

March 14, 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.

The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee of the Court Services to attend training in Manhattan, Kansas.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to rescind the motion that was made on March 7, 2022 donating 80 hours of sick leave out of the County Pool to an employee of the EMS Department. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to pay the Kansas County Commissioners Association membership dues in the amount of \$358. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Abatement 2021A31 in the amount of \$160.10 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to donate \$500 out of the Alcohol Fund for the 153<sup>rd</sup> Wakefield Birthday Bash which will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason reported that he has scanned the Corp of Engineer folder and provided it to Kcamp Insurance.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department removed snow, treated roads, worked at the shop, worked on tubes that were purchased from the Wakefield Elevator, removed trees, and picked up used oil. Mr. Shomper reported on the rental of a crack sealer as follows:

Mac-McConnell & Associates – Cimline M1 Melter - \$1,200 Weekly Rental  
Crafco, Inc. – Sealer - \$425 – Daily Rental  
\$1,550 – Weekly Rental

After reviewing the quotes, it was decided to contact Mac Company to see if they could bring a Demo unit out for the Highway Department experiment with and see how it works before a decision will be made on which one to possibly rent for this season. Quotes for sign posts and brackets were received as follows:

Welborn Sales Co. - \$9,235 plus shipping  
National Sign Company - \$8,684 includes shipping

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to purchase sign posts and brackets from National Sign Company in the amount of \$8,684. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shomper stated that he will be attending the District Road & Bridge Spring Conference in Dodge City, Kansas on May 16-18, 2022. The invitation is extended to the Board of Commissioners in each County also.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that they are currently at 265 runs so far in 2022. That is 73 more runs at the same time in 2021. Mr. Cramer stated that he had heard from David Vance with Osage Ambulance about the status of the ambulance that was ordered March 8, 2021. Mr. Vance stated that they hope to receive the chassis by late summer and will then begin the process building of the ambulance.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID pandemic. Ms. Kemp stated that there are currently 4 positive cases of COVID in Clay County. If the positive numbers continue to stay low, this will be the last Dashboard report. Ms. Kemp reported that when she went to Glavan Ford to get the pickup that was approved last week it was already spoken for so she agreed to a 2021 Ford F150 with 3,169 miles in the amount of \$57,000. This is \$1,285 less than the first pickup. Ms. Rickley reported that they are holding a Health Fair this week March 14-18, 2022 at the County Health Department. Individuals need to call for an appointment. The Board signed an Event Approval for three employees of the County Health Department to attend training in Manhattan, Kansas. Ms. Rickley presented a quote for a permanent digital sign to be placed at the County Health location. The quote is from DKOI for a 4' x 8' double sided sign for \$22,000 plus delivery and a base riser kit for \$2,500. This does not include the cost of the electrical work or the placement of the concrete pad and the installation of the riser kit. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to approve the purchase of the digital sign to be placed at the County Health Department location in the amount of \$22,000 for the sign plus delivery, riser kit, electrical work, and concrete pad to all be paid for out of COVID grant funds. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that they are currently full staffed in the Corrections Officers part of the Law Enforcement Center. The renovation project to move the Riley County Corrections Office out of the basement to an office upstairs is almost complete.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 10 minutes beginning at 10:50 a.m. with Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Kayla Wang, County Clerk, and Rhonda Carney, Payroll Clerk, present. The subject to be discussed is accumulated leave. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. The Board of Commissioners made the decision to use 22 hours of vacation leave that has been allowed to be carried over from the 2021 year to bring an employee to the number of hours required for a full-time employee status.

Whitney Baer, Noxious Weed Director, met with the Board to get signatures on the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report and on the Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan. Both of these documents are sent to the State of Kansas. The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee of the Noxious Weed Department to attend the monthly Weed Director's meeting. Ms. Baer reported that the price of Chemicals has increased a lot. Some brands have almost doubled in costs. There is also the chance that they may not be available to purchase later in the season. Ms. Baer stated that she has

stocked up on the chemicals that she normally sells a large amount of in case they become hard to get. The Board granted permission for Ms. Baer to get prices on a replacement copier for the office. The current copier is several years old and they are having to have lots of repairs made, which is beginning to add up in cost. Ms. Baer will return at a later date with prices on a copier.

Shannon Stark, Grow Clay County Assistant Director, met with the Board to give an update on Clay County Travel & Tourism. Ms. Stark reported that she has been working on the design for the 2023 Kansas Travel Guide. It seems that they are moving the deadline earlier than it use to be. Ms. Stark is very excited about the merge with the Chamber of Commerce and the EDG Group. She feels that they will work well together and positive ideas and projects will come from the merge. Ms. Stark has been working with Ms. Muruato on the new website for Explore Clay County and has been attending the North Central Regional Travel & Tourism and actually hosted the meeting here in Clay Center last month with 14 different counties within our region attending. Ms. Stark stated that they are excited to announce that they have received the Tourism Marketing Grant from the State of Kansas in the amount of \$7,000. They will be attending the WeKan Conference in Newton, Kansas on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. This is put on by the Kansas Sampler and Clay County Travel & Tourism will be providing one of the round table discussions on murals and the merging of the organizations.

Frank Purling, Gerald Ricketts, Sam Tiemeyer, and Ramey Lehman, Cowboys for Christ, met with the Board to express their concerns of the conditions of the Rodeo Arena located at the Fair Grounds. Mr. Purling stated that the arena is in much need of maintenance to the point that it is not safe for the animals or the children that attend the events that are held there. The place looks terrible and in bad shape. The gates do not swing, they have to be drug, the wooden fence needs to be stood back up, there is fencing that needs to be replaced, and painting that needs done. Mr. Ricketts stated that it looks bad and needs maintenance. It has been approximately 15 years since any good maintenance has been done to the arena. They need to do a little each year and then it wouldn't take so much all at once. It is to the point that it is going to cost a substantial amount to fix what needs to be fixed. The budget, income, and expenses were discussed. Commissioner Mayo stated that they would need to talk to the Fair Board about where all of the funds are being spent. The Fair Board provides updates and reports to the Commissioners randomly through the year. Mr. Purling stated that they have had up to 200 kids there to have the experience of riding horses and they would like to continue the different activities with the kids but need it to be a safer place for the kids and the animals. The Board of Commissioners stated that they will visit with the Fair Board on the maintenance of the arena that has been expressed as a major concern. Mr. Tiemeyer made the annual request for the donation funding for the Cowboy's for Christ that has always been \$500 other years. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to donate \$500 out of the Alcohol Fund to the Cowboy's for Christ. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed a quote from McGee Roofing for the repairs caused from the wind storm on December 15, 2021 to the roof and the fencing at the ESA Building location in the amount of \$3,376.92. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to approve the quote from McGee Roofing in the amount of \$3,376.92 for the repairs to the roof located at the ESA Building. This will be paid for out of the County General Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to discuss repairs that are needed on the Crawler. The seal is out of the tilted cylinder and depending if it can be repaired or they will have to purchase a reman that is estimated to cost between \$3,300 to \$4,700. The Board instructed Ms. Carroll to go ahead and have the repairs done to the Crawler for it is a needed piece of equipment at the Landfill. The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee of the Landfill to attend training in Junction City, Kansas.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to review an estimate on the installation of a generator at the County Health Department. The estimate was received from Advance Electric, LLC in the amount of \$37,750. This price does not include the cost of plumbing or the concrete pad to sit the generator on. This project will be paid for out of COVID grant funds. There is a lead time of 6-8 months on receiving the generator. Mr. Knoettgen stated that he would like to add a monitoring system on the generator to alert them when something is wrong. He will contact Advance Electric to get an additional price on adding one of them. After much discussion, the Board of Commissioners tabled the decision until next week on this project.

The Board adjourned at 1:10 pm.

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Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

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