

October 4, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 pm Tuesday, October 4, 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.

Schlyer discussed the new public forum guidelines for people that are not on the order of business. The guidelines are as follows:

Speakers are asked to only speak at the podium

Speakers are asked to start with stating their name and organization

Speakers are limited to 3 minutes to make their presentations

Speakers are asked to make only points that have not been made previously.

Younger said he would like to add that they also state what County they are from along with their address. Leroux stated that if they need more than three minutes they would need to get on the agenda at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of September 19. 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 21 in the amount of \$6,367.11

Employee benefits dated September 21 in the amount of \$220,814.02

Insurance dated September 28 in the amount of \$339,512.45

Payroll #19 dated September 4-17 paid September 23 in the amount of \$500,036.75

Vouchers dated October 5 in the amount of \$251,968.57

Purchase Card dated September 22 in the amount of \$56,480.96

Voucher dated September 27 in the amount of \$59,520.00

Tax Adjustments

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2022000113, 2022000114, 2022000116

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

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Human Resources Coordinator Jennifer Taylor introduced two new employees: Jason Basgall with Public Works as a heavy equipment operator and Brittany Thomas with the Treasurer's office as a motor vehicle tax collection clerk.

HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE 2023 RENEWALS WITH FCMI ANNUAL AGREEMENT

County Administrator Darin Myers updated the Commission on the 2023 health insurance premiums and asked to approve the renewal options and consider the FCMI Agreement contract renewal. Ellis County staff has been working with Julie Yarmer with FCMI on options for renewal rates for employee health care coverage in 2023. In preparation of this renewal and projected increases, the Ellis County Commission approved a 7% increase in health care coverage costs in the 2023 budget. The commission has the option to accept the renewal rates from BCBS and Delta Dental as proposed, but also could consider using the reserve funding to absorb some of the increases using the reserve funding which are projected for 2023 at 199%. If half of each plan premium were to be absorbed with reserves, this would reduce the amount of an increase to the employees as well as have less of an impact on the general fund budgets. If the commission would decide to only increase the insurance amount by 50% of what is proposed, the 2023 reserve funding estimate would be reduced to approximately 194% funded. The 2023 budget considerations for insurance premiums included a planned 7% increase to the overall costs of health insurance, dental insurance, and reserve fund contributions. The proposals for BCBS and Delta Dental being considered are only portions of this overall funding level. The proposals if approved, are under what the Commission approved for funding in 2023. President of FCMI Julie Yarmer spoke to the Commission and thanked them for their partnership with FCMI.

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

I move to approve FCMI Administrative Agreement and accept the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and Delta Dental renewals for 2023.

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

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

I move to approve the insurance premium rate increases for 2023 at 50% of the proposed rate.

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

WAGE AND BENEFIT 2023 PROPOSAL

Caleb Garner with the Wage and Benefit Committee discussed with the Commission the 2023 employee wage increases and pay scale adjustments. The projected increase to the cost-of-living set by the Social Security Administration is between 8.9-10% for 2023 with the final number to be released later.

According to the Personnel Pay Policy adopted by Ellis County "after the separation of the Evergreen study has been achieved, the County shall (upon availability of funds) endeavor to allow all employees advance to their next higher step within their respective pay grades annually." Furthermore, we would like to bring to you a discrepancy in the County's pay scale. Currently, only pay grades 121-124 reach step 20 while pay grades 116-120 reach step 18, pay grades 112-115 reach step 16, and pay grades 101-111 reach step 14. With this system, employees on the lower end of the pay scale would only see increases for the first 13 years of their service with Ellis County. Also, pay grades 101-103 are not being used by the County. The Wage and Benefits Committee respectfully proposes the following: we propose a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment to the pay scale as well as all employees advancing to the next higher step in their respective pay grades, effective the first pay period of 2023. In addition, we are proposing

the Commission extend pay grades 104-120 out to step 20 on the pay scale and eliminate pay grades 101-103. This change will help with recruitment of new employees providing them more foresight in their future with Ellis County and will help with retention of current employees providing them more growth across the scale. Finally, the Wage and Benefits Committee is aware of the newly elected members of this Commission starting next year and understand if the current commission would like to table this discussion until the start of their term. All three commissioners wanted to move forward.

Motion: _____ **Schlyer** **Second:** _____ **Leroux**

I move to extend pay grades 104-120 to step 20 and to eliminate pay grades 101-103 that are not being used.

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

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

I move to approve to provide the employees of a pay increase of 3 percent and a step increase to the next step. This will start at the first of year.

