

June 8, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 8, 2020, in the Commission Chambers, at the Administration Center, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer called the meeting to order.

Commissioners present: Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer, Commissioner Dustin G. Roths and Commissioner Dean F. Haselhorst.

Also present were Interim County Administrator Darin Myers, and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

The meeting opened with everyone standing and saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Chair Schlyer announced that they will move agenda item Number IV under 2020 employee pay adjustments after Number V the monthly financial report.

#### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any updates to the Draft Minutes of June 1, 2020. With no updates given to the draft minutes, Chair Schlyer stated that the June 1, 2020 minutes stand approved as submitted.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion:                      Haselhorst    Second:                      Roths

To approve the Consent Agenda items A-G as presented, including the following.

##### Payroll Claims

Payroll #12 claims dated June 5, 2020, for \$409,023.07.

Payroll #12 matches and deductions dated June 5, 2020, for \$161,925.69.

##### Tax Adjustments

Tax Adjustment claims 20200000132 to 20200000138 were reviewed.

Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_ The motion passes by a voice vote of three to zero.

#### **ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

No issues from persons not on the Order of Business.

#### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Commissioners had no questions on the May Financial Report.

#### **2020 EMPLOYEE PAY ADJUSTMENTS – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DAREN MYERS**

Haselhorst stated that he had asked for the 2020 pay adjustments to be placed back on the agenda tonight. When they did their town hall meetings he remembers at Ellis and Victoria a comment was given if something would be done to get County wages back up to scale.

Roths had a prepared statement on the 2020 pay adjustments. He had heard from County employees after last week's meeting when the Commission decided not to take any action on 2020 pay adjustments. Roths stated that with the economy situation of higher unemployment, oil industry down, impact of COVID-19 to our area, and impact on the local farming economy, all influence his

decision that it is not the time for the County to be giving pay raises. He has always believed in a merit pay system to be implemented.

Schlyer said that he is in favor of pay raises for County employees as they have earned and deserve the raises. Employees did not cause the COVID-19 and they are taxpayers also.

Haselhorst asked Interim County Administrator Myers what the final cost would be. Myers stated with the 1.6 Cola pay and the final pay adjustments to the plan it is \$17,300. On January 12, 2020, raises had been given to elected officials, Public Works Director and two department heads. Employees will be asked to pay more of their health benefits in 2021.

Motion: Schlyer Second: Haselhorst

To approve the wage and benefit adjustment as presented resulting from the attached pay adjustment proposal from the wage and benefit committee for 2020 pay adjustments to not exceed \$17,300.

Disposition: The motion carried by a voice vote of two to one. (Commissioner Roths voted "no").

#### **OTHER – MILL LEVY 2021**

Commissioners did comment that they are not in favor in raising the mill levy.

#### **OUTSIDE AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS**

Chair Schlyer asked that outside agency 2021 Budget request presentations be limited to 5 minutes.

#### **High Plains Mental Health - \$280,000 - 2021 Budget request**

High Plains Mental Health Executive Director Walt Hill introduced his staff members Kaylee O'Conner and Whitney Moeder. Board Members present were Chair Schlyer and Tom Drees. Hill stated that they received \$260,000 for the 2020 Budget and are asking for \$280,000 in 2021. They served 2105 Ellis County clients in 2019. Hill said that 68% of their payroll staff live in Ellis County. Ellis County is one of their 20 northwest counties served.

#### **Western Kansas Child Advocacy - \$9,000 – 2021 Budget request**

Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center Developmental Director Jonathan Herald asked for 2021 Budget at \$9,000. The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a safe, child-friendly setting for children to talk with caring adults. Herald stated that they did not close during the COVID-19 and they have been very busy. For 2021 Budget they are again asking for \$9,000.

#### **CASA of the High Plains - \$9,000 – 2021 Budget request**

CASA of the High Plains Executive Director Lyndsey Crisenbery, LMSW, discussed the CASA Program when the court appoints a CASA volunteer to a child in the court system. They are requesting \$9,000.

#### **Hays Area Children's Center - \$120,000 – 2021 Budget request**

Hays Area Children's Center Coordinator Jennifer Oborny and Nurse Beth Fisher discussed the

Hays Area Children's Center 2021 Budget request of \$120,000. This funding would help support the Infant-Toddler Special Services (ITSS) for infants and toddlers with disabilities birth to three years of age.

**DSNWK – Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas - \$240,000 – 2021 Budget request**

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas President Jerry Michaud asked for \$240,000 for the 2021 Budget. They provided services to 163 Ellis County individuals in 2019. Michaud introduced Karen Edwards from his office and recognized her 28 years of service.

**DSNWK (ACCESS Transportation) - \$50,000 – 2021 Budget request**

Michaud introduced Wade Kruse with ACCESS Transportation. Public transportation is provided for the City of Hays and Ellis County. The County and City of Hays help with funding the local match from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and Federal Transportation Authority (FTA). CARES Act funding through the federal legislation has come available recently in 2020 to help with the funding match and asked that the remaining 2020 County funding that usually is distributed to ACCESS Transportation in June be held until they request this funding. Michaud asked that the County wait to cut a check for the 2021 Budget until they hear from them also. He stated that they may not need all this funding for ACCESS Transportation with the CARES Act funding. Michaud stated that public transportation is a vital service for many residents and during the COVID-19 it has been busy.

