

March 8, 2021

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, March 8, 2021, 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 Neal Younger and Commissioner Dean F Haselhorst. Also present were Interim County Administrator Darin Myers, County Counselor Bill Jeter, and County Clerk Bobbi L Dreiling. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of March 1, 2021. No changes were given; the draft minutes were approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Haselhorst **Second** Younger

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

Payment Voucher Claims

Payment Voucher Claims to FCMI March Week 1 \$7,307.88.

Tax Adjustments

Tax roll adjustment number 202100031-40.

Disposition: **Motion was carried by a voice vote of three to zero**

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Jim Pfeifer of Ellis approached the Commission and discussed his concerns of the bridge closure at 140th Avenue. He stated that if they close the bridge, Feedlot Road will be his only alternative to get in and out of his residence. Feedlot Road has many issues, including flooding that would prevent him from using it. Darrell Schuler approached the Commission and voiced his concerns with the bridge closure and how it will affect him; as well as the ongoing issues with Feedlot Road that will be his only alternative of travel as well. He has not seen any evidence that the bridge is unsafe or should be condemned. Duane Dorzweiler approached the Commission on his concerns of the bridge closure. He sees no reason to close the bridge and that it would affect his farming endeavors. The Commission asked that Public Works Director Brendan Mackay and former Public Works Director Bill Ring to come up and discuss the closure of the bridge. Schlyer discussed the inspection of the bridge last year and wanted to know the reasons the bridge needed to be closed. Ring said it was due to the bridge being in a fracture critical state and the bridge could fall in. Ring stated you can not fix it, add steel to it or beef it up; it could take one person driving over it and it could fall down and someone could get hurt or killed. This has happened to a bridge in Ellis City. Mackay spoke of the fracture critical issue on bridges and the costs of inspection every year. Ring agreed on Feedlot Road needing fixed; there is now a spring coming up on the road which is causing further issues. Haselhorst stated that there needs to be culverts added to Feedlot Road and to fix it so that there is access in and out at all times. Haselhorst directed Mackay and Ring to see what it would take to get the repairs done to Feedlot Road and to report back to the Commission. He also stated that he would not drive across the bridge in its current state. Mackay stated it would cost more than a million and a half to replace the bridge. It was agreed to forego the closure of the bridge until Mackay can come up with recommendations on how to fix Feedlot Road. Younger stated he drove the bridge and said he is looking at the safety of the community. He agreed Feedlot Road needs to be fixed, ditches cleaned out and more culverts placed. Mackay was directed to look into what it would entail to fix Feedlot Road and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

All reports looked good.

APPRAISER UPDATE

Appraiser Lisa Ree gave an appraisal update on the 2021 real property values. She showed the difference between 2019 values and 2020. The commission was provided a history of how the county values have compared to sale prices. Valuations will be mailed to property owners on March 15, 2021 and most will see an increase in their property values. Ree gave a description of what an appraiser's duties are and how values are arrived at. Ree stated that there were only 35 homes on the market right now, compared to 150 homes on the market last year. Homes are selling for above the asking price and there is a supply and demand issue. Looking at our own data the average sale price has

