

August 23, 2022

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 \$188,274.74 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. The next delinquent tax sale was discussed. Mr. Mason stated that he will be working on it and will be setting a date.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, and Jeff Germann, Assistant Highway Administrator, met with the Board. Mr. Shomper reported that the storm that went through the southern part of the County on Friday night caused trees to fall across several roadways. The Department worked to remove the trees and to open the roads. Mr. Germann reported that last week the Department graded roads, hauled rock, patched blacktop roads, cut and trimmed trees. Mr. Shomper reported that he has received the Engineer Plans for the placement of the box that needs to be replaced on 24<sup>th</sup> Rd.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Kemp stated to the Board that the Pfizer Vaccine has been approved by FDA on the 2-shot series. Ms. Rickley reported that they had 2 new cases of COVID over the weekend along with two individuals that have been hospitalized. County Health continues to work closely with the School District to provide vaccines for students and staff. Ms. Rickley reported that the new flooring at the County Health facility is completed and it looks really nice. Ms. Kemp stated that on the State situation reports that the Hospital Association says that the patient count is increasing in all hospitals. The 6 largest Hospitals are at 100% of their ICU capacity. Stating that with this round of COVID, it is the younger age group that are getting sick. Clay County has had 54 cases of COVID in the month of August.

The Board approved the application from the Longford Bar & Grill for a Cereal Malt Beverage License Special Use Permit to use at the Longford Rodeo and Dance on September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This Special Use Permit will only be good for the days listed.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga visited with the Board about the older camera system that is still being used in the Law Enforcement Center but is not compatible with the new system. The Board asked Sheriff Benninga to get quotes for an additional system that will be compatible with the current one and to return next week with the prices. Also, they are needing to upgrade the current wireless access point and add an additional one so that the WIFI connection is available for them to hold Zoom meetings for Court. The cost for the access point would be \$179 each for a total of \$358. They will also need to purchase an additional docking station for a laptop to be used for these Zoom meetings in the amount of \$379. The Board granted permission for both of these purchases.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion for the Board to sign the Contract Agreement between Clay County Courthouse and GKW Group, LLC for the stone work project on the County Courthouse in the amount of \$293,080. This will be paid for out of the Courthouse Maintenance Fund. There will be work

done on all four sides of the Courthouse. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to report that the Maintenance pickup will need additional repairs made. The head gasket is leaking and all plugs need to be replaced for an estimated cost of \$700. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to have the repairs made to the Maintenance pickup in the amount of \$700. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Dustin Avey, Piper Sandler & Co., contacted the Board by phone to discuss the refinancing of the Hospital Bonds. There is enough of a savings right now with the low interest rates that they feel it would be worth the process of the expense to refinance. The Hospital Board will meet on August 30<sup>th</sup> and make the final decision.

The Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m. and will be back at 5:30 p.m. for budget hearings.

The Board reconvened at 5:30 p.m. to hold Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearings.

Starting at 5:30 the Boards of the following entities held their Revenue Neutral Rate and the Budget Approval Hearings; Fancy Creek Cemetery, Sherman Cemetery, Wesleyan Cemetery, Broughton Cemetery, Ebenezer Cemetery, Brethren-In-Christ Cemetery, Goshen Central Cemetery, Lincoln Cemetery, Wakefield Consolidated Cemetery, Garfield Cemetery, Mizpah Cemetery, Republican City Cemetery, Iwacura Cemetery, Wilson Cemetery, Uniondale Cemetery and Sherman Rural Fire District.

Following the above hearings, the 2021 Revenue Neutral Rate Hearings and the Budget Approval Hearings for Clay County, Clay County Rural Highway, Mulberry Rural Fire District, and Riverside Drainage District. There was no one from the public in attendance for the hearings.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of 5.260 with the levy of 5.133 for the Riverside Drainage District. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the 2022 Budget for the Riverside Drainage District with the mill levy rate of 5.133 and a budget in the amount of \$35,000 as published. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of .332 with the levy of .292 for the Mulberry Rural Fire District. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to adopt the 2022 Budget for the Mulberry Rural Fire District with the mill levy rate of .292 and a budget in the amount of \$1,900 as published. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of 15.587 with the levy of 17.258 for the Clay County Rural Highway District. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the 2022 Budget for the Clay County Rural

Highway District with the mill levy rate of 17.258 and a budget in the amount of \$1,962,000 as published. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of 49.652 with the levy of 55.838 for the Clay County budget. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the 2022 Budget for Clay County with a mill levy rate of 55.838 and a budget in the amount of 16,922,529 as published. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
August 30, 2021  
Clay Center, Kansas