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

County Administrator Myers said he will do a budget adjustment to reduce the budget stabilization account so the Clerk will only have to enter in these amounts one time. Myers said the salaries of the election officials are set by Resolution. The Commissioners agreed that the elected officials get the same increase as the employees. Myers said he will put together budget numbers and a resolution.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ELECTROIC HEALTH RECORD

Health Administrator Kim Reel is requesting the Commission to approve the use of a new Electronic Health Record for the health department. The ECHD has been using an old and out-of-date electronic health record for many years. At the governor's public health conference earlier this year, we decided to speak with representatives from other health departments and electronic health record providers. Our journey led us to CureMD. Since then, we've had several meetings with them to get additional information, talk about how it can work for us, and go through the fees involved with moving forward. Having an electronic health record has many benefits, including: Giving patients complete, accurate, and up-to-date information at the point of care, enhancing the ease of getting medical care as well as interactions and communication between patients and providers, enabling healthcare providers to diagnose patients, reduce medical errors, and deliver safer care by securely sharing electronic information with patients and other physicians, facilitating legible, thorough documentation and accurate, simplified coding and invoicing, making prescribing safer and more dependable, promoting legible, thorough documentation and accurate, efficient coding and billing, increasing the privacy and security of patient data, reducing costs via decreased paperwork, increased safety, decreased duplication of testing, and improved health. Schlyer said he was the one who implemented the current system when he was health director. The first four years of expenses will be covered by a grant of \$43,151 that ECHD has obtained. The \$597 monthly or \$7,164 annual payments will be made by the health department from the capital budget.

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

I move to approve CureMD as the new Electronic Health Record for the Ellis County Health Department.

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

REMOVAL OF LAND FROM THE ETJ

Environmental Services Director Justin Craig is asking the Commission to approve the adoption of the amended agreement with the City of Hays on the boundaries of the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Hays. The land purchased for the construction of the new county shop for the Road & Bridge Department is currently within the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Hays. Ellis County has been in discussions and working alongside the City of Hays to amend the ETJ agreement to remove the north half of Section 16, Township 13, Range 18 from the ETJ. A map and legal description of the new area was proposed and is now before the two entities to adopt the new boundaries.

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

I move to approve the adoption of the amended agreement with the City of Hays on the boundaries of the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the City of Hays.

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

LANDFILL EXPANSION PERMIT

Environmental Services Director Justin Craig is asking the Commission to approve the KDHE application to expand the Ellis County Landfill for the disposal of construction and demolition waste. Penco Engineering has completed the application for the expansion of the Ellis County Landfill. This document requires the approval of the Ellis County Commission to be submitted. If approved, Penco will be submitting their final plans along with the application to KDHE for final approval to begin disposing of construction and demolition waste in our new pit.

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

I move to approve the KDHE permit application 1-5-2022 for the expansion of the Ellis County landfill.

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

OVER/UNDER TAX PAYMENTS RESOLUTION 2022-15

Ellis County Treasurer Vern Ruder is asking the Commission to approve Resolution 2022-15 for over and under payments of ad valorem taxes wherein their costs are greater than the benefit. The purpose of this resolution is to reduce cost to the Treasury Department for tax overpayments and underpayments. With postage costs continuing to rise and labor costs, we will eliminate unnecessary costs as laid out in paragraph four in the resolution.

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

I move to approve Resolution 2022-15 for over and under payments of ad valorem taxes wherein their costs are greater.

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

Resolution No: R-2022-15
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF
ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Ellis County, Kansas, by the powers vested in it by K.S.A. 19-101(a) may perform powers of local legislation, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners have a duty to reduce the time and cost wherever reasonable in the operation of the Ellis County Treasurer’s Office including the cost of processing refund checks for ad valorem property tax underpayments and overpayments, and

recognize that the commissioners approved the in-service day for Monday, October 10th and that Administrative Assistant Carissa Polifka made flyers to post that the County buildings would be closed for the day other than the landfill, EMS and the Sheriff's office.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Younger attended the Hays Disaster Plan and the Ellis City meeting. He also toured Ellis Avenue again in anticipation of next week's meeting and he also thanked the volunteers. Leroux attended the Kansas Association of Counties Governing Board meeting in Minneapolis and the Kansas WorkforceOne meeting, he also visited with the Victoria Coalition. Schlyer had no report. .

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 9:24 am. The next regular meeting with be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the Administrative Center Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas at 8:30 am.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

NEAL YOUNGER, COMMISSIONER

JOE LEROUX, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

BOBBI L DREILING
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK