

March 16, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 16, 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 Counselor Bill Jeter and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

They added Jason Kennedy for an update on the coronavirus after the Sheriff position is discussed on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Schlyer asked for any updates to the Draft Minutes of March 9, 2020.

With no updates given to the draft minutes Chair Schlyer stated that the March 9, 2020 minutes stand as submitted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Haselhorst Second: Roths

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

Payment Voucher Claims

Solid Waste Claim dated March 11, 2020, for \$15,180.40.

Solid Waste Credit Card dated March 13, 2020, for \$289.17.

Voucher Claims dated March 17, 2020, for \$254,318.62.

Purchase Order Claim

Purchase Order Number 7537 to Osenbaugh Consulting on County Administrator position search consultant at \$11,000 dated March 16, 2020.

Payroll Claims

Payroll #6, matches and deductions, dated March 13, 2020, for \$155,929.51.

Payroll #6 dated March 13, 2020 for \$394,693.78.

Tax Adjustments

Tax Adjustment numbers 2020000034, 2020000037, 2020000052, 2020000060, 2020000067, 2020000072, 2020000079, 2020000081, and 2020000087. Deleted Tax Adjustment Number

2020000073.

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 DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

Commissioners appreciated the information that was shared.

COUNTY POLICY ENFORCEMENT – COMMISSION CHAIR BUTCH SCHLYER

Chair Schlyer stated that they have concerns that Treasurer Lisa Schlegel is not providing required documentation per the Purchasing Card Policy. County policies are in place to control spending of tax dollars. Schlegel has not been willing to cooperate with those attempts by the Human Resource Department when asked for required documentation on credit card purchases.

Chair Schlyer and Interim County Administrator Myers have asked for a meeting with Schlegel to discuss this matter and noted that Schlegel had been very disrespectful. County Counselor Jeter had advised that her purchasing card be suspended for 30 days per the County’s Purchasing Card Policy. Interim County Administrator was directed to suspend Schlegel’s purchasing card on March 17, 2020. If there is any further noncompliance, then the card will be suspended indefinitely.

Haselhorst discussed the posting from Schlegel in changing some operations of her office such as taxpayers to make telephone contact when new vehicle registrations. Health Administrator Jason Kennedy had met with departments earlier today giving an update on the coronavirus, and later sent out a sign to post in the offices with direction in handling the virus situation. County Counselor Jeter reminded the Commission that Schlegel was an elected official and has the official right in operating her office as the Commission sets the office hours, budget and approves expenditures for public purposes. The Commission felt common courtesy would be to communicate these changes with the Interim County Administrator and Commissioners.

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP CLASS VIDEO – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers introduced Fort Hays State University Leadership 310 Class members Braden Visnieski and Olivia Albrecht. They have been working with Interim County Administrator Darin Myers on a video to help educate the community on the Countywide Sales Tax Mail Ballot Election. The video had been shown at last week’s Commission Meeting. They discussed having an Awareness Week with digital promotions the week before the ballots are due.

Commissioners thanked the students for their work on this project.

HEALTH INSURANCE CONSULTANT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers discussed that the current health insurance is covered through the State Employee Health Plan. The Wage and Benefit Committee have looked at options for health insurance, and it was decided to work with Freedom Claims Management, Incorporated (FCMI).

Myers introduced Health Insurance Consultant Julie Yarmer with Freedom Claims Management, Incorporated, and she explained their policy options. They will offer two plans and one with a higher deductible plan. The Wage and Benefit Committee will continue to work on new health insurance options.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RESOLUTION 2020-02 – ELLIS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SANDPIT - ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SUPERVISOR MASON RUDER

Environmental Planning Supervisor Mason Ruder and Ellis County Joint Planning Commission Chairman presented Conditional Use Permit 2002 for a new County sand pit. The County would purchase this from Leo R. and Viola A. Dorzweiler and Nicholas J. Dorzweiler. The site is in the 1500 block of the Saline River Road. Ruder stated that they had no protest filed on this request.

Motion: Roths Second: Haselhorst

To approve the Conditional Use Permit Number 2002 to allow Ellis County to utilize a sand pit located at the 1500 block of the Saline River Road in rural Ellis County as the zoning regulations have been followed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 26, 2020.

Disposition: Motion passes by a voice vote of three to zero.

SHERIFF OFFICE OPEN POSITION – SHERIFF ED HARBIN

Undersheriff Scott Braun reported that they know of two jailer positions that will be vacated. He stated that jail staff are critical to their operation and the Sheriff asked to fill these positions. Commissioners stated to go forward in hiring two jailer positions.

HIRING NURSE POSITION – HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR JASON KENNEDY

Health Administrator Jason Kennedy asked to hire a nurse position since he has a nurse retiring in the Health Department. Commissioners gave the okay to hire a nurse position.

UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS - HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR JASON KENNEDY

Health Administrator Jason Kennedy reported that Ellis County does not have any confirmed coronavirus cases. He asked everyone to use good hygiene practices in washing hands, not touching face, covering coughs, and staying home if sick.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH CONSULTANT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Don Osenbaugh and John Deardoff with Osenbaugh Consulting discussed their services in finding a new County Administrator. Commissioners felt a person with a lot of County experience would be good. The consultants stated that they will be looking for the right person for the County.

Motion: Roths Second: Haselhorst

To move forward with Osenbaugh Consulting in the process of hiring a new County Administrator and allow the Chair and other commissioners to sign the contract.

Disposition: Motion passes by a voice vote of three to zero.

2021 INITIAL OPERATING BUDGET PRESENTED – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers presented the 2021 Budget Request. Departments had been asked to reduce their budgets by one percent of the 2020 Budget.

Commissioners asked to have time to review the 2021 Budget proposals and to discuss them at the April 6, 2020 meeting. It was noted that the following could impact any changes to the proposed budgets including the Sales Tax Election results, health insurance premiums, outside agency requests, employee raises, as well as any direction given by the Commission.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers stated that Secure Energy Consultant Jeff Younger had contacted Haselhorst and he was able to purchase the energy for \$3.06, a 4-cent savings that he had reported on at the March 16, 2020 Meeting.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Haselhorst stated that he did not have anything to report on.

Roths reported that he enjoyed his time in Pittsburg, Kansas. He got to visit with key personnel on their strategic plan and toured downtown businesses.

Chair Schlyer reported that he did not have a report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was called.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 6:19 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER

DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSSIONER

ATTEST:

DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK