

January 2, 2018

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2018, in the Commission Chambers, at the Administration Center, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

Chair Barbara K. Wasinger called the meeting to order.

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

Commissioners present: Chair Barbara K. Wasinger, Commissioner Martha L. McClelland and Commissioner Dean F. Haselhorst.

Also present were County Administrator Phillip Smith-Hanes, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes were noted to the order of business so it stands approved as presented per Chair Wasinger.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

No minutes were presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Haselhorst Second: McClelland

To approve the Consent Agenda items A-G including the following:

Accounts Payable Claims

Purchasing Card Claims dated December 19, 2017, at \$39,917.99.

Accounts Payable Claims dated January 3, 2018, at \$174,803.40.

Payroll Claims

Payroll deduction claims dated December 29, 2017, at \$210,495.71.

Payroll claims dated December 22, 2017, at \$426,494.23.

Payroll deductions dated December 22, 2017, at \$181,525.65.

Tax Roll Adjustments

Tax Roll Adjustments included numbers 2017000636, 2017000640 through 2017000652, and 2018000001. Deleted tax roll adjustment number 2017000355.

Disposition: Motion approved 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.

LEGISLATIVE VISIT – REPRESENTATIVE EBER PHELPS

Kansas House of Representative District 111th Eber Phelps stated that the legislative session will start on Monday, January 8, 2018. Representative Phelps felt that the 2017 legislative session was very successful in passing the budget, tax restoration plan, school finance plan and other bills important for Kansas.

We are hearing a negative picture of the state finances but revenues currently are showing some increases and we still have not seen revenues for January, February and March. A concern Representative Phelps has is with the changes in the Federal laws allowing individuals to pay their entire tax bill in 2017 since there are no tax advantages for 2018. This could mean less revenues coming in for April 2018 which could make it tough when preparing budgets. Representative Phelps does not see any places to cut taxes. He has an informational newsletter that can be sent digitally or by mail.

NEW LANDFILL RATES

Public Works Director Bill Ring discussed proposed increased rate structure at the Landfill which has not been changed for 10 years. This proposed rate structure would be effective February 1, 2018. These increases would help with any landfill expansion, salaries, and any additional costs. Also, the landfill Foreman has been communicating with other municipalities on the proposed rate structure.

Chair Wasinger asked that these rates be reviewed every few years. The landfill is not tax funded and is operated through fee based.

Motion: McClelland Second: Haselhorst

To accept staff recommendation on rate structure for the landfill commencing on February 1, 2018.

Disposition: Motion passes by a voice vote of three to zero.

2018 COUNTY AGREEMENT TO TREAT NOXIOUS WEEDS FOR KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Gary Haas, Weed Control Supervisor, discussed the agreement to treat noxious weeds for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). In 2017 they had increased these rates and generated \$7,151.12 in treating noxious weeds for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Haas stated that he had reviewed this agreement and recommends not making any changes in the rates for 2018.

Motion: Haselhorst Second: McClelland

To approve the 2018 Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Agreement to treat noxious weeds.

Disposition: Motion passes by a voice vote of three to zero.

SCBA (SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS) FILL STATION GRANT

Darin Myers, Director of Fire and Emergency Management, announced that they have received a \$20,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. This grant is less than they had requested for the breathing air supply system; therefore once the bids are accepted any remaining balance will be paid for from budget authority of the Rural Fire Department or the Capital Reserve Fire District Fund.

Myers stated that his Fort Hays State University Intern had worked on this grant application.

Chair Wasinger asked that the Dane G. Hansen Foundation be thanked for their contribution for the needs of our community, as well as for all of western Kansas and that we are deeply grateful for this grant.

Commissioners accepted the grant.

Myers will be sending out bid proposals on the breathing air supply system.

TELEVISIONING COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

County Administrator Phillip Smith-Hanes reported that televising the County Commission Meetings, which had been discussed in December, will cost \$5,333.44, with an annual subscription fee of \$299. The County would purchase the equipment and would have to replace or repair when needed.

In paying for this equipment, Administrator Smith-Hanes stated that they have saved more than \$5,000 on the insurance renewal cost with KCAMP for 2018 or it could be purchased out of the Capital Fund 16.

Informational Technology Director Mike Leiker stated that he did not see much user intervention or additional costs. Leiker stated that they will be using some of our connections which is built into the quote from Eagle Communications, Incorporated, which brought the cost down.

Chair Wasinger stated that she would like to move forward with this. McClelland stated she was in favor. Haselhorst stated that he is not in favor of purchasing equipment to televise the County Commission Meetings.

Administrator Smith-Hanes stated that they will go forward and issue a Purchase Order to Eagle Communications, Incorporated, and get the equipment ordered.

DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYEE INPUT INTO WAGE AND BENEFIT DECISIONS

County Administrative Smith-Hanes stated that on December 18, 2017 the Commission adopted Resolution Number 2017-15 to rescind the County's coverage under Public Employer-Employee Relations Act at the end of 2018. The Commission had talked about forming a permanent Wage and Benefit Committee including department heads, Commissioners, union representatives and non-represented employees.

Commissioners have visited with other counties and municipalities to see how they handle employee wage and benefit input.

Haselhorst feels that the first year will be very important and he wants to include a representative from each of the bargaining groups to be on a committee, as well as Department Heads and the County Administrator.

Chair Wasinger felt that an executive team member be represented on each committee for a two-year period. She felt that a Resolution would be necessary.

McClelland felt that the first year will be the hardest in setting standards and so forth. Commissioners will need to give directions on the bargaining items.

County Administrator Smith-Hanes stated that he understands from the discussion that the first year should include one representative from the bargaining units and department heads and that a resolution would be needed in the future. Committee members would serve a two-year term.

Commissioners gave Smith-Hanes the direction to get input from the Executive Team and bargaining unit representatives in forming these committees. The committees will report back to the Commission.

COUNTY COUNSELOR REPORT

County Counselor Jeter reported on the Kansas Sexual Predators Act in which the County had received \$2,404.80 last year in reimbursements. The current claims have been denied by the Kansas Attorney General Office. The claims have been filed with the Kansas Joint Committee and we received notification that the claims have been approved but now the 2018 Kansas Legislature must approve the funding payment on the Sexual Predators claims and would come this summer.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator Smith-Hanes presented the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Seat Belt Grant Program that Ellis County has received for the past six years. This is through the Sheriff's Department and it needs the Chair's signature.

Hays Chamber of Commerce Banquet tickets for the Commissioners were distributed. The banquet will be held on January 30, 2017.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Haselhorst wished everyone a "Happy New Year".

Chair Wasinger reported that she attended her final Coalition Board Meeting. She reported that the Coalition had decided to not take funding from Hays City or Ellis County. They have formed a thirteen member board to represent the entire County, including Ellis and Victoria. Chair Wasinger feels

that they are doing a good job. She announced that a grand opening will be March 27th for the Hays Pavilion. She wished everyone a “Happy New Year”.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was called for.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

The next regular scheduled Commission Meeting will be held after the 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 8, 2018, Public Building Commission, Ellis County Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

DEAN F. HASELHORST, CHAIR

MARTHA L. MCCLELLAND, COMMISSIONER

BARBARA K. WASINGER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK