

September 12, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, September 12, 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 September 6. No changes were given; the draft minutes was 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 September 7 in the amount of \$4,983.57

Enterprise Lease dated September 2 in the amount of \$10,617.09

Employee benefits dated September 7 in the amount of \$206,821.61

Payroll #18 dated August 21-September 3 paid September 9 in the amount of \$474,026.05

Purchase order 7676 to I-70 Truck Repair in the amount of \$40,215.13

Vouchers dated September 13 in the amount of \$1,169,825.

Tax Adjustments

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2022000112

Disposition: Motion passed 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.

COUNTY FY23 REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING WITH RESOLUTION 21-11

County Administrator Darin Myers presented to the Commissioners the FY23 budget.

Motion: Schlyer Second: Younger

I move to open the public hearing for the intention of exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate and 2023 Ellis County budget

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

Tax payer Ken Kennedy discussed with the Commissioners his concerns about the budget and budget process. He thanked County Administrator Darin Myers, County Clerk Bobbi Dreiling and her office, as

well as the appraiser's office for all the information he received in order to present this evening. Schlyer appreciated Kennedy's comments and discussed the County's prior years budget process and how by leaving the budget flat for some years was to the detriment to the County. Younger said he also appreciated Kennedy's comments and said that everyone he knows told him they were ready for the tax increase. Leroux appreciated Kennedy's comments and sharing his information. He said overall the departments did a great job staying as close to last year's budget taking into consideration inflation.

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

I move to approve the proposed budgets and Resolution 22-11 for budget year 2023.

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

Schlyer then proceeded to take a roll call vote.

Schlyer Yes

Younger Yes

Leroux Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 22- 11

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE

WHEREAS, the Revenue Neutral Rate for Ellis County was calculated as 32.976 mills by the Ellis County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the budget proposed by the Governing Body of Ellis County will require the levy of a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body held a hearing on September 12th, 2022 allowing all the interesting taxpayers desiring to be heard an opportunity to give oral testimony; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Ellis County, having heard testimony, still finds it necessary to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS:

Ellis County shall levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate of 32.976 mills.

This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS, this 12th day of September 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS

Robert (Butch) Schlyer, Chairman

Neal Younger, Commissioner

Joe Leroux, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Bobbi Dreiling, County Clerk

MODERATE INCOME HOUSING GRANT

Michael Graham with Turn-Key Properties is asking the Commission for support with the MIH grant application process. This development would consist of three buildings with a total of 33 apartments with a mix of 1 & 2-bedroom apartments. Graham would like to apply for a grant through the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, formally known as the 2022 Moderate Income Housing Program. This program is administered through the local City or County. If the Commission is supportive, a resolution would be needed for support. The Commissioners were in favor of giving their support. A resolution will be drafted and will be presented at a future commission meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS TRACTOR MOTOR REPLACEMENT

Public Works Director Brendan Mackay is asking the Commission to approve Purchase Order 7676 for the purchase of a tractor motor replacement. It is recommended replacing the engine in truck #2-652 which is a 2004 Western Star tractor truck. The current engine in the truck has oil consumption and is low on compression and power. This truck is used to primarily haul a water tank, a belly dump trailer, and a lowboy equipment trailer. Due to the consumption and low compression, it struggles to pull the heavier equipment. The transmission in this truck was rebuilt in the last two years and has no issues.

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

I move to approve Purchase Order 7676 to I-70 Truck Repair for installation of a complete engine for truck #2-652.

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

HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD GRANT

Public Works Director Brendan Mackay is asking the Commission to sign the construction engineering agreement for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 KDOT HRRR Grant for safety improvements on two intersections on Old US 40 Highway. Kansas Department of Transportation has accepted grant applications for road safety and signing projects for the last eight years. Ellis County has been awarded a grant six times and has successfully applied for the 2022 grant year. These projects have allowed the County to update all types of road signage at no cost to the County. The County has a number of improvements that were determined during Ellis County’s Local Road Safety Plan that was conducted in 2019-2020. Kirkham Michael Engineering filed the application for this project on behalf of the County and will be overseeing all parts of the project. Costs for the grant activities will be fully offset by the grant award, with no requirement for a local match.

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

I move to accept and sign the FY2022 KDOT High Risk Rural Road Grant Construction Engineering Agreement for Project 26C-5125-01.

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

GIS ANALYST POSITION

IT Director Mike Leiker is asking the Commission to reinstate the GIS analysis position in the IT Department. When the IT Director presented to the Commission on August 15th, the topic of drone technology and GPS accuracy came up. First to address the drone technology, this was just one of the many new and somewhat futuristic tools that could be at the County’s disposal and was mentioned as a glimpse into what things might be done. There are currently no projects planned that utilize drone

technology. The skillset is not being included in the job description. As to the accuracy of GPS data, the GPS equipment that the County and City currently own is older and in need of replacement, but the GIS Specialist has found new resources that will ensure 1 cm. accuracy. To summarize and answer the questions posed by the commission during the last presentation:

1. Is Ellis County truly getting an equal share of the GIS Specialist's time? Yes.
2. Is the County's GPS Accuracy good? With upgraded hardware and the new vendor that can provide GPS rendering, the GPS accuracy will be 1 cm.
3. Is Ellis County going to have to hire or train someone to be a drone pilot? No. There are currently no projects planned that will require the use of drone technology and it is not being included in the GIS Analyst job description.

The reinstatement of the GIS Analyst position would allow the IT department to reduce the backlog of GIS requests, and also allow for a much-needed modernization of the GIS website currently maintained by the GIS Specialist. Schlyer wanted assurance that if the position is approved that the County will still get the half position we share with the City. Leiker said we would not lose that half position we share with the City. Leroux said he appreciated that Leiker got them the information they were asking for.

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

I move to approve the reinstatement of the GIS Analyst position in the IT Department beginning January 2, 2023.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator Myers told the Commission that this last weekend Ellis County Hosted the annual Kansas State Firefighters school.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Leroux had no report. Younger said he met with the City Mayor, attended Drug Court and attended the Northwest Juvenile meeting. Schlyer had no report.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 5:49 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 19, 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