

October 24, 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.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to discuss the new contract with Trane on the Heating and Air system in the Courthouse. Mr. Knoettgen stated that the system is now 10 years old and seems to be working well. Currently the service agreement includes maintenance that is to be done twice a year on the entire system and there is also phone support that is available for County Maintenance to use if needed. The new contract is for one year in the amount of \$3,276.92. This is an increase from the last contract that was signed 4 years ago. The Board instructed Mr. Knoettgen to find out if there is anything else covered for the price increase. The Board discussed the updates that need to be made to the elevator. Mr. Knoettgen informed the Board that he has only found one company that will even quote the job. The company out of Wichita said that they will not be providing a quote on the project. The Board stated that they need to move forward and to get a price from the one company and present it to the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to grant a two-week extension on an employee's FMLA status update paperwork that a Physician needs to fill out. The report is now due on November 7th, 2022. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The report has been received so the extension will not be needed.

Joel Mason, County Attorney met with the Board to discuss County business. Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, joined the meeting to discuss concerns that he has received on a piece of property in Athelstane Township. Larry Gibbs, Curtis Steenbock and Gail Steenbock joined the meeting. Mr. Mesalles stated that he has been asked about Jayhawk Rd. between 2nd Rd. and 4th Rd. if this has ever been vacated or closed. Gail Steenbock stated that he has a concern with a piece of land that he owns and would be unable to get to it to farm if this road is a private drive. Mr. Mason stated that there is what is known as an easement by necessity that can be drafted with the other landowner. Several maps and surveys were reviewed and as of now the Board has no proof that the road has ever been vacated so at this time, they will continue to maintain it up to the landowner's driveway and it will remain as an open road that comes to a dead end.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give a report on the incident that happened at the County Shop this morning. Mr. Shomper reported that the Department bladed roads, mowed roadsides, and sealed cracks on the asphalt roads. He also reported that the conference that he attended last week was a very good learning experience.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The AEMT students have finished testing and have passed the practical skills test. Mr. Cramer stated that the Department continues to stay very busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to request 5 hours of sick leave from the County Sick Leave Pool and the use of accumulated vacation hours for an employee of the Landfill. Commissioner Thurlow made a motion to grant permission for an employee of the Landfill to use all of the accumulated hours of vacation time before their one-year anniversary and to donate 5 hours of sick leave for the County Sick Leave Pool. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that the Active Shooter Drill that was held at CCCHS last week went well. They were able to use the drone on the North and East sides of the building to assist in the Drill. The drone will be available to use in several events if needed.

Don Wright, Clay County Public Transportation Director, met with the Board to introduce the new Director Jay Berends that will be Mr. Wrights replacement. Mr. Wright showed the Board the Transit System of the Year Award that they were presented from the Kansas Public Transit Association in August. Clay County Public Transportation is very honored to receive this award. In the year 2021 there were only 1,267 riders compared to 3,554 in 2022. In 2021 there were 2,331 rides provided compared to 5,826 in 2022. The buses are providing rides not only to individuals within the city, but also out in the County. This system is not only for the elderly to ride, they will provide a ride to anyone that is willing to pay the fee to ride. Mr. Wright stated that if the Public Transportation continues to grow, they will need to add an additional bus and will need to increase the budget to provide the service to the people of Clay County. The Board wished Mr. Wright the best with his new job and his move and welcomed Mr. Berends to the position as Director of the Clay County Public Transportation.

Mayor Jimmie Thatcher, Phil Kasper, Clay Center City Councilman, and Patrick Hayes, Parks & Recreation Superintendent, met with the Board to discuss the purchase of rock for the Rundle-Brown Soccer Field parking lot. After visiting with Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, it was decided that the County could get a better price per ton on the purchase of the rock. They were wondering if the County would be willing to purchase the rock and then the city would reimburse the County. After much discussion, the Board of Commissioners decided that the County would pay for the hauling of the rock if the City of Clay Center would pay for the rock. Both sides want to keep a good working relationship between the County and the City.

Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give an update on the park since the camping season will be ending soon. Mr. Arnold presented the income and expense report to the Board. Mr. Arnold discussed the purchase of a Bobcat Skid Steer for the park to use. They are starting to have issues with the tractor and think that a skid steer would work just as good if it had a bucket, grapple and forks as attachments. Commissioner Mayo stated that he feels that it would be better to purchase a new unit for the Highway Department that would use the equipment more often and to move the one from the Highway Department to the Park. Commissioner Mayo called Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, and asked if this would be a possibility. Mr. Shomper stated that he would like to wait until after the first of the year to work on this purchase. The Board instructed Mr. Arnold that they would look into this after the first of the year. Commissioner Mayo asked if Mr. Arnold had any delinquent accounts that he needs to turn over to the County Attorney. Mr. Arnold said that there are a few accounts that are not paid up but he would like to wait until the end of the camping season to turn them over to the County Attorney.

The Board adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
October 31, 2022
Clay Center, Kansas