

April 4, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, April 4, 2022, in the Commission Chambers, at the Administration Center, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas. Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer called the meeting to order. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present: Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer, Commissioner Joe Leroux and Commissioner Neal Younger. Also present were County Administrator Darin Myers, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Clerk Bobbi L. Dreiling.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of March 21st. No changes were given; the draft minutes were approved as presented.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leroux** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

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

**Payment Voucher Claims**

Accounts Payable dated April 5 in the amount of \$347,593.56

Purchase Order #7563 to Caterpillar Financial Services in the amount of \$85,102.15 (this was approved on March 14<sup>th</sup> but there was no Purchase Order available)

Accounts Payable dated March 24 in the amount of \$1,629.38

Payroll #6 dated March 6 – March 19 in the amount of \$432,934.73

**Tax Adjustments**

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2022000081

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

**ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

None

**WESTERN KANSAS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER UPDATE**

As directed by the Commissioners, Director Lucretia Holterman updated the Commissioners on the happenings and progress of Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center.

**CENTER FOR LIFE EXPERIENCE**

As directed by the Commissioners, Ann Leiker updated the Commissioners on the happenings and progress of Center for Life Experience.

**EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR CONTRACT**

Ellis County Emergency Medical Director Danita Schroeder asked the Commission to approve a new agreement for the medical director job description and employment agreement. In February the Commission approved a new agreement for the EMS Medical Agreement but it did not include the cost of living expense equal to what and if the County employees received a COLA raise. It is now requested that the Commission approve the upgraded agreement to include the COLA raise.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Schlyer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

I move to approve the updated EMS Medical Director pay agreement.

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

**WATER BOTTLE FILLERS**

County Administrator Darin Myers asked for the approval to purchase upgraded water fountains. At an executive team meeting the staff has come up with a way to save money by upgrading to water fountains that will fill water bottles with filtered water instead of purchasing 5-gallon water jugs. The initial purchase to upgrade is \$3700. The departments at the administrative building would discontinue to buy water if the water fountains are upgraded. This could potentially be a savings of \$1000-\$2000 per year. Schlyer said his concern was it may cause disruption with the departments getting up and filling their water bottles, and that departments may want to go back to the 5-gallon system. Myers said with some of the departments not being elected offices, this would not happen in those departments. Schlyer questioned the \$1000-\$2000 spread in savings. Myers indicated that it was closer to the \$2000 savings and said this can be postponed if needed to gather exact numbers. Younger indicated he liked the idea. Leroux said he liked it for the cost savings.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leroux**

I move to approve the installation of two water fountain bottle fillers using the ARPA funding.

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

#### **WESTERN KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION**

County Administrator Darin Myers discussed with the Commission the upcoming Western Kansas Congressional Reception to be held in Washington DC on May 9<sup>th</sup>. These meetings are to meet with the legislators to discuss the overall picture, needs and concerns of Western Kansas. The reception is usually attended by the City and County officials from Ford, Finney, Seward, Barton and Ellis Counties. This year Grow Hays, airport officials and the Hays Chamber will be attending as well. This trip is not budgeted within the 2022 budget. The expenses for the trip would include the flight, hotel and food. The costs of the overall reception would be split between the cities and counties who participate. The City Manager stated the County's portion would be around \$400-\$500. Schlyer asked what the approximate cost would be to attend. Myers indicated it would be around \$1000 for a flight, a couple of hundred dollars for food, and the rates for a motel would be around \$250 per night so estimated around \$2000 per person. Schlyer said he ran it by several of his constituents and they all told him no. He was wanting to know what the benefits would be since we can contact any of our senators or congressmen by email or phone call. As such, he was not in favor of any of the Commission attending, as our tax payers are faced with inflation, high fuel prices, and with the new valuations out on homes, their property taxes will go up. Leroux said he was interested but he has a child graduating from high school so could not attend. Schlyer asked if he was in favor of it; Leroux said he was in favor of it but agreed with Schlyer on the costs. City Manager Toby Dougherty gave a history of the Western Kansas Congressional Reception. Younger was asked if he was in support of any of the Commissioners attending, to which Younger said he was interested in attending and thought it was a good idea to meet with the legislature eye-to-eye. Myers said he would work with Commissioner Younger on getting him registered. Younger asked if Administrator Myers should attend. Schlyer asked Myers, to which Myers indicated it was fine either way and would leave that up to the Commission. Younger and Leroux both thought it was a good idea for the Administrator to attend. It was determined that Younger and Myers would both attend. Myers indicated that he would come back with a full report, and if this is something that should be continued in the future.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Myers discussed the firefighter convention that was held in Hays last week. It was the 134<sup>th</sup> annual convention. It was the largest participation in many years with 99 firefighters attending. The complimented the staff at the convention center and said the space was very nice. He thanked the Commission for funds they donated for the luncheon that was provided for the firefighters. He told the Commission that Register of Deeds Becky Herzog just celebrated her 44<sup>th</sup> year with the County on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Grow Hays put out an announcement today to invite the Commission to tour the new development by Hays Medical Center.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Leroux had no report. Younger said he attended the Grow Hays meeting. He thanked HR for the newsletter that was put out and wished a couple of employees Happy Birthday. He thanked the volunteer firefighters and the entire staff of Ellis County. He also attended the firefighter convention for one day. He asked if the other two Commissioners would be in support of putting a light at the corner of 280<sup>th</sup> Ave and Munjor Road. The previous owner of the bar had it disconnected. Leroux and Schlyer were in support of putting in a light at that intersection. Schlyer said he met with Dave and Doug of Grow Hays. He gave a shout out to Health Director Kim Reel and said they got an email from Kim and it sounds like she is getting everything under control. She is working on two grants, and also working on hiring an RN.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022, the Administrative Center Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas at 5:00 pm.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

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NEAL YOUNGER, COMMISSIONER

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JOE LEROUX, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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BOBBI L DREILING  
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK