

March 25, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in special session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, 2020, in the Commission Chambers, at the Administration Center, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer called the special meeting to order to present sales tax information on the April 7, 2020 Mail Ballot Election through a virtual setting at the Commission Chambers.

Commissioners present: Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer and Commissioner Dustin G. Roths. Commissioner Dean F. Haselhorst was absent.

Also present were Interim County Administrator Darin Myers, Public Health Officer Jason Kennedy, Public Works Director Bill Ring and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

With the Coronavirus guidelines all the scheduled town hall meetings had to be cancelled therefore it was decided to do a virtual setting that can be viewed through the Ellis County website: elliscounty.net.

SALES TAX MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers shared information on the two sales tax mail ballot questions. The first question asked for a Health Care tax that can only be spent on specific items such as public health, emergency medical services and mental health. This tax will be retained 100% by Ellis County but is only for specified purposes. The second question is a general sales tax split between the County and the four cities; Hays, Ellis, Victoria, Schoenchen, and Victoria that can be used for any purposes.

Myers stated that qualified voters can pass both questions, neither question or only one of the two questions. Election day is April 7, 2020 and ballots are required to be in the Ellis County Clerk's Office by noon.

Health Administrator/EMS Director Jason Kennedy discussed services from his departments. Kennedy gave credit to his Health and EMS staff. Ambulance calls provide a paramedic on every ambulance run that provides advanced health services.

Only four counties in the state of Kansas do not currently have a sales tax and Ellis County is one of these.

Myers stated that ambulances travel County roads that contains 1,400 miles and 200 bridges in getting to an accident scene or emergency health situation. Public Works Director Bill Ring discussed current conditions of County roads. He shared the cost of repairs to roads and the need to keep the road and bridge conditions safe for travel. They want to keep all roads in shape so an ambulance can safely travel down the roads.

Election Officer Donna J. Maskus discussed the Mail Ballot Election process. A total of 16,709 ballots have been sent out. She reminded voters to vote their ballot and place it in the enclosed number 9 postage prepaid return envelope; and to not forget to sign your ballot envelope before mailing it back. Ballots must be back before noon, Tuesday, April 7th in the Ellis County Clerk's Office.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 7:03 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, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK