

October 4, 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 \$1,837,699.79 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Payroll in the amount \$183,120.13 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason informed the Board that he had received a request for negotiations on the terms of the contract for the Attorney's that provide legal representation to the indigent parties when appointed by any judge of the District Court. The number of cases that are represented by these Attorneys were reviewed. Mr. Mason stated the Level One or off of the grid felonies require a lot of time from start to end. Mr. Mason will research this more and will return with more information.

Shannon Stark, Chamber of Commerce Director, met with the Board to ask permission for Vyve Broadband formally known as Eagle Communication to use the Courthouse Square to serve hamburger and hotdogs to the public to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the business.

Highway Department report was provided in writing. Last week the Department bladed roads, mowed, replaced several pipes in different locations, hauled rip rap, removed trees, worked in shop, and repaired the railing on a bridge. The bids for the project on 24th Rd. were opened as follows:

Reece Construction - \$91,034 – Concrete Box

Ebert Construction - \$80,988.40 – Concrete Box

Cook, Flatt, Strobel - \$343,463.00 – Steel Structure

Husker Steel - \$222,338.00 – Steel Structure

After reviewing the bids, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to accept the bid from Ebert Construction in the amount of \$80,988.40 for a reinforced concrete box, all materials, labor, and equipment necessary for the project. Clay County will perform traffic control, removal of the existing structure, perform all work necessary and materials for the backfill requirements and surfacing for the new structure. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Clay County has been awarded the funding to replace a bridge located 5.3 miles south and 1.0 mile east of Green, Kansas from the Kansas Department of Transportation Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Off-System Bridge Program. The County will be responsible for the cost of the Engineering Services not to exceed \$35,000. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to accept the cost of the Engineering Services not to exceed \$35,000 for Project NO. V.0-15.7 Bridge Replacement. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Rhonda Carney, Payroll, joined the meeting. Ms. Carney stated that a PRN employee at EMS has worked over the 999 hours annually allowed before Kpers is required to be deducted from his pay. The employee will need to be changed to a Part Time employee status with Kpers deducted from his pay. Also, the Board will need to decide if the employee is Part Time with or without benefits. The Board decided to place the employee as a Part Time without benefits status at this time. Mr. Cramer reported that the costs of the Paramedic program class have increased since the County has agreed to cover part of the cost with a three-year

contract to work with the County being signed. After discussion, Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to allow the County to pay up to \$10,000 for the Paramedic program with the County receiving the reimbursement of \$5,100 from the State of Kansas and a 3-year signed contract to work for the County. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The State of Kansas Board of EMS was out to do the yearly inspection and no issues were found. Mr. Cramer stated that he needs to purchase a chair mat for under his desk. Permission was granted for this purchase. Mr. Cramer would like to commend the EMS crews that worked the accident on October 1, 2021 for a job well done.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID pandemic. Ms. Rickley stated that we currently have 22 positive COVID cases in Clay County and are following 30 individuals. Ms. Rickley talked about the staffing and not being able to hire nurses. This is putting a huge amount of stress on the Department. With COVID testing and flu shots some of the other programs are going to fall behind. One of the nurses that will be leaving has agreed to stay on part time with no benefits to provide flu shots to businesses. All Counties in the State are having issues with the staffing of nurses. Pam Kemp provided a document to the Board on FEMA announcing that the application period for 2021 Hazard Mitigation grants is now open.

The Board reviewed the additional pay for the three employees at County Health Department that provide the contact tracing on positive COVID cases. The Board agreed to extend the extra \$5.00 per hour for unlimited hours until October 31, 2021 and then they will review this again.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that they have been cleaning out and rearranging the basement at the Law Enforcement Center to make more room.

A letter of support for Big Lakes Developmental Center was signed by the Board for a KDOT application on a \$10,000 operating grant for Transportation Assistance and a replacement accessible bus. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to sign the Agreement of Services between Clay County and Big Lakes Developmental Center for 1 year commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to discuss the request of allowing individuals to leave their campers parked in the Pipeline section for the winter. Mr. Arnold reported that he contacted the Corp of Engineers and visited with Ken Wenger who is over the Seasonal Camping Real Estate out of the Milford Project Office. Mr. Wenger stated that he had not previously given anyone permission for this request as stated that he had last week. Mike Scott also joined the meeting. The Board stated that they really didn't want to be in the business of storing the campers especially when there is local businesses that already do that. Mr. Scott stated that he did not see a problem with the campers staying and the individuals using them on the nice days this winter as long as they pay for the use. The Board was concerned about the number that would want to leave their campers parked and what the liability would be for the County with no manager on site through the winter months. Joel Mason, County Attorney, joined the meeting. Mr. Mason stated that they would have to have the individuals sign a liability release if the Board were to allow them to stay. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to clean all of the campers out of the park due to the fact that we do not store campers for

the winter months. The Clay County Park will close November 30, 2021 since we are considered a Seasonal campsite and all campers need to be removed from the park by this date. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Arnold reported that he has Wayne's World Park repaired and back open. Commissioner Mayo asked Mr. Arnold if he thought that the Park should hire a part time person to do the book work in the office. Mr. Arnold stated that it would help a lot to have someone in the office part time. The Board of Commissioners stated that they feel that the fee schedule needs to be reviewed and to simplify the options. Commissioner Thurlow asked if Mr. Arnold had the dead trees marked so that the Highway Department could come in and cut down the remaining trees that need to be removed. Mr. Arnold stated that they are marked. Mr. Arnold reported that he would like to find trees to plant and to see if there would be volunteers to help with the planting.

The receipt for the purchase on the partial refinancing of the Hospital Bond Series 2021-B was signed by the County Clerk.

The Board adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
October 12, 2021
Clay Center, Kansas