

November 8, 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 \$4,877.02 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Board to give an update on the Clay County Medical Center and on Clay Center Family Physician's. Mr. Gillard reported that the Glasco Family Physician's Office opened last week and has seen several patients. The Glasco community is very excited to have this available to them. Mr. Gillard expressed his concerns on the mandated vaccine order. There is the possibility of losing employees over this mandate. Currently there are two COVID patients in CCMC. This seems to be the daily average with COVID patients at the current time.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, and Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, were present for the Public Hearing on the Clay County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. There was no one from the public in attendance. Commissioner Carlson opened the Public Hearing at 8:30 a.m. After discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the Clay County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan as presented with an effective date of January 1, 2022. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mesalles reported that he has received one application and the Board of Commissioners approved the application presented.

Mike Scott, Vernon Osborne, Robert McGee and Jon Lehman, campers at the Clay County Park, met with the Board to discuss issues going on with the Manager at the park. Gail Westgate, Member of the Park Board and also a camper joined the meeting. Mr. Scott stated that he is tired of all of the trash talk that is going on at the park. Mr. Arnold seems to have to talk about me and my business to other people. Mr. Lehman stated that when he goes to the office, Mr. Arnold talks about several other people and their business to him. Individuals are worried about the slander that is being said. Mr. McGee reported that Mr. Arnold keeps telling others that there is a list of people that are being kicked out of the park and will not be able to return, and that supposedly a couple of us are on this list. If so, we need to be told why we are being kicked out and if we need to find somewhere else to camp. Mr. Osborne stated that he is tired of receiving phone calls when he is working out of town, threats of being kicked out of the park and several campers being called Park Rats. Commissioner Carlson stated that they will discuss all of these concerns with the Park Manager later this morning.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Francis Cox and Kayla Darden were also present to discuss the low water crossing bridge that is attached to his property south of Vining. Mr. Cox stated that he is wanting to widen the ditch area to help with the drainage of the amount of water that goes through that area and spread the remaining dirt that is piled out over the field. There is also a large pile of dirt mixed with rocks that was left by the Highway Department when they put the bridge in and Mr. Cox would like to have it hauled off if possible. Mr. Shomper stated that he would be glad to haul of the mixture pile and will help with the ditch work. Commissioner Carlson asked Mr. Shomper to make arrangements with Mr. Cox and set up a time for this work to be done.

Mr. Shomper reported that last week the Department installed two pipes, removed trees, bladed roads, mowed roadsides, trimmed trees, ditch work, repaired signs, and hauled rock. Mr. Shomper provided the Board with a quote on a Trailer Mounted Spray Patcher from Total Patcher in the amount of \$73,500. You can also add to this piece of equipment a crack seal attachment in the amount of \$1,400 for a total amount of \$74,900. Commissioner Carlson asked Mr. Shomper if he had seen this piece of equipment or if he knew of a County that have one of these. The Board instructed Mr. Shomper to try and find someone that has actually ran one like this and return with more information. Mr. Shomper showed the Board two large notebooks. One is for the jobs that have been completed this year and the other one is for project that still need to be done. The Board stated that this is a great idea and that they liked seeing all of the jobs that have been completed.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that they have been busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. Currently they have had 810 runs so far this year. They have set a tentative date in the later part of January 2022 to start another AEMT class. This will be held one time a week for 20 weeks.

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 there are currently 15 active COVID cases in Clay County and that County Health is following 12 individuals. County Health will be providing flu clinics for the schools beginning soon. Ms. Kemp stated to the Board that she feels it is best to leave the Proclamation of Local Disaster Emergency Declaration in place at this time. If we should get an increase in positive cases this Local Declaration will help with getting supplies for Clay County. Ms. Rickley asked permission to allow the newly hired COVID Mitigation employee to work up to 40 hours a week. This position is grant funded and when the funds are depleted the position will go away. The Board granted permission for the newly hired person to work up to 40 hours per week.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Megan Lewis, Riley County Corrections, Sandy Harper, Adult Services, Lisa Last, Community Corrections Board Member, Kristen Wright was present and Shelley Williams, Riley Community Corrections Director, met by phone conference. Ms. Williams started the conversation by telling the Board that they have served Clay County Community since 1980. The services have expanded with different types of programs that are currently available for felons which also requires additional employees to be here at different times on different days. Recently Community Corrections has signed an agreement with the Sheriff to provide drug testing for them. Ms. Williams understands that this is a County Building and that Sheriff Benninga has control of the building but they do not think that the space that Sheriff Benninga has marked off for them will work for their office space. Ms. Lewis handed out a drawing of the area with several options. They feel that the option that Sheriff Benninga is proposing is too small of an area. Ms. Harper presented a couple of pictures of the area. Sheriff Benninga stated that he had measured his office and had given them another foot beyond that and feels that area in the basement needs to be used by his Officers for training also. The Board asked if they could go over to the Law Enforcement Center to view the area to understand the issues on both sides. The Board adjourned to tour the LEC. The Board reconvened at the Law Enforcement Center. Ms. Williams expressed her concerns about safety issues with Ms. Lewis not having a direct exit out of the office in case there is trouble. Sheriff Benninga stated that he feels the safety issue with being in the basement would be the escape up the long stairway.

