

July 20, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 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 County Administrator J D Cox, 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**

No changes were noted to the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

No minutes were presented.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion: Haselhorst Second: Roths

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

#### Voucher Claims

Voucher claims dated July 21, 2020, for \$726,775.80.

#### Payroll Claims

Payroll health insurance dated July 30, 2020, for \$228,915.41.

Payroll #15 claims on matches and deductions dated July 17, 2020, for \$174,763.19.

Payroll #15 dated July 17, 2020, for \$435,311.17.

#### Tax Roll Adjustments

Tax Roll Adjustment claims 2020000141 and 2020000142 were reviewed. Voided claims were 2020000139 and 2020000140.

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

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

Dr. Ed Hammond spoke on his concerns he has with the Commission not mandating face masks to protect our citizens. In a few weeks over 4,000 students will be coming to Fort Hays State University (FHSU) to start college. He believes we are sending the wrong message to our college parents in sending them to FHSU and feel safe. He asked that the Commission reconsider their decision to not mandate face masks with the COVID-19.

**COVID-19 UPDATE – ELLIS COUNTY HEALTH DIRECTOR JASON KENNEDY**

Health Services Director Jason Kennedy presented an update on the COVID-19 in the County.

Kennedy again stressed not to touch nose, mouth or eyes, social distancing and no large mass gatherings.

Kennedy stated that when someone is required to quarantine, they must isolate themselves in their own bedroom and own restroom.

**COURT SERVICES FACILITIES DURING PANDEMIC – REQUEST TO ADD GRANT-FUNDED POSITION**

Judge Braun was unable to attend the meeting. Mike Smith with Court Services had the presentation to request grant funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance on September 30, 2019, this funding to be used to hire a Case Manager to assist the drug court participants with barriers that come up in their supervision. They would pay \$18 per hour with an estimated 28 hours per week with workman’s compensation, FICA and KPERS. Health insurance would not be provided to this position. The grant would be administered through Ellis County and paid through the county payroll with the grant reimbursing all costs to Ellis County. The position would be effective until the grant ends October 1, 2022. They anticipate renewing the grant at that time.

Motion: Haselhorst Second: Roths

To approve the Drug Court request to add a position as part of the services provided by the Bureau of Justice grant as proposed.

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

**INCREASE CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AUTHORIZED STRENGTH ALLOCATION 0.75 TO 1.000 FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JD COX AND COUNTY CLERK DONNA J. MASKUS**

County Administrator JD Cox and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus requested to increase a three-quarters time position to a full-time position to assist the County Administrator with the work involved with the CARES Act. The added cost for 2020 would be \$9,000 with funding possibly available from the CARES Act. These two offices will work together to share the resource as needs require.

Motion: Roths Second: Haselhorst

To increase the authorized strength of an Administrative Assistant position currently in the County Clerk's Office from three quarters to a full-time position and to reallocate 50% of the position's time to the County Administrator Office and 50% to the County Clerk's Office.

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

**FINAL 2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION AND AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JD COX**

County Administrator Cox presented the 2021 Budget. He complimented Darin Myers for his preparation with the budget and there is a balanced budget. Commissioners have decided no change in the current mill levy of 36.91. Fire and Emergency Management Darin Myers discussed the Fire Department Budget that will include a slight mill levy increase from 3.73 mills to 4.27 mills to compensate with the decline in oil values. County Administrator Cox stated that a 20% percent backup is good to set aside if funding would be needed in case of a disaster or something unplanned.

The public hearing is set for August 10<sup>th</sup> with the publication no later than 10 days prior of the hearing. The certification is to be to the County Clerk by August 25<sup>th</sup>. The 2021 Budget expenditures were given at \$21,854,742, and revenues estimated at \$21,855,646.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – JD COX**

County Administrator JD Cox shared that they had their first Think Tank Committee zoom meeting today for the CARES Act process. They are looking at the impact socially, aging, educational, economic development and health minds. August 15, 2020 is the deadline for the plan.

Roths asked for the names of those on the Think Tank Committee for the CARES Act and their organization.

Cox is spending time on CARES, met with FHSU President Mason and toured the facility, meet with Court staff, and attended meetings with the Ellis City and the City of Hays.

**COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Haselhorst reported that the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) Convention has been cancelled for 2020.

Roths shared that COVID-19 has taken a lot of his time. He noted that he is trying to run a business and if someone does come into his store and he is busy he asked that you contact him again or he will do his best to get back to you.

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 6:34 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, August 3, 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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSIONER