

April 18, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, April 18, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There will be no executive sessions.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of April 11th. No changes were given; the draft minutes were approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: _____ **Younger** _____ **Second** _____ **Leroux**

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

Payment Voucher Claims

Freedom Claims Management dated April 13 in the amount of \$8792.22

Accounts Payable dated April 19 in the amount of \$1,455,170.30

Waste Connections for Solid Waste dated April 13 in the amount of \$21,590.94'

Open Edge for credit card fees dated April 14 in the amount of \$633.60

Tax Adjustments

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2022000082

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

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

None

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioners said the reports looked good.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE UPDATE

Ellis County Health Department Director Kim Reel gave an update on the conference the Health Office staff attended from March 29-31, 2022. She said the conference provided the office with valuable information that will help them grow as individuals, as well as a health department to better serve the people of Ellis County. Many ideas were taken away from the conference. She thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to attend the conference. Schlyer questioned Reel regarding the grants that have to do with children and family planning. He questioned her about the family planning grant and if there was anything in the contractual agreement of this grant which would encourage her to refer to planned parenthood or any other abortion providers. She indicated she hasn't looked at the contractual agreement that close. Schlyer said there would be no way that he would be in favor of

anything that was related to abortion. He said anything that has to do with birth control or pelvic exams he had no problems with. Reel said she would check into it and get back with the Commission. Younger indicated that he agreed with Schlyer on the abortion issue and would not support it as well. Leroux thanked her for going to the conference and giving them a detailed update, and said we have a strong solid health department. She then gave an update on some grants. She said she just had a visit from the State today to do a walk-through to see if what they had submitted to them was true on the safety of the the outlay of the building. They did a mock drill. She said they were hoping the approval will be pushed through to get a remodel done to increase the safety of the front counter people as well as help with the flow of traffic. She said this grant could help with signage as well. If this money is not used, it will go back to the Feds. Schlyer said we need to make good use of the money, and just not spend it. Younger asked her how she felt about the mock run through with the State. She said it just proved the point that remodel needs to happen. County Counselor Jeter was asked if she could put up a sign up on Canterbury. County Administrator Myers explained the laws for the City of Hays that would not allow this. Myers showed how the signage could be put on the health department's building which would be LED lighting, as well as putting the signage at the Administrative Building.

APPRAISER POSITION/STAFFING REQUEST

Appraiser Lisa Ree is asking the Commission for reclassification of a three-quarter time Administrative Assistant position to a full-time Appraiser 1-Field position. Ree indicated within the next six weeks her office will have the retirement of two long-term employees. This provides an opportunity to evaluate current staff duties, and how the structure of the office can be adjusted to better meet state requirements. Changing one of those positions from one that performs office duties only to a field position will provide the office the tools needed to achieve the state's annual statutory compliance requirements. This change would increase the staff allocation by one one-quarter of a position, giving the Appraiser's office a staffing level of 8.5, which is 1.5 less than peer counties. As the office looks to fill the vacancies from the two retirements, the proposed change could result in a budget savings of \$7300; however, this is dependent upon the start date and health insurance plans chosen. If both new hires elect the family plan, the budget could potentially see an increase of \$10,095.

final estimate came well under the \$40,000 original request. The total purchase would be \$34,956.52.

Motion: _____ **Schlyer** _____ **Second:** _____ **Younger**

I move to approve the reclassification of a County Appraiser's three-quarter time Administrative Assistant position to a full-time Appraiser 1-Field.

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

CATHARINE TOWNSHIP BOARD APPOINTMENT

County Clerk Bobbi Dreiling is asking the Commission to appoint Jake Karlin as Catharine Township Trustee and Emily Karlin as Catharine Township Treasurer. As there had been no contact from the current board of Catharine Township, Joe Wilkerson contacted me and inquired as to the status of the township. He and others are interested in keeping the township and not having it dissolved. He has been appointed as Township Clerk by the previous Treasurer and Trustee, both have since resigned their positions. Jake Karlin and Emily Karlin have both expressed their interest in being appointed as the Trustee and Treasurer.

Motion: _____ **Younger** _____ **Second:** _____ **Leroux**

I move to appoint Jake Karlin as Catharine Township Trustee and Emily Karlin as Catharine Township Treasurer

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

2023 BUDGET DIRECTION

County Administrator Darin Myers is asking the Commission to provide direction to the elected officials and department heads on what the Commission would like to see provided in the first draft of the 2023 budget process. Staff is requesting direction as to if they need to plan on budget cuts, keep the budget flat, or if there are any areas the commission wants to see changes in funding. Schlyer said he sees the budget going up next year because of fuel prices and with inflation on various other supplies; along with added personnel. He would encourage the staff to bring back a budget they feel they need to provide their services and go from there. Younger agreed and he is supporting to put funds away for our roads and bridges. Myers asked if he should put back \$400,000 for road and bridge, or double that amount. Schlyer said he is in favor of increasing that amount because of the costs of replacing a bridge, if needed. Leroux agreed with building our reserves especially since we have ARPA funding to build and stabilize our reserves, but to try to stay as flat as possible on the budget but make it a clean budget to meet the needs of the County. Schlyer asked about the Commissioners if they are interested in going back with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development commission and putting them back on the subsidized agency list. It would be a \$40,000 subsidy. Leroux said he met with them in February and part of this would be paying dues for prior years that we were not paying. Schlyer said he was not in favor of paying any dues that weren't paid because we were not participating. Leroux agreed to not paying back dues. Leroux said he would have to see the math for the last ten years to see what they actually pulled in for Ellis County. Younger said he is not supporting this as well until he sees more productivity. It was decided to put this on the back burner. Myers said he is starting talks with the outside agencies on their budgets. June 13th is when they will come in to for their requests. He is asking if their budgets should stay flat. Schlyer said he would like to see them stay flat at this time until our budget is set and make any changes if needed. Younger is in favor of this. Schlyer has concerns with some of the agencies that have not come in and given updates. Leroux said he is concerned about the agencies that have not come in and given any updates on what they were doing with their money. He feels maybe they don't need as much money this time around. He thought there could be some groups that come before them that are more of a want than a need and then maybe shift funds around to help other agencies. Younger said he has been very impressed with what the Historical Society has been doing and coming in and giving the Commission updates. He said Human Resources will input all those line items and keep everything else the same. He said he will instruct the staff to put notes as to why they are increasing their budget.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Updated the Commission on the CIC training the staff had last week. He said they are hoping to use the Budget Prep that CIC offers, so there could be a new process this year with reports.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Leroux met with some of the Victoria administrative staff. He met with Jeff Pfeifer who purchased the resthome in Victoria. He also attended a meeting on childcare providers and said there were two new individuals who were interested in getting something going. Younger attended the Schoenchen City meeting and said their concern is 4-wheelers running around. He also met with Mason and Toby. He thanked Clerk Dreiling on her podcast she did on the election. Schlyer said he had a meeting with a potential District 1 candidate

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2022, the Administrative Center Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas at 5:00 pm.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

NEAL YOUNGER, COMMISSIONER

JOE LEROUX, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

BOBBI L DREILING
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK