

February 10, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 10, 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, County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

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

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

No changes were noted on the Order of Business.

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

Chair Schlyer asked for any updates to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2020. With no updates given, Chair Schlyer stated that the January 20, 2020, draft minutes are approved as presented.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion:                      Roths                                      Second:                      Haselhorst

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

##### Payment Voucher Claims

Payment Voucher Claims dated February 4, 2020, at \$328,404.70.

Purchasing Card Claims dated January 22, 2020 at \$68,575.45.

##### Payroll Claims

Payroll claims #3, deductions and matches, dated January 31, 2020, at \$158,281.23.

Payroll claims, health insurance, dated January 30, 2020, at \$232,417.45.

Payroll claims #3, dated January 31, 2020 at \$398,401.72.

##### Agreement of Services with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Incorporated – Darin Myers

The agreement with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas (DSNWK), Incorporated was reviewed and signed.

##### Tax Adjustments

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2020000002 through 2020000003.

Disposition:                      The motion was carried by a voice vote of three to zero.

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

The Octoberfest Committee Members John Mader, Tom Lippert, Phil Kuhn, and Janelle Moore expressed thanks for the support with their event. Committee members feel that the event has become more of a family event. They announced that in 2022 Octoberfest will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup>

year.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

No new employees were introduced.

#### **NORTHWEST KANSAS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – DARIN MYERS, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission Executive Director Randall Hrabbe discussed the past assistance that they have given to Ellis County. Commissioners discussed that they have not included paying the membership dues in the 2020 Budget. It was noted that if full membership dues were not paid, then they would not have a position on their Board.

After discussion, Commissioners asked County Counselor Bill Jeter to draft changes to the membership cost in the current By-Laws for the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development. Jeter will be working with the Commissioners.

Public comment was given by Adam Pray and Sam Polifka with concerns that the County is not paying membership dues with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development.

#### **COUNTY TREASURER – LISA SCHLEGEL**

County Treasurer Lisa Schlegel requested salary increases for her Deputy Treasurer and Treasury Operations Manager at a total increase of \$5,800 in yearly salaries. Treasurer Schlegel stated that she has been working on restructuring some of her staff positions and has had an open staff position since September. Commissioners voiced concerns with her having extra dollars in her budget and in having a current policy in place for the County's Wage and Benefit Committee to handle personnel matters. Also, Commissioners questioned the timing with the County Sales Tax Questions Election being held in April.

Commissioners did have some interest in the merit-based salary system that was discussed.

Chair Schlyer stated "There is a lot of good employees in this county that have all the qualities of your two employees". Therefore, the salary increases requested by Treasurer Schlegel were not approved.

#### **2020 DEPARTMENTAL FIXED ASSET INVENTORY – DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK**

Clerk Maskus presented the District Court Office 2020 Fixed Asset Inventory Report. Clerk Maskus stated all departments have filed their inventory reports.

#### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR JASON KENNEDY**

Emergency Medical Services Director Jason Kennedy announced, "That on the coronavirus there are no confirmed cases in Kansas, and no cases under investigation in Ellis County".

#### **NORTHWEST BUSINESS CORRIDOR ENGINEERING SERVICES – DARIN MYERS, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Interim County Administrator Myers discussed the Northwest Business Corridor Engineering contract with Driggs Design Group for professional engineering services. This project is the extension of U.S. Highway 183 Bypass around the northwest side of Hays North of I-70 on 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue then curves to the East at Feedlot Road and continues to U.S. 183 Highway. Excess sales tax from the 2013 sales tax project for the City of Hays is \$284,668. Commissioners were in favor of the contract with Driggs Design Group for these professional engineering services.

A letter was signed by Chair Schlyer to the City of Hays requesting the release to transfer those funds for use on the engineering services of the Northwest Business Corridor Project.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HIRING PROCESS – DARIN MYERS INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Interim County Administrator Myers shared information on the County Administrator hiring process. Commissioners directed Myers to contact both the Austin Peters Group and Osenbaugh Consulting on their hiring process for the County Administrator position. Commissioner Haselhorst had stated that he will be checking with the Kansas Association of Kansas (KAC) who had assisted with the hiring process when Phillip Smith-Hanes was hired. Commissioners felt that the process does need to get started. Myers was complimented on the job that he has been doing as Interim County Administrator. Myers had shared some information that he had given to the Commissioners on this hiring process.

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

Interim County Administrator Myers announced that County Offices will be closed on Presidents Day, Monday, February 17, 2020, for In-Service training being held at the fairgrounds. The Landfill will still be open and providing services. This will be the first time Ellis County will we have an In-Service Day for County employees.

Myers gave an update on projects ongoing at the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center. They are waiting on parts for the elevator repairs. Once all materials are received for the Courthouse Restroom Project, then a start date will be set.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Haselhorst announced that he will be doing a TV commercial on wind energy with a station out of Iowa this week.

Roths had attended a meeting with the City of Hays and Fort Hays State University officials to discuss economic impact of the University. He shared a packet of information with each of the other Commissioners. He feels that we are blessed to have Fort Hays State University in our community. He had attended the City of Hays work session last week and they seemed very positive in supporting the Northwest Business Corridor Project with the excess sales tax dollars and will be discussing this at the

city meeting this week. Roths will be meeting with Doug Williams of Grow Hays and Hays City Commissioner Sandy Jacobs to discuss the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development fee structure.

Chair Schlyer reported that he has been asked to attend the Ellis City Council Meeting. He has visited with Health Services Director Jason Kennedy in changing the courier services for the Health Department which would be a cost savings.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 5:42 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 17, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas,

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

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DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER

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DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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DONNA J. MASKUS, ELLS COUNTY CLERK