

April 20, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 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 and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

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

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

No changes were given to the order of business.

#### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any updates to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of April 6, 2020 and the Canvass meeting of April 16, 2020. With no updates give, Chair Schlyer stated that the April 6 and 16, 2020 meetings are approved as presented.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion:                      Haselhorst    Second:                      Roths

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

##### Payment Voucher Claims

Voucher Claims dated April 21, 2020, for \$290,876.04.

##### Tax Adjustments

Tax Adjustment numbers 2020000119 through 2020000120.

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

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

No issues for persons not on the order of business.

#### **MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Commissioners had no questions on the Departmental Report.

#### **GRADER LEASE-PURCHASE – BILL RING, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Public Works Director Bill Ring states that they recommend purchasing a new road grader to replace a 2006 grader with 13,000 hours. The 2006-140H grader has engine and transmission problems. Their goal is to keep equipment under warranty and trade into new machines when the warranty is done, which will help lower repair costs.

The outright price for the new grader is \$278,000.90, trade-in of \$55,000; therefore, net price is \$223,000.90.

They have a governmental pricing through Sourcewell Cooperative for a lease-purchase from Foley Equipment at \$223,400.90 with option at seven years for \$35,857 per year and trade-in of the 2006-140H grader. The lease/purchase interest rate is at 3% with a \$1.00 buy-out. They can have delivery in two weeks.

Motion:                      Roths    Second:                      Haselhorst

To approve the purchase of one new 12M3 Caterpillar grader from Foley Equipment for \$223,400.90 with their lease-purchase option at seven years for \$35,857.13 a year. Including the trade-in of the 2006 140H grader.

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

**GRANT WRITER/NORTHWEST KANSAS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – DUSTIN ROTHS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Roths stated that he would like to see some of the sales tax funding help support a grant writer position for the County. Roths believes If they do create this position then membership to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission would not be needed. He feels this position could be highly beneficial for the County when asking for grant funding. Chair Schlyer wondered if they should look at someone in the private sector that writes grants. They would like to visit with Grow Hays in looking at a grant writer that could be utilized by others. Haselhorst felt that we need to wait until we see who is hired as County Administrator. They felt that a grant writer could benefit other officials as well. Roths stated that he will visit with Doug Williams with Grow Hays.

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers will draft a letter to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development that Ellis County has reallocated funding and will not be paying dues for 2020.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COVID PAY – JASON KENNEDY, HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR**

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Jason Kennedy asked for the Commissioners to consider paying \$50 per week stipend to full-time and \$10 per week stipend for part-time EMS personnel during the COVID-19. Kennedy stated that his employees are not asking for extra pay, but he is asking. He would like this effective April 20 to May 4, 2020 with a total cost of \$5,300.

Chair Schlyer stated that he understands the public health care workers during this time. Kennedy stated that Sedgwick County had issued extra pay to their EMS employees. He feels that the Sheriff's Department is also putting in more risk during this time. Haselhorst stated that a lot of people are on the front line during this time. Commissioners also understand everyone is going through changes during this time. Kennedy's request was tabled at this time.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATION – LYLE PANTLE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Assistant Director of Fire and Emergency Management Lyle Pantle presented a \$100 check donation when the Ellis County Fire Department assisted with a prescribed burn in the Northwest part of the County to standby and help protect nearby property.

This funding will be used to help build two rescue tool training props to help firefighters refine their skills using airbags and the hydraulic rescue tool.

Commissioners appreciated the donation.

## **SALES TAX LETTER – DARIN MYERS, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers presented a letter to the City of Hays asking for funding on the Northwest Business Corridor Project at \$750,000. The letter was signed by Chair Schlyer.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2020 PAY RAISES – DARIN MYERS, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers discussed the 2020 pay adjustments. They would like to finish the Evergreen Pay Study. The Wage and Benefit Committee has proposed pay adjustments and recommends a 1.6% cost of living increase. This would help cover other cost of living increases including the out-of-pocket health insurance increases for employees. They recommend step increases for employees who are in the one to five-year range. Myers pointed out that seven individuals had not been included in the proposal that had been approved for raises in January. Funding is available in the 2020 Budget.

Commissioners asked to table any action until the May 4, 2020 Meeting.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS**

Interim County Administrator Darin Myers had no report.

## **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Haselhorst had no report.

Roths reported that he had thanked Representative Barbara K. Wasinger for pushing the governor to reopen the economy and have a plan. He stated that Representative Wasinger is working on a joint letter from the House and Senate Legislatures to address this need.

Chair Schlyer had no report.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was called for.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 6:11 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 4, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

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DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER

DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK