



Neil Younger thanked the Commissioners for the county funding given to Center of Life Experience Incorporated.

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

The monthly departmental reports were submitted. Schlyer said that he is impressed with all the work that departments handle in their offices. Roths commented it is a good screen shot in what is going on as seen through the departmental reports. Chair Haselhorst stated a good job by department heads.

**ANNUAL NOXIOUS WEED ERADICTION PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2018 AND ANNUAL NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2019 – WEED CONTROL SUPERVISOR GARY HAAS**

Noxious Weed Control Supervisor Gary Haas presented the 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Management Plan. Haas reported that herbicide was applied to 6400 acres of County Right-of-Ways and property, 432 acres of state right-of-ways, storage yards and 202 acres of City right-of-ways, yards, and buffalo pasture.

Haas stated that noxious weed complaints were down in 2018. There were 731 chemical sales which was down from prior year due to more moisture. They participated in the Kansas Department of Agricultural survey finding an estimated 61,679 acres of noxious weeds in Ellis County, 60,101 acres on private property and 1,578 acres on state, county, and city properties. They held a pesticide recycling program.

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Schlyer \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Roths \_\_\_\_\_

Moved that the Commission approve the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report for 2018 and the Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan for 2019.

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

**ELLIS COUNTY SOLID WASTE/TRANSFER STATION CHANGE TO BUSINESS HOURS – LANDFILL FOREMAN VERNON RUDER**

Landfill Foreman Vernon Ruder recommended to change the business hours at the Solid Waste/Transfer Station from Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting April 1, 2019.

Ruder stated that this will save money on fuel, energy and downtime for his department.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Roths \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Schlyer \_\_\_\_\_

To change the hours of business at the Ellis County Solid Waste/Transfer Station to Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting April 1, 2019.

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

**CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR TRANSFER STATION MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSAL – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BILL RING**



spent on building not within the original Series B and C bonds, such as the Administrative Center parking lot project or the Public Works building.

Chair Haselhorst felt that the Law Enforcement Center elevator repairs have been a high priority for some time now. County Administrator Smith-Hanes stated that there is no urgency in spending these sales tax dollars. Commissioners all agreed that the elevator repair needs to be done and the rest of the funding should be saved until they decide on the need.

Fire and Emergency Services Director Darin Myers stated that he has vendors that wish to donate fitness equipment for the Emergency Services Building. It was discussed that funding could help with the fitness room set up and equipment. The availability of fitness equipment to firefighters and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel is for fitness and to help reduce possible workman compensation claims.

Emergency Medical Services Director Kerry McCue, Fire and Emergency Services Director Myers and County Administrator Smith-Hanes will work on a proposal for the exercise equipment.

#### **BUDGET DIRECTION FOR 2020 – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PHILLIP SMITH-HANES**

County Administrator Smith-Hanes asked for direction from the Commissioners in developing the 2020 Budget. It has been projected that Ellis County needs approximately two million dollars of new resources and/or reduce expenditures for the 2020 Budget. Final numbers should be coming in May or June on assessed valuation, health insurance, estimated Motor Vehicle taxes, and other factors that influence the budget.

Commissioners' direction was for County department is to cut their current 2019 Budget by one and one-half percent (1 ½%). They did discuss possibly exploring a future sales tax. Outside agencies that receive County budget have been asked to cut their request for a total of \$300,000. The benefit package will be reviewed for County employees. Any open employment position will be looked at.

Commissioners want everyone to do their part in helping reach a reduction in the County budget.

#### **COUNTY COUNSELOR REPORTS – COUNTY COUNSELOR BILL JETER**

County Counselor Bill Jeter reported on the tax foreclosure process. A notice had been published on February 28, 2019. They have had some properties redeemed with the taxes being paid.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PHILLIP SMITH-HANES**

County Administrator Smith-Hanes had no report.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Schlyer reported that he had meet with Fire Emergency Management Director Myers.

Roths is looking forward to the Northwest Corridor Meeting being held on Friday, February 22, 2019. He thanked State Representative #111 Barbara K. Wasinger and Kansas House of Representative #110 Ken Rahjes for their work with the meeting.

Chair Haselhorst is looking forward to the Northwest Corridor Meeting on Friday, February 22, 2019.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was called for.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Haselhorst stated that the meeting will be adjourn at 6:22 p.m.

The Commission Retreat Meeting will be held Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., February 20, 2019 at the Victoria Fire Station, 30 East Main Street, Victoria, Kansas.

A special meeting has been called for on the Northwest Corridor Project at 1:00 p.m., Friday, February 22, 2019, Ellis County Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas. They will have a U.S.D. 489 transportation bus that will travel into this business area of 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and will tour Hess Services.

The next Commission Meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, COMMISSIONER

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

ATTEST:

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DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK