

April 13, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:03 p.m., Monday, April 13, 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

Commissioners added Health Services Director Jason Kennedy after Household Hazardous Waste Agenda item.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

No prior minutes were presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Haselhorst Second: Roths

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

Payment Voucher Claims

Solid Waste Credit Card April 13, 2020, for \$386.91.

Solid Waste dated April 8, 2020, for \$19,634.80.

Voucher Claims on postage and purchase order dated April 8, 2020, for \$42,597.16.

Payroll Claims

Payroll #8, matches and deductions, dated April 9, 2020, for \$160,336.72.

Payroll #8 dated April 9, 2020, for \$404,910.93.

Tax Adjustments

Tax Adjustment numbers 2020000115 through 2020000118.

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

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Undersheriff Scott Braun presented an addendum to the food service contract for the jail on behalf of Sheriff Harbin. He stated that if the number count of jail prisoners drops then we could lose our food service per the current contract. The addendum addresses if the inmate count drops below 20

inmates per meal, then Consolidated Food Service will invoice the County for a minimum of 20 meals at the 20 to 29 meal rates.

Motion: Haselhorst Second: Roths

To amend the jail food service contract if the inmate count drops below 20 inmates per meal, Consolidated Food Service will invoice the County for a minimum of 20 meals at the 20 to 29 meal rates.

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

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioners had no questions on the March Financial Report.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE RATE INCREASE – ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SUPERVISOR MASON RUDER

Environmental Planning Supervisor Mason Ruder discussed raising the current annual rate for the Ellis County Regional Household Waste Program. Ruder discussed that the program began in 1994 with 6 counties and has grown to 14 counties as of 2020. The last adjustment rate was done in 2018. Currently the annual rate is at \$600. With the rising cost of disposal of hazardous waste Mason proposed to charge \$1,000 annually starting in January 1, 2021. Mason stated that he had spoken to all other counties about increasing the annual rates.

Motion: Roths Second: Haselhorst

To approve the changing the annual rate for the Ellis County Regional Household Waste Program from \$600 annually to \$1,000 annually starting January 1, 2021.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE POSITION– HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR JASON KENNEDY

Health Services Director Jason Kennedy asked if he may advertise the Public Health Nurse position, which was approved at last week's meeting, to require a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or a Registered Nurse (RN) for this full-time position. He wants to have the best person and would like to be able to open the position and be able to look at an LPN or a RN with an associate degree in nursing and one-year experience. The WIC Program does require a RN which we currently have on staff.

Motion: Roths Second: Haselhorst

To allow the job position of the Public Health Nurse pay range for an LPN, at pay grade 110, and a RN, at pay grade 113, for the Health Administrator to open that position for hire.

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

Kennedy reported that we currently have two active Coronavirus cases. There is no connection between the two cases, and both are Ellis County residents and have not traveled. They are

quarantined at home for 14 days. Anyone with contact of less than 6 feet for greater than 10 minutes have been notified and their condition is monitored.

SALES TAX ELECTION RESULTS – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers asked some questions from the Commission since the sales tax questions were approved.

- 1) It had been discussed earlier about considering bonds, with current lower interest rates, to look at any future projects in the County. The Road Tour is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, 2020. Commissioners would like to view some possible road projects. Commissioners and Public Works Director Bill Ring talked about taking precautions with the Coronavirus. It is a public meeting and the media was asked to notify Ring if they plan on attending. Interim County Administrator Myers and Public Works Director Ring will plan a schedule of locations to view during the tour.
- 2) Commissioners shared that they would like to possibly restore some funding for the Soil Conservation District, Mental Health Center, High Plains Mental Health Center and Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. They would like to maintain the current budget status for the other agencies.
- 3) To plan and not spend everything that is earned through the sales tax revenues.
- 4) Would like funding to be available for the new county attorney if the additional legal assistant and attorney is needed in 2021.
- 5) Budget 2021 to go forward with earlier recommendations to the Treasurer's Budget.
- 6) Health Insurance was discussed, and they will continue to look at the recommendations from the insurance consultant. All options including a self-funding plan will be reviewed.
- 7) With the projected loss of oil valuation, cut in half from our prior year, they may need to use the full 1.8% increase on property tax with the restrictions on the tax levy limit.
- 8) Myers stated that with the past couple of years increased spending in Juvenile Services Budget they need to increase this budget.
- 9) Myers was directed to prepare a letter to the City of Hays asking for funding to help with the Northwest Business Corridor Project.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers stated that he has prepared a process if they do need to conduct live streaming Commission Meetings. Informational Technology (IT) Director Mike Leiker stated that he had the on-line streaming software to conduct zoom and webinar meetings at no extra cost.

Commissioners appreciated the research on the on-line streaming if it would be needed.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Haselhorst thanked the voters for the large turnout at the Sales Tax Mail Ballot Election.

Roths announced that he has filed for re-election as Ellis County Commissioner District 2.

Chair Schlyer stated that he appreciated the voters supporting the Sales Tax Questions.

Commissioners gave recognition and thanks to Public Works Director Bill Ring, Health Services Director Jason Kennedy and Interim County Administrator Darin Myers for their hard work in educating the citizens on the Sales Tax Election.

Commissioners did visit on the situation with the two graders as Public Works Director Bill Ring is reviewing the option in leasing equipment. This will be further discussed at a future Commission Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was called for.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 21, 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