

January 28, 2019

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in special session at 4:00 p.m., Monday, January 28, 2019, in the Commission Chambers, at the Administration Center, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

Chair Dean F. Haselhorst called the meeting to order.

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

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

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

Chair Haselhorst welcomed everyone to the special meeting to meet with Comprehensive Planning Consultant Keith Marvin.

The consultant Keith Marvin will be in the community this week to get input from a variety of stakeholders in the County for the Comprehensive Plan. A public meeting is scheduled at the Ellis County Administrative Center for Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. They will be at I-Hop to visit with those on Tuesday morning. Meetings have been scheduled in Ellis City, Hays, and Victoria. They also have scheduled time to visit with Fort Hays State University and the Hays Chamber of Commerce personnel.

They do have a survey available asking for input to the Ellis County Comprehensive Plan. They have been very pleased with a high number of responses through the survey, currently they have 422 surveys. They asked that the electronic or written survey be returned by February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioners discussed their views in relationship to strong and weak points for Ellis County.

They felt that Ellis County is a safe place to live. Strong positives in the County were given as the hospital, schools, college, interstate highway, wireless network technology and others. A concern is the water supply which is a need to attract several types of businesses.

Schlyer addressed that family makes life great in Ellis County. He stated with an older population we need to find ways in keeping our younger residents here in Ellis County.

Chair Haselhorst would like to bring back young people that move out of the County for jobs. Affordable housing is another concern for county residents.

Chair Haselhorst would like to maintain doctors in our community.

Roths felt that the potential access of railroad should be pursued for use through businesses in Ellis County to possibly expand their job market.

Roths shared how Grow Hays is using a Dane G. Hansen Foundation Grant creating business office space in Downtown Hays with access to computer software and high-speed internet services.

Comprehensive Planning Consultant Keith Marvin introduced Chris Janson who just arrived and will be helping with activities planned during the week in visiting with people in the community on their views and input to the Ellis County Comprehensive Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Haselhorst stated that the meeting will be adjourn at 4:47 p.m.

The next Commission Meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 4, 2019, Ellis County Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

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DEAN F. HASELHORST, CHAIR

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ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, COMMISSIONER

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DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK