

June 21, 2021

Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Commissioner Thurlow were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Account payables in the amount of \$28,566.62 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give an update report on how things are going at the park. Mr. Arnold reported that he had poured 14 new concrete slabs at campsites replacing ones that were damaged at a cost of \$14,000. The new pedestals that were installed after the flood are working great. They have had no electrical issues. The Park Board and Mr. Arnold have discussed the possibility of increasing the rates for next year. Everything is costing more to use and maintain. Mr. Arnold stated that he is needing to hire someone to help mow and to help around the park. The Board granted permission to hire one full time or two part time people at the seasonal position with no benefits at a rate of \$12.00 per hour. The Board asked Mr. Arnold to report to the Board once a month to keep them informed of what is happening at the park.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss the County business. Mr. Mason informed the Board that they are starting to scan older documents to keep and will destroy the paper copies.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department replaced a pipe, worked on equipment at the shop to get it ready to chip seal. They chip sealed 23rd Road, a street in Clifton, then moved to Longford to chip seal one mile of Main Street. Two employees traveled to Beaver, Nebraska to pick up the new lowboy trailer. Bladed roads, mowed roadsides, cleaned out a ditch on Jayhawk Rd. between 25th Rd. and 26th Rd., and cleaned the equipment that was used for chip sealing. The chip sealing project is completed and they will be ready for asphaltting next. The Board granted permission to get quotes on buckets of asphalt patch to have on hand. Mr. Shomper reported that they are having an extreme amount of road signs stolen throughout the County. At some locations they are completely pulling the post out of the ground along with the signs. This is very costly for the County to replace all of these signs.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that the Department has been very busy making emergency runs and out of town transfers. They currently are 93 runs ahead of where they were at the same time in 2020. They are preparing for the summer activities and for the County Fair with the request of an ambulance being on standby. Mr. Cramer will bring in quotes for front tires that need to be replaced on the gator that is used at these activities next week. Mr. Cramer presented two different proposed 2022 EMS budgets to the Board. One has the proposal changes of 2 Full time employees from EMT to AEMT and 3 PRN to AEMT. The seconded proposal has just 2 Full time employee changes from EMT to AEMT. Mr. Cramer stated that he has increased his budget because of the increase cost of supplies. This extra expense has really affected the 2021 budget. The budgets were left with the Board for study.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that there are currently two positive cases of COVID involving Clay County residents and they are following two individuals. Ms. Rickley reported that the Clay County

Health Fair is currently going on and is being well attended. Individuals can call for an appointment if they would like to attend the Health Fair. Ms. Kemp presented the name and contract of a business that provides consulting services for the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Fund. Ms. Kemp stated she feels this would be a good service to have.

Durwin Mall met with the Board and showed them pictures of a road located at 28th & Utah Rd. going east that needs to be graded. The Board asked Mr. Mall to contact Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, to discuss this road issue.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga informed the Board that he needs to purchase one additional camera to install in the Sheriff's Department. Permission was granted to purchase one additional camera.

Brooke Germann, Conservation District Manager, met with the Board to present the 2022 proposed funding request. Also, in attendance were Luke Wohler, Chairman, Carrol Adams, Annelle Chestnut, Bevin Law, Lowell Marsh, Derek James, and Mike Pavel, District Conservationist. Mr. Wohler started the meeting with thanking the Board for meeting with them and asked those attending to introduce themselves and state how many years that they have served on the Conservation Board. Mr. Wohler stated that they had been fortunate over the past 2 years to have Josh Wohler as our KACD Technician and they will be able to renew his contract in August for an additional year. This is great news for our District. Ms. Germann reported that in May the DOC reached out to them about an On Farm Trial that our County was able to take part in. With this program they were given \$3,500 to allocate for this project. The program provides opportunities to demonstrate environmental and economic benefits for conservation practices that are applicable to address the highest priority water resource related issues in each county. Mr. Law stated that he is still active with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and serves on the KACD Board of Directors, and also on the NACD Board. Mr. Law reported that 2020 was the first year for the Next Generation Institute Program and they had good participation. Ms. Adams reported that of course education is important to her and she enjoys working closely with USD 379 to offer the conservation poster contest to elementary students, the 4th Grade Earth Day, the 6th Grade Environmental Education Day, and the Envirothon program for High School students. Ms. Chestnut reported that the district plans on expanding their outreach this year as COVID has had an effect on the Community. They already have several presentations lined up for adults to expand the impact as a district. Mr. James reported that they did not have an annual meeting this year, but were able to recognize producers with awards for their conservation practices. The proposed budget funding request includes a 5% increase for the Conservation District. The 2022 proposed budget was left with the Board for review.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Mesalles presented the Board with the Appraiser's 2022 proposed budget. Mr. Mesalles reviewed the requested increases and projects that he would like to do in 2022. The budget was left for review. This year the Data Collectors will be reviewing the areas of Clifton, Morganville, Green, Bloom, Goshen, Hayes, Highland, Sherman, Mulberry, and Garfield Townships. The vehicles that are driven by the Data Collectors are marked with signage for the Appraiser's Office.

A Travel & Tourism Grant request was received from the Longford Rodeo in the amount of \$1,000 to be used for advertising the event. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to approve the grant request for \$1,000 to be paid to the Longford Rodeo to use for advertisement of the event. This will be paid for out of the Travel & Tourism Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-11 opposing the inclusion of Clay County within the National Heritage areas designated region. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-12 opposing the Federal Government's "30 x 30" Land Preservation Goal. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
June 28, 2021
Clay Center, Kansas