

October 12, 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.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Christine Swaim, Clay County Treasurer, for her four-year term.

Commissioner Thurlow reported that he had attended the Wakefield City Council meeting last week to present a proposal from the Highway Department in the amount of \$7,890.36 for the cost of a 48"x40" squash pipe, flowable fill, and cold mix to replace an existing structure of a 24" concrete tile pipe. The Highway Department would do all of the labor to install the pipe. Also, the cost of the asphalt that was laid from the edge of where the County provides maintenance to meet the blacktop by the school in the amount of \$15,243.00. The City Council agreed to reimburse Clay County a total of \$10,000 towards the total of both bills. Clay County will cover the remaining amount of the asphalt since they laid it without first providing Wakefield with the cost.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Board to give an update on the Clay County Medical Center. Mr. Gillard reported that all of the construction projects are complete. The parking lot on the west side of the Medical Center is almost done. The Family Physicians Clinic in Glasco, Kansas will open on November 2nd, 2021. The Clay County Medical Center will begin providing general surgeries with Doctors from Manhattan 4 days a week in January 2022. There will be no on call coverage and these will be scheduled surgeries. The Medical Center is still researching the cost and the possibility of having a Dialysis Center here in Clay Center. Commissioner Carlson stated that they need to discuss three bills that Clay County has received from CCMC for sending a Registered Nurse on an out-of-town transfer. Commissioner Thurlow stated that he understands that staffing is difficult in all medical fields. The County does not always have a Paramedic to go along with a transfer but that it is the Hospitals request to send the nurse not the EMS. Clay County is a Ground Ambulance Service with ALS capabilities when available. Mr. Gillard stated that if the County doesn't want to pay for the nurse, they can always call First Call to make the transfer. The Board stated that they would talk to Mr. Cramer, EMS Director, and will make a decision later this morning.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason discussed the Indigent Attorney's current contract and the request for negotiations that was received. Commissioner Mayo stated that he has some concerns with the request since the work load has declined to less than 2 cases per month for the year of 2021. The Board gave Mr. Mason direction to leave the contract at \$1,380 monthly and to add that the contract members will receive the same percentage increase that the County employees receive at the beginning of each year beginning in 2022. Mr. Mason stated that he would present this proposal to the Attorney's.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed roads, mowed roadsides, installed pipe on 15th Street, and rocked all driveways on the newly asphalted roads.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that Medic 8 was in for routine maintenance. Zoll was out on Friday to do the maintenance on all of the Z-Vents. One of the batteries need to be replaced on one of the vents and this will be covered under the maintenance plans. Mr. Cramer discussed staffing issues at the EMS Department. Commissioner Carlson discussed the three bills from CCMC on the costs of the Registered Nurses being sent on out-of-town transfers. Mr. Cramer stated that he feels that we should not be billed for the nurses since EMS is not requesting them on the transfers that it is the medical center that is sending them. After discussion, the County Commissioners made the decision to not pay the bills that are being received from the medical center for a nurse to go on a transfer at the Doctors request.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, met with the Board to present a Resolution providing the compensation for Election Board workers and Supervising Judges. Each Board worker will be paid the rate of \$10 per hour while serving on the election board. Also, the Supervising Judges will be paid an extra \$20 per Election plus mileage for the job duties required of them. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-15 providing the compensation for the Election Board workers and the Supervising Judges. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that he had received the resignation of the Chief Dispatcher and will be filling the position within the Department but would like permission to advertise for a full-time dispatcher. Permission was granted to place an employment ad in the local paper. Sheriff Benninga stated that he would like to change the Chief Dispatcher from an hourly position to a salaried position based on a 90 hour pay period in the amount of \$1,697.40 per pay period. After much discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to make the Chief Dispatcher a salaried position in the amount of \$1,697.40 per pay period. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Brandon Gibson, Spangenberg, Phillips, Tice Architecture, discussed the proposals for the new 4-H Building to be placed at the Fairgrounds. Mike Argo, Fair Board President and Brian Girrens, Fairboard Member, were also present. Mr. Gibson presented a proposal for 60'x150' Open Exhibit Hall. The Exhibit Hall will dually function as a certified Red Cross Mass Shelter and will meet Red Cross design criteria. Along with the Exhibit Hall there will be 32'x150' Office/Support wing on one side for reception area, offices, conference room, work room, storage area, private restrooms, catering/warming kitchen, public restrooms to serve the Exhibit area, and Exhibit storage. The estimated construction cost, as based on the Preliminary Spatial Program requirements is \$1,300,000. Commissioner Thurlow made the statement that they had no idea what the costs of the building would come in at. The County would only be able to allocate the \$1,300,000 for this project for they are purchasing a new ambulance with the remaining balance of the Recovery Funds. So, anything in addition would need to come from the donations that the 4-H clubs have received. Mr. Argo stated that they need to get back to work on the fund raising for this project. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to sign the contract with Spangenberg Phillips Tice Architecture on the proposal of the Exhibit Hall in the allocated amount of \$1,300,000. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Carlson stated that if we don't get started on the project, we will never get it finished.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to present a bid on the purchase of 5 new office chairs for the Appraiser's Office. The bid was received as follows: Central Office Service & Supply in the amount of \$249 per chair for a total of \$1,245. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to allow up to \$1,300 for the purchase of 5 new office chairs for the Appraiser's Office. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Carlson asked Mr. Mesalles about the zoning on several parcels.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, presented a draft copy of the complete Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for the Board to review.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to report on the COVID pandemic. Currently Clay County has 38 positive cases. Ms. Rickley reported to the Board that she was able to hire one Registered Nurse and will still need to hire one more to fill the other vacant position.

Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, met with the Board to ask permission to purchase two of the white 6' folding tables to be used for the sorting of the tax statements. Permission was granted to purchase two tables and to pay for them out of County General so that other Departments within the Courthouse can also use them.

The Board adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
October 18, 2021
Clay Center, Kansas