**Grow Hays - \$27,500 – 2021 Budget request**

Grow Hays Executive Director Doug Williams thanked Commissioners for their support in 2019. They are asking for the same funding as in 2019 at \$27,500. Williams reported that the housing project east of Hays is underway.

**Ellis County Conservation District - \$55,000 General Funds and \$10,750 for the Ellis County Cost Share Program at a total of \$65,750.**

Ellis County Conservation District representatives Alan Roth and District Manager Sandi Scott discussed their program and requested the \$55,000 General Funds and \$10,750 for the Cost Share Program. They shared that they help others take care of the land which is a long-term investment.

**Ellis County Historical Society - \$72,000 – 2021 Budget request**

Ellis County Historical Society Treasurer Paul Nienkamp, Ph.D., requested \$72,000 for their 2021 Budget request. Nienkamp introduced Katie Annett, Interim Director and Curator, and Board Member Tom Drees. Nienkamp stated that they moved from the Presbyterian brick church to 1111 E 30<sup>th</sup> Street in Hays due to infrastructure issues in the building. Nienkamp stated that their mission is to preserve and support the heritage of Ellis County.

**Ellis Alliance Association - \$1,750 – 2021 Budget request**

Ellis Alliance/Development Corporation President Travis Kohlrus asked for 2021 Budget request at \$1,750. Kohlrus thanked the Commission for the past 13 years of support to the Ellis Alliance

Association.

### **Council on Aging**

Ellis County Council on Aging Board Member Roy Hustad presented the council's recommendation for the 2021 Budget at a total of \$112,305. The agencies had requested \$132,547 for 2021.

#### **Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging - \$15,000**

**Foster Grandparents - \$9,500**

**Senior Companions - \$18,250**

**Hays Senior Center - \$51,220**

**Victoria Meal Site - \$2,000**

**Ellis Nutrition Center - \$16,335**

**Humane Society - \$2,600 – 2021 Budget request**

Humane Society representatives Betty Hanson and Jessica Frieb requested \$2,600 from the 2021 Budget.

#### **Center of Life Experience - \$1,500 – 2021 Budget request**

Center of Life Experience Executive Director Ann Leiker requested \$1,500 from the 2021 Budget.

Leiker explained that they provide professional facilitation of support in healing at loss of adult, child, suicide, and the annual retreat for children ages 7 to 13 who have had a significant loss in their lives.

#### **Heartland Community Foundation - \$10,000 – 2021 Budget request**

Sandy Jacob requested \$10,000 from the 2021 Budget. Jacob thanked the Commission for their past three years support with the Twice as Nice Campaign. Through this campaign the Dane G. Hansen Foundation matches the funding. Again, they would need the 2021 Budget funding in February for this match.

#### **Options Domestic & Sexual Violent Services - \$5,000 – 2021 Budget request**

A new request received from Options Domestic and Sexual Violent Services at \$5,000 from the 2021 Budget. Executive Director Jennifer Hecker stated that over 1,300 people have been affected through domestic and sexual violence this past year.

### **ELLIS COUNTY ROAD PRIORITIES – BILL RING, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Public Works Director Bill Ring presented the following list of road and bridge projects which had been viewed during the 2020 Road Tour to consider if they decide to go forward with a bond for these projects.

Northwest Business Corridor (240<sup>th</sup> and Feedlot Road)

Bridge #120 over Saline River North of Ellis (new deck)

Cathedral Road through Victoria (rebuild)

Bridge deck on Old Highway 40 at Vincent Road

Noose Road Bridge west of Yocemento Elevator

Feedlot Road between 230<sup>th</sup> and 210<sup>th</sup>

48<sup>th</sup> Street from Roth to Hall

Commerce Parkway from Interstate 70 Highway to 27<sup>th</sup> Street/Airbase Road

Other projects needing completed out of the general fund transfers to Fund 78:

Bridge on 15<sup>th</sup> and Cottonwood in Ellis

Rebuild and repave 6 miles of Cathedral and Catharine Road north of Interstate 70 Highway

Five southern most miles of Ellis blacktop

Various culvert repairs

Ring stated that it won't be until they have a formal bidding process to get a true financial cost

of these projects. Previously they estimated a cost of \$5.36 million when reviewing a bond.

It was decided to have Ranson Financial bonding agency at a future meeting to discuss a bond for the projects.

**FIREWORKS RESOLUTION – DARIN MYERS, DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Director of Fire and Emergency Management Darin Myers presented a resolution allowing the discharge of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Ellis County. Myers stated that following the same days and hours as the City of Hays does makes it less confusing for the public.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Roths \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Haselhorst

Per Resolution 2018-05, to relax the discharge portion of this Resolution in the unincorporated areas of Ellis County on July 2, 3, 4 from the hours between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote of three to zero.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS**

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers did not have a report.

**COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

No Commissioners had reports.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was called for.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

A Special Session will be held to meet with the County Administrator Candidates at an Executive Session, Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 15, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSIONER