

No issues from persons not on the order of business.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioners had no questions on the April Financial Report.

COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION UPDATE – COMMITTEE CHAIR GUY WINDHOLZ

Chair of the Courthouse Preservation Committee Guy Windholz presented a slide show on the work in restoring the Courthouse structure. Vice-Chair of the Courthouse Preservation Committee Donald J. Waldschmidt was also present at the meeting. The project is nearing completion. Windholz thanked Commissioners, Mike Leiker, Lori Dreiling, Bill Ring and staff and Curt Hoffman for their help with this project. He appreciated the Court and County Attorney offices working with them on the work schedule. He thanked all individuals and companies that donated their time or equipment to this project. It was a WPA (Works Progress Administration). The stone was originally put in place in 1942. He stated that a sealer does need to be reapplied to the granite stone every ten years. Windholz stated that it is a great project to preserve history. Commissioners thanked Windholz for all that he has done.

L. KUHN 4TH ADDITION ROAD ISSUE – GARY WEGELE

Real Estate Agent Galen Romme representing the landowners in the L. Kuhn 4th Addition asked that the County maintain this roadway of 2100 feet, which is a little less than one-half mile, the County had maintained it since 2010. He stated that 45 jobs are operating out of this development. This area is in the 3-mile zoning and a plat had been approved by the 3-mile zoning board and the City of Hays in 2010. Currently this road has heavy truck traffic and the need for more than one entrance for fire and emergency trucks.

The County has stopped maintaining the road when Bill Ring, Public Works Director, found that this plat was never approved by the County Commission and which makes this property “private property”. Ring stated that he had visited with County Counselor Jeter on this situation. Since the plat had not been approved, and the liability of this issue, Ring stated that they cannot maintain this road, to protect the best interest of the County. The plat was recorded in the Ellis County Register of Deeds Office. The City of Hays needed to present the plat to the Ellis County Commission for formal approval which was not done per prior County minutes and records.

Haselhorst stated that they will visit further with County Counselor Jeter on this matter.

BUDGET UPDATE – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PHILLIP SMITH-HANES

Administrator Smith-Hanes discussed the 2020 Budget process. He has heard back from Schoenchen, Ellis and Victoria cities and they would like to keep their part of a countywide sales tax if that is approved by the voters. They all were in support of a ½ cent countywide sales tax.

Administrator Smith-Hanes announced that on Friday he did receive a letter from the City of Hays and they would like the funding that has not been spent from the 2013 Sales Tax collection.

Administrator Smith-Hanes had some good news that the motor vehicle values moved up slightly and that the cash balance from the audit report may be higher, but that may be subject to change. He felt that they are going in the right direction for the 2020 Budget. The assessed value will be available June 1st and he is waiting on health insurance costs and the outside agency funding request.

Roths had concerns in passing a sales tax on roads but Administrator Smith-Hanes stated that this tax must be on public health.

Schlyer was in favor of the one-half cents Countywide Sales Tax.

Roths shared that he feels that a one-fourth cent Countywide Sales Tax would be an easier sell.

Haselhorst stated that he will have to study both these options.

Haselhorst stated that a lot of time is needed to educate the community on the needs of a countywide sales tax. Public Works Director Ring has been telling us that the County bridges will be needing repairs in the next ten years.

Administrator Smith-Hanes reminded Commissioners that the sales tax would have to be dedicated to public health. Therefore, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) does work, but not road projects. Funding to help support High Plains Mental Health Center does fit under this requirement.

Haselhorst gave direction to look at having a question on a Countywide Sales Tax, November 5, 2019, with the City and School Election. He asked for statistical information on voter turnout in past elections, and a time schedule for a sales tax question on the November ballot. Educating the public on a Countywide Sales Tax Question is very important.

Schlyer stated that if the City of Hays does not wish to help support a Countywide Sales Tax then he stated they should consider lowering their property taxes.

Haselhorst would like discussion at the May 20 Commission Meeting on the difference of an EMT and Paramedic in the EMS Department.

COUNTY COUNSELOR REPORTS – COUNTY COUNSELOR BILL JETER

County Counselor Bill Jeter reported that the tax sale foreclosure is scheduled at 10 a.m., June 18th at the 3rd Floor of the Ellis County Courthouse. Jeter, Administrator Smith-Hanes and Amanda Shannon will be viewing all seven properties in the tax sale foreclosure and will consider if any

properties will be recommended to the Commission to consider purchasing. Jeter felt that they may only have four properties when it comes to the sale date.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PHILLIP SMITH-HANES

Administrator Smith-Hanes reported that they will be applying for a Senate build grant on the Northwest Business Corridor Project. Administrator Smith-Hanes, Public Works Director Ring and the engineer will be working on this grant application. They will be gathering letters of support from key stakeholders.

Administrator Smith-Hanes asked about the hiring of two positions in the Public Works Department. Commissioners were fine in going forward with the hiring process for the Environmental Office and Office Manager in the Public Works Department.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Schlyer stated he had no report.

Roths said he was excited to hear about the build grant opportunity. He looks forward in sharing about the project and help gather support letters. He feels it is highly important for the City of Hays to consider helping with the funding of the Northwest Business Corridor Project.

Chair Haselhorst stated that he has been visiting with stakeholders on the Northwest Business Corridor Project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Roths Second: Schlyer

Moved to recess into Executive Session pursuant to the preliminary discussion of acquisition of real estate exception for possible landfill expansion. Those persons to attend include the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator Phillip Smith-Hanes, County Counselor Bill Jeter and Public Works Director Bill Ring. The executive session will last 15 minutes.

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

The Executive Session began at 6:45 p.m.

The Open Session resumed at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Haselhorst stated no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Haselhorst stated that the meeting will adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

The next Commission Meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 20, 2019, Ellis County Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

DEAN F. HASELHORST, CHAIR

ATTEST:

ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, COMMISSIONER

DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK

DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER