

July 25, 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. Payroll in the amount of \$203,539.08 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Board received a proposal from Network's Plus on the purchase of the Non-Managed Watchguard Firewall for the Clay County Landfill in the amount of \$1,094. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to purchase the Watchguard Firewall for the Landfill in the amount of 1,094. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Randy Gassman, Pottberg, Gassman, & Hoffman, Chtd, met with the Board to hold the final budget workshop. The Board made several changes to the draft budget before finalizing the 2023 Clay County budget and the Rural Highway Budget. The budget hearing for both budgets will be held on August 29, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Clay County Courthouse.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed roads, mowed roadsides, hauled rock, patched asphalt roads in the mornings, replaced bridge planks on bridges located at 4th & Osage Rd. and 3rd & Cottonwood Rd. Mr. Shomper reported that Lance Jones, Territory Sales Manager with Murphy Tractor, is still working on providing a John Deere 770 model to demo to the Department. He also stated that he may be able to get a model 672 which would be an all-wheel drive grader to bring for a demo. Mr. Shomper stated that he has researched the maintenance cost between the John Deere motor grader that they currently have and the Caterpillar graders. They have actually spent less funds on the John Deere grader than they have on the Caterpillar graders. Mr. Shomper reported that he has received a complaint on the approaches of the Clifton River Bridge. There seems to be dips on both sides of the bridge that are getting worse. Mr. Shomper has contacted Kenny Blair with Cook, Flatt, Strobel. Mr. Blair was one of the original Engineers that was contracted when the bridge was built. Mr. Blair stated that there are two ways to fix the issues with the approaches. The first option and the least expensive would be to build the approach up with hot mix cold lay asphalt to make the entry smooth again. This option would have to be redone every few years at an estimated cost between \$5,000 - \$10,000. The second option is to hire an Engineer and fix it permanently with drilling holes in the approach, fill with a concrete mud at an estimated cost of \$88,000. The Board discussed both options and granted permission for Mr. Shomper to repair both of the approaches with hot mix cold lay asphalt at an estimated cost between \$5,000 - \$10,000. The new crack sealer should arrive at the Highway Department this week. Mike Argo, Fair Board President, joined the meeting. Mr. Shomper asked what the timeline was going to be for the Highway Department to demolish the two buildings at the Fairgrounds where the new building will be placed. The Board would like to remove the tin off of the roof of the Exhibit Hall for the Highway Department to be able to use. Mr. Shomper stated that it will take some time to remove the tin in a condition that it can be used again and not torn up too much. After much discussion, the Board decided that the month of August would be used to empty and demolish the buildings and to clean up the grounds to get ready for the construction of the new building.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Kemp stated that as of Friday there were 29 positive COVID cases in Clay County that have been reported. It seems with this strand the vaccinated individuals are not getting as sick and there are not as many having to be hospitalized. There have been several outbreaks within businesses. The State reported several outbreaks in Correctional Facilities and in Law Enforcement Centers. Ms. Kemp reported that she held a Command Staff Meeting with the Emergency Departments, USD 379, and CCMC to see what their feelings were about meeting daily with the number of positive COVID cases in the County. It was decided to not meet daily at this time. If there is a large increase it will be considered again at that time. Commissioner Mayo stated that they need to make a decision on the safe room grant that could be used at the Fairgrounds. This would need to be a separate project and not done at the same time as the new building. After much discussion, the Board decided to not apply at this time for the safe room grant. They may consider it again at a later date.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give weekly report. Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, joined the meeting. Ms. Kemp just wanted to report to Sheriff Benninga what the State had stated that the COVID cases are on the increase in Correctional Facilities and in Law Enforcement Centers. That the Jailers might want to be careful and increase the cleaning and sanitizing. Ms. Kemp left the meeting. Sheriff Benninga reported that they have two light bars that are old enough that they are not able to find replacement bulbs for them. Sheriff Benninga and Chief Robinson were discussing this issue and Chief Robinson stated that they had two light bars that they do not use in storage and would be glad to donate them to the Sheriff's Department. Clay County appreciates the donation of the light bars. Sheriff Benninga stated that have been working with USD 379 and will be holding a Crisis Drill on Thursday July 28th at Lincoln Grade School. They will be making announcements over the radio that will be associated to the action of the Drill. They will be holding one of these drills in each school. On August 5th it will be held at the Wakefield Grade School. These are all training drills and are beneficial for all of the individuals involved.

Rhonda Carney, Payroll/Accounts Payable, met with the Board to discuss the position that was created last week on the wage scale. Ms. Carney felt that this was not handled appropriately and should have been opened up for others to apply for. The handbook states that all positions must be advertised in the official County newspaper. Commissioner Mayo stated the Board of Commissioners has the ability to move an employee from one position to another position within the current employees and they felt that this position goes hand in hand with the emergency personal. Commissioner Mayo stated that they were not recruiting, they were maintaining the employment of a current employee. Ms. Carney feels that she is acting as the advocate for other employees. Including herself and a couple of other employees that would have applied for the newly created position and have qualifications for the job. Ms. Carney stated that there needs to be the job duties available. Commissioner Mayo replied that they are being developed and will be completed soon. Commissioner Mayo stated that this position was created for the retention of a current employee and that this position will not be a permanent position. The position will be removed from the wage scale at a future date.

Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park, met with the Board to give an update on the income and expenses of the park. Mr. Arnold provided document with financial information for the park. Mr. Arnold stated that it has been a good year at the park. Most of the campsites are filled and they have had a lot of weekend

visitors that stay for a few days. Mr. Arnold reported that the front tires on the tractor need to be replaced. Mr. Arnold has a price from Kansasland in the amount of \$360 for the two tires. The Board granted permission to purchase the two tires from Kansasland in the amount of \$360. Commissioner Thurlow stated that Mr. Arnold needs to get Wayne's World repaired so that it can be used. This has been unusable for too long. Commissioner Mayo asked about the exhaust fans in the shower houses. He has received a complaint that they are not working right and that it is extremely hot in the shower houses. Mr. Arnold agreed that it is really hot in the shower houses and he will look into this issue. Mr. Arnold informed the Board that they have set the date for the Customer Appreciation Meal for the campers on August 20, 2022.

The Board adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
August 1, 2022
Clay Center, Kansas