Sheriff Benninga would like to move the Community Corrections upstairs to the Office that is currently used by the Undersheriff and all of the Deputies and move the Undersheriff and Deputies downstairs in the basement. Ms. Lewis stated that this office is small and that their main concern is confidentiality. They can have no one listening or over hearing their meetings with their clients. They feel that their current office furniture would not fit in the office upstairs and that they have no budget to purchase different furniture. The Board adjourned back to the Courthouse. The Board reconvened back in the Commissioners Room. The Statue states that Clay County must pay ½ of the expenses of having the Community Corrections services in the County. Clay County has always supplied the Office space for this service. Commissioner Mayo stated that he likes the idea of moving all of the officers to the larger area in the basement along with having the weight room and the computerized range all in one area. Ms. Wright stated that Riley County Judicial system is the leader in the State of Kansas and Clay County does not want to lose this resource in our community. This service is very important in getting individuals back to work and into society. Commissioner Carlson asked to table this issue until more research can be done. Sheriff Benninga asked permission to purchase new duty ammunition for all of the officers. The current supply is several years old. There has been an advancement in technology and he feels that we need to update our supply. A quote from Rusty Trigger Gun Shop was received in the amount of \$483. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to purchase the ammunition from Rusty Trigger Gun Shop in the amount of \$483. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board signed engagement letters from Pottberg Gassman & Hoffman Chartered for the special single audit that is done annually on the Clay County Landfill to comply with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's requirements.

Natalie Muruato, Economic Development Director, and Matt Ludwick, met with the Board to present a grant application for Mr. Ludwick. This will be an in-home business almost like a food truck out of his third garage. Mr. Ludwick stated that it will be called Italian Shack & Bakery. He will have Italian dishes, homemade pizza that is baked in a brick oven, and bakery items available for pickup or delivery. He has had issues with getting all of the electrical requirements done and all of the added expense of this. If he were to receive this grant it would be put towards the electrical work that needs to be completed before they can open. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approval this grant application in the amount of \$2,500 for the start-up of this business. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Muruato presented another grant application for Highway 82 Fitness LLC. This is a new Fitness Center that will be available in Wakefield for the Community to have 24-hour access for exercising. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve this grant application in the amount of \$2,500 for the start -up of Highway 82 Fitness LLC. Commissioner Thurlow abstained from voting. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed by majority vote.

Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to discuss issues at the Clay County Park. Mike Scott, Jon Lehman, and Gail Westgate were also in attendance. Commissioner Carlson brought up the campers stating that Chuck is always trash talking about them to other individuals. Commissioner Carlson asked if this is true. Mr. Arnold stated that he is having trouble with certain individuals that camp in the park. Mr. Arnold stated that he works hard at the park and all he wants is to make the park better. After a lot of discussion, Commissioner Carlson stated that if Mr. Arnold has a problem with an individual, he needs to go directly to them and discuss the issue. Do not go through other people. The

Board approved the Summer temporary help to stay through the month of November to help plant trees at the park. The Board instructed Mr. Arnold to put small river rock pebbles not sand at the Wayne's World playground. The Board approved the purchase of between 30-40 trees at \$100 each from Blueville Nursery for replacing trees at the park that were lost in the flood.

Katie Payne, AEMT, met with the Board and asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to go into an Executive Session under Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 15 minutes beginning at 12:17 p.m. with Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow, Kayla Wang, County Clerk, and Katie Payne, AEMT present. The Subject to be discussed is employee performance. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 12:32 p.m. with no action being taken during the session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go back into Executive Session under Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for an additional 15 minutes beginning at 12:33 p.m. with Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow, Kayla Wang, County Clerk and Katie Payne, AEMT present. The subject to be discussed is employee performance. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 12:48 p.m. with no action being taken during the session. The Board granted permission for Ms. Payne to use accrued 2022 vacation to cover two scheduled shifts at EMS.

The Board of Commissioners signed the Agreement for Services between the Board of Clay County Commissioners and Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc. for the 2022 year.

The Board adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
November 15, 2021
Clay Center, Kansas