

March 9, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 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 and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

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

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Chair Schlyer announced the following two items have been added to the agenda: Jeff Younger with Secure Energy Consulting will discuss savings to the County on natural gas pricing, and a video on the sales tax questions will be presented.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any updates to the Draft Minutes of February 10, 17, and March 2, 2020. With no updates given to the draft minutes Chair Schlyer stated that all these minutes are approved as presented.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion:                    Haselhorst    Second:                Roths

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

#### Tax Adjustments

Tax Adjustment numbers 2020000025.

Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_ The motion was carried 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.

### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Commissioners had no questions on the February Finance Report.

### **SECURE ENERGY CONSULTANT JEFF YOUNGER**

Secure Energy Consultant Jeff Younger discussed the natural gas hedging savings that the County has done in the past. The County has been hedging natural gas pricing on the Midwest Energy bills for the following County buildings: Law Enforcement Center, Emergency Services, County Shop, Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center, Administrative Center, and the fairground buildings of the Schenk and Unrein facilities through Secure Energy Consulting. Younger gave two options with a

pricing of \$3.05 in hedging November through March 2022 or at \$3.10 to hedge November through March 2023.

Commissioners felt that these are good prices.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Roths \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Haselhorst

To enter into agreement with Secure Energy Consulting to hedge the natural gas price at \$3.10 until March 2023.

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

This would be pricing for the years through 2023, November through March.

Chair Schlyer or Interim County Administrator Myers will sign the document on this agreement that Younger stated he would bring into the office this week.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE HOURS – MASON RUDER, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SUPERVISOR**

Environmental Planning Supervisor Mason Ruder was out of town so Public Works Director Bill Ring stated that they would like to change the current Environmental/Sanitarian Office hours to 7:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Fridays. This would help to provide better services to citizens of the County that come into the office. The office is in the basement of the Administrative Center. Chair Schlyer said that when the Health Office switched office hours the staff really appreciated the change.

Appraiser Lisa Ree wanted to point out that these office hours would be different from the other County offices located in the Administrative Center.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Roths \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Haselhorst

Adopt the changes in normal operating hours for the Environmental/Planning and Zoning Office from Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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

#### **OTHER – FAIRGROUND/"FENCE VIEWER"/ROAD VACATION – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BILL RING**

Public Works Director Bill Ring stated that he worked with fairground volunteers on Saturday. He over road any cost on demolition materials taken to the Landfill including roofing tin and other items. They continue to clean up and repair on Fairgrounds facilities since the August 2019 windstorm. He stated that it was over 7,000 pounds of demolition materials.

Ring reported that a 2011 Western Star dump truck smoked an engine today. The dump truck has 212,000 miles. He is unsure of the total damage, but it is not a good sign.

Ring reported on a "fence viewer" who is the Board of Ellis County Commissioners. This was established in 1868 on a township issue concerning fence issues between landowners. He reported

that the law states that both property owners would be responsible on replacement of fence between both properties. He had a property owner in the northern part of the County ask about minimum restricted access to his road. He is having people dump trash onto his property. Ring stated that they may consider using swinging gates with key entry to eliminate someone dumping trash on this property owners land.

Ring reported that he has good news with no overtime cost currently on the 6<sup>th</sup> payroll period, but last year they had over 20 hours of overtime with winter conditions.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION 2021 BUDGET – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS**

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers presented the Commission proposed 2021 Budget with a 10% reduction at \$22,000 in making changes in membership fees.

Chair Schlyer asked to include a \$5,000 donation to the Heartland Foundation. Myers stated that this will come out of Department 97.

#### **LEADERSHIP 310 CLASS – SALES TAX ELECTION BY INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS**

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers showed a 9-minute video prepared by a Fort Hays State University Leadership 310 Class to market the Sales Tax Election. Myers was the presenter.

A television has recently been mounted in the Commission Chambers.

It was noted that a screen shoot did not include Ellis City. Myers stated that he will get that added to the video.

Commissioners thanked Myers for the information shared.

#### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR JASON KENNEDY**

Emergency Health Services Director Jason Kennedy updated information on the coronavirus.

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

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers stated that the Courthouse restroom remodel will be getting underway as they start with the first floor, and they are working with staff on the Court schedules. The Law Enforcement Center elevator parts should be arriving soon.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Haselhorst attended a lunch on the Highway 281 Project in Russell.

Roths is excited about the town hall meeting with the Sales Tax Election in giving an opportunity for the public to ask questions. He will be in Pittsburg, Kansas, next week in reviewing a strategic plan.

Chair Schlyer stated that a Sales Tax Question will be presented at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, at the Hays VFW Hall.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was called.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 5:55 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

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DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER

DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK