

July 19, 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 \$31,025.09 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason stated that he will be busy in Court this week with hearings and continues to catch up on cases that were put off through the COVID pandemic when the Courts were shut down.

Randy Gassman, Pottberg, Gassman, & Hoffman, Chtd., met with the Board to hold the first budget workshop to gather all of the information and to start the process of preparing the 2022 budget for Clay County. Mr. Gassman will return next week with the first budget draft for the Board to view and to make changes.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, cleaned ditches, mowed roadsides, installed two pipes, worked at the shop, and packed the asphalt patches that they had done a week ago. The decision was made to close 24<sup>th</sup> Rd. between Navajo Rd. and Osage Rd. The repairs that they had made last week at this location was washed out with the heavy rains and there were concerns that the road would cave in the entire width of the road. They are placing a temporary pipe in this location until Engineers are able to give guidance on the placement of a permanent box.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department has been extremely busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. Mr. Cramer reported on the meetings and the trainings that they attended last week. The Department will be performing the Physical Agility test on possible new employees this week.

The Board of Commissioners received a quote for bottled water from the Longford Water Co. The quote is for 6,000 labels, 20 cases of water, and delivery in the amount of \$467.15. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to purchase the 20 cases of water, labels and delivery in the amount of \$467.15 to be used at County events. This will be paid for out of the General Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that there are currently 9 positive cases of COVID in Clay County. There have been 17 positive cases since July 1<sup>st</sup> in Clay County. They are continuing to do weekly testing at the Law Enforcement Center until they have 2 weeks of clear tests. CDC has reported that 99% of hospitalized cases have been unvaccinated individuals. Ms. Rickley stated that the vaccine continues to be effective with the Variant Covid also. Ms. Kemp stated that she is concerned about the age group of 12 years old and under because there is no vaccine available at this time to give them. In Clay County with the age group of 12-18 there are 72 individuals vaccinated out of a population of 1,250 and with the age group of 18-55 there are 880 individuals vaccinated out of a population of 3,992. County Health wants everyone to know that they are available at all time to give

the vaccine. Ms. Rickley stated that the Health Department will be providing vaccines at the Back-to-School Fair that the Clay Center Elks Lodge will be hosting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Rickley reported that the Health Department met with the School District and they will be adding the COVID Vaccine to the recommended vaccines that are offered at school linked vaccine clinics.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga asked permission to place an employment ad to fill a vacant Corrections Officer position. Permission was granted. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to allow an employee to use their accumulated sick leave hours, granted permission to use vacation hours before the employee's 1<sup>st</sup> year Anniversary, and to donate 17 hours of sick leave out of the County Sick Leave Pool. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, joined the meeting. Mr. Knoettgen presented a proposal from GKW Group LLC to provide cleaning, and repair work on the limestone rock at the Law Enforcement Center in the amount of \$42,260. Commissioner Thurlow stated that they have not done any work on the Law Enforcement building and feels that we need to take care of the limestone rock and make the repairs. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to accept the proposal from GKW Group, LLC for the stone cleaning and repair in the amount of \$42,260. This will be paid for out of the County General Fund. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board granted Mr. Knoettgen to purchase a new garden hose cart.

Mike Blaske, Architect, met with the Board to present the preliminary drawing for the renovation in the District Court Office. Mr. Knoettgen, County Maintenance, joined the meeting. Mr. Blaske explained the drawings and how the office design would change with the placement of a new counter containing bullet proof glass. Mr. Knoettgen asked if the floor would need to be reinforced with the weight of this type of glass. Mr. Blaske asked if we had a set of the original drawings for the Courthouse that he would like to use for research. Commissioner Thurlow stated that he would like to see a drawing with measurements and more detail. The Board instructed Mr. Blaske to move forward with more detailed drawings and with prices for this project.

The Board received quotes for an all-purpose cart to be used at the Clay County Park. The quotes are as follows:

- PrairieLand Partners - 2022 - John Deere Gator XUV835M - \$15,315.73 (Gas)
- PrairieLand Partners - 2022 - John Deere Gator XUV835M - \$16,812.72 (Diesel)
- Camp Creek LLC – 2021 Club Car AV 1500 4X4 – \$13,800

After reviewing the quotes, Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to authorize the Clay County Park to purchase the 2021 Club Car AV from Camp Creek in the amount of \$13,800. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
July 26, 2021  
Clay Center, Kansas

