

July 26, 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. Payroll in the amount of \$191,561.38 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason asked the Board to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Attorney-Client Privilege Exception for 10 minutes beginning at 8:23 a.m. with Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow, Joel Mason, County Attorney, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is threatened-pending litigation. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:33 a.m. with no action being taken during the session.

Randy Gassman, Pottberg, Gassman, & Hoffman, Chtd., met with the Board to hold the second budget workshop. Several changes were made to the budget requests for the 2022 budget. Mr. Gassman will return next week with another draft for the Board to view and to make additional changes.

Commissioner Carlson reported that John Deere would not be providing a bid on the new mower for the Fair Board because they will not have prices for the 2022 products until November. Commissioner Mayo made a motion to accept the bid from Bruna Implement Co. on a 2022 Grasshopper 325 Diesel Mower with a 61" side discharge deck in the amount of \$17,535 minus trade in of a 2017 Grasshopper 325 Diesel with 770 hours for a cost difference of \$7,925. The Fair Board and the Highway Department share this mower. Highway Department will pay \$3,000 out of Road & Bridge budget on the cost of the mower. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper reported on a personnel issue that was dealt with last week. Last week the Department graded roads, hauled rock, mowed roadsides, completed the placement of a new pipe on 24<sup>th</sup> Rd. between Navajo Rd., and Osage Rd., replaced pipe on Cottonwood Rd. between 3<sup>rd</sup> Rd. & 4<sup>th</sup> Rd., and mowed at the Clay County Park. The pipe project on 24<sup>th</sup> Rd. was the biggest priority to get finished this past week.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department is busy and is 21 runs ahead of the same time in 2020. Medic 3 is back in the shop for another error code on the DEF quality. McGee Roofing came to look at the roof at EMS. There had been a leak from the rain in the last couple of weeks. A bid was received in the amount of \$8,060.10 for repairs to the roof. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to accept the bid from McGee Roofing in the amount of \$8,060.10 for repairs to the EMS Building roof. This is to be paid for out of the County General Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board was provided with a written update on the COVID-19 pandemic from Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager. As of Friday July 23, 2021 there were 14 active cases in Clay County. This makes 26 additional new cases in less than a month. The large majority of new cases are in unvaccinated persons here and nationwide. Ms. Kemp reported that Hospitals across the state and multi-state region are operating near

capacity. Not all are filled with COVID patients, but with other illnesses. Those increased census numbers coupled with widespread staff shortages are resulting in issues of finding facilities that will accept transferred patients.

Jimmy Thatcher met with the Board to tell them that the Clay County Park is looking good and to thank them for all that they have done at the park.

Danny Mesalles, Appraiser, met with the Board to give an update on the Building Permits for Clay County. Mr. Mesalles reported that the Appraiser's Office has issued 69 Building Permits so far in 2021. Of those 69 permits 10 of them are new dwellings. There have been 67 more sales so far this year compared to last year. Zoning Regulations and plats were discussed and reviewed.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga presented a quote from Friesen's Auto for the replacement of the fuel pump assembly on the Dodge Ram pickup in the amount of \$713.71. The Board granted permission to have these repairs done.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, presented an amended quote for the Courthouse SQL Update. The first amount that was approved was in the amount of \$4,289.92. Networks Plus sent an amended quote in the amount of \$4,901.00 stating that Microsoft increased the cost of the licensing on July 1<sup>st</sup> and they were not aware of this increase. The Board approved the difference of \$611.08 in the amended cost from Networks Plus for the SQL Licensing at the Courthouse.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to amend the motion that was made on July 12, 2021 concerning COVID leave for Clay County employees. The County will pay up to 80 hours of COVID leave for an employee that has tested positive for COVID and are actively ill. Human Resources must have a copy of the test results and the estimated date of release from isolation/quarantine. After using the 80 hours of COVID leave the employee will then use their own sick leave and vacation hours before being eligible to ask for hours out of the County Sick Leave Pool. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lynn Auld, President of the Clay Center Swim Team, met with the Board to report that they had approximately 60 kids participate in Swim Team this year. An average of 30-40 kids attended meets in other locations. It has been discovered that Clay Center will need to resurface their dive blocks before next year at a cost of \$648 and they were wondering if the County would be willing to donate any amount of funds for this project. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to donate the total amount of \$648 for the resurfacing of the dive block. This will be paid for out of the Alcohol Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to discuss the proposal and contract that had been received from GKW Group on the stone cleaning and repairs at the Law Enforcement Center. Mr. Knoettgen reported that the first quote that was approved last week was in the amount of \$42,260 and a new quote was attached to the contract in the amount of \$46,060 for a difference of \$3,800. After calling and questioning the difference, Mr. Knoettgen was told that some of the items got placed on the quote for the Courthouse and should have been on the Law Enforcement Center. After much discussion,

the Board made the decision to not approve the additional amount and will need a corrected contract in the amount of \$42,260 to sign next week.

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  
August 2, 2021  
Clay Center, Kansas