They are continuing to give 40-60 vaccine shots a day, but are still receiving vaccine once a week. Commissioner Carlson stated that we need to visit about the mask mandate and asked Dr. Penner for his thoughts. Dr. Penner stated that the number of positive cases has been on a very positive trend of decreasing. The cases, deaths, and hospitalization have been decreasing since January 31st for Clay County. The trend also shows that as the positive test results go down there is less testing that is being done. The goals are to keep the kids in school and hopefully have no outbreaks within the schools, keep businesses open, and not overwhelm the Healthcare System. There has been a huge improvement in finding a hospital that is able to take an emergency transfer. The warmer weather will help, individuals will be able to get outside and not be stuck in the house. Some of the precautions with the warmer weather will be Spring Break, vacation traveling and the new variant strains of COVID that are showing up. Dr. Penner stated that he would like to get the message out that things are definitely better, but the pandemic is still not over. Maybe masks don't need to be mandated at this time, but nursing homes, CCMC, Clay Center Family Physicians, and USD 379 will continue to wear masks. Private business can continue to still request customers to wear masks. Ms. Kemp stated that she feels that individuals should follow the recommendations of their primary Physicians and to not believe that COVID has gone away. Ms. Rickley recommended to keep the mask mandate in place and feels that if the community is wearing masks that it would show support for the schools since they will continue to wear masks. Mr. Nelson stated that they have worn masks in school since the beginning of school and have had great success. The School District has had a great working relationship with County Health and look to them for recommendations. This has also been a huge part of our success. The School District receives a lot of guidance from Kansas State Department of Education and they will continue to wear masks through the end of school. The School District will support and work with whatever decision that the County makes today. Mr. Thatcher stated that he is starting to hear negative comments on the mask mandate and knows that some of the businesses will continue to request the wearing of a mask and he honors that decision, but he would like to see the mandate removed. Joel Mason, County Attorney, joined the meeting. Commissioner Thurlow stated that he would like to see it called a Public Health Warning instead of a mandate. This is not a permanent decision, if the positive cases increase, they may request that the mandate be put back in place. The Board of Commissioners would like to strongly recommend people to wear masks, be smart, and take care of themselves. The responsibility is still up to each individual. The Board asked Mr. Mason to draft a new Resolution allowing the mask mandate to expire. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to allow the mask mandate to expire today and strongly agree to support the School District and would recommend that individuals continue to wear masks if they are not able to maintain the 6' distancing from another person and to follow the advice of their Primary Physician. The new Resolution will be signed at next week's meeting. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga presented the Board with a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between Riley County Communications and Clay County Sheriff's Department for the Drug Testing that will need to be provided for the new Drug Court Program. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to allow Sheriff Benninga to sign the memorandum of agreement. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to appoint Deputy Paul Bishop as the Clay County Grievance Officer. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Benninga discussed the conditions of the patrol vehicles along with the expenses of the 2021 Budget with the Board. He will wait until later in the year to see if they need to purchase any patrol vehicles this year.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to present the bids for propane. The Bids on 4,000 gallons were reviewed as follows:

- Home Oil Services - \$1.69
- Propane Central - \$1.509

After reviewing the propane bids, Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to accept the bid from Propane Central for 4,000 gallons of propane at a cost of \$1.509 per gallon. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Carroll presented the bids on the purchase of a 3/4" Drill for the use of mixing paint in barrels. The bids were reviewed as follows:

- Clay County Lumber - \$875.50
- With Extension - \$921.58
- Avery Auto Parts - \$834.59

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to purchase the 3/4" Drill from Avery Auto Parts in the amount of \$834.59. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Emily Benedick, North Central Regional Planning Commission, met with the Board to inform them that NCRPC has received a \$20,000 grant to use towards updating the Clay County Comprehensive Plan that was originally adopted in 2005. NCRPC would administer this for the County. They would like to recommend that the Joint Land Use Study be considered when updating the Land Use Plan. The Board instructed Ms. Benedick that they would like to move forward with this project and to update the Comprehensive Plan.

Janel Michaud, CCARE President and Sandy Fox, CCARE Treasurer, met with the Board to present the 2020 Year End Report. Ms. Michaud stated that even with COVID that CCARE has had a good year and were still able to move dogs to be adopted. In 2020 the shelter took in 149 dogs. Of those 88 were adopted, 60 were reclaimed by owners, and 1 was euthanized. They have a great group of volunteers that put in many hours to make the shelter run. Ms. Fox thanked the Board for the SPARKS funds that were granted to them. Those funds helped in many ways for the shelter. Ms. Fox stated that the insurance to cover shelter and the liability is a huge expense for them. Ms. Michaud thanked the County for all of the support that they have provided and would like to make a request of a donation for the year 2021. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate \$7,000 out of the County General Fund for the 2021 year to CCARE. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, met with the Board to discuss the filing of the Deeds on properties that have been purchased on the delinquent tax sales. Ms. Swaim stated that she has contacted these individual's multiple times and has gotten no response to the filing of the Deeds. The County provides a Deed to the purchaser that needs to be filed in the Register of Deeds Office after they have purchased a piece of property at the Delinquent

Tax Sale. The properties that were sold on previous Tax Sale and need to file the Deed that was provided are as follows:

Brian Komar & Tyce Young – **sold on 2015 Tax Sale to** – William and Melinda Hamm

Eileen Wright – **sold on 2015 Tax Sale to** – William and Melinda Hamm

Ronald & Linda Tynes – **sold on 2019 Tax Sale to** – Duane & Anthony Buckner

Ms. Swaim and the Board of Commissioners are asking the individuals listed above to file the Deed that was provided to them on the parcels that they purchased at a Tax Sale. Ms. Swaim would like to recommend that from here forward that the County files the Deeds after the Tax Sales and include the filing fee with the Administrative Costs that the purchaser pays when buying a parcel. The Board agreed with Ms. Swaim and approved this change in the procedure of a Tax Sale.

Charles Arnold met with the Board to inform them that he would like to accept the job offer as the new Clay County Park Manager. After discussion, Mr. Arnold will start at the Park on March 15th, 2021. The Board and Mr. Arnold discussed several projects and items concerning the Park. The Board welcomed Mr. Arnold to the County as the new Park Manager.

The Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk

March 8, 2021

Clay Center, Kansas