

March 7, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, March 7, 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 three executive sessions.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of February 21st. No changes were given; the draft minutes were approved as presented.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leroux** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

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

#### **Payment Voucher Claims**

Accounts Payable dated March 8 in the amount \$440,183.69

Payroll #4 dated February 6-February 19 paid February 25 in the amount of \$431,125.27

#### **Tax Adjustments**

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2022000073-74

**Disposition:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Motion was carried 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 Jackie Schumacher introduced the following new employees:

Environmental Services Technician Scott Morgan, hired February 14, 2022

Administrative Assistant for Health Department Christina Hernandez-Morales, hired February 14, 2022

IT Support Technician David (Yuanlong) Qi, hired February 28, 2022.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE INTERIM DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT**

County Administrator Darin Myers is asking the Commission to appoint Justin Craig as the Interim Director for the Environmental Services Department. The Commission accepted the resignation of Mason Ruder effective March 4, 2022; with the temporary absence of a department director until the position is filled, Justin Craig, the Assistant Environmental Services Director is willing and interested to fill the director’s position.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leroux**

I move to appoint Justin Craig as the Interim Director for the Environmental Services Director.

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

### **ELLIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER APPOINTMENT**

County Administrator Darin Myers is requesting the Commission to appoint a new Public Health Officer. The current Public Health Officer Jason Kennedy had offered to stay on in such position to assist Kim Reel with the transition until March 2022.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**                      **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leroux**

I move to appoint Kim Reel as the Public Health Officer for Ellis County.

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

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

Ellis County Health Director Kim Reel is requesting a six percent (6%) COLA increase of \$48 per month for the Medical Director (Dr. Knoll). The new salary would be \$848 per month. Dr. Know has done an outstanding job as the Medical Director especially throughout the last two years during the COVID pandemic. This increase will be \$576 per year in addition to any cost-of-living increases that the Commission approves in the future. This amount can be absorbed in the 2022 ECHD budget and will be added to the 2023 budget.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leroux**                      **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

I move that the Ellis County Commission approve a 6% COLA pay increase of \$48 per month for the position of medical director of Ellis County Health Department, which is the same as what has been approved for all Ellis County employees. This modification will go into effect in April 2022.

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

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT GRANTS**

Ellis County Health Director Kim Reel is requesting the Commission approve the 2023 Grant Applications through Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE). These are the following grants that are available this year: Immunization Action Plan (IAP), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) State Formula (SF) and COVID grants. The COVID grant money will be used to build, expand, train and keep the public health staff in place to help jurisdictions with COVID-19 prevention, response and recovery efforts. These grants will run out in November 2022 and before the end of 2023. They will help with staffing infrastructure, ELC Optional Opportunities and ELC Expanding Infrastructure. They are working with KDHE to move several sections of this grant into the remodel portion of their building, or about \$213,000. Commercial Builders has been generous enough to spend time with staff to develop a rendering of what the remodel would do for the office space. This grant would cover nearly all the costs of the remodel if the Commission approves moving forward with the grant applications.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Schlyer**                      **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

I move to approve the 2023 Grant application for the Ellis County Health Department offered through the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

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

### **HEALTH OFFICE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Ellis County Health Director Kim Reel is asking the Commission to approve the closing of the health office on March 29-31 so the staff can attend the health department conference. With new staff at the health department there is need of training and development to continue to build upon the health department services offered to Ellis County. The conference is arranged by Wichita State University and hosted at the Manhattan Conference Center on March 29-31. If approved staff will make sure proper

public notices are made, and appointments would not be scheduled for those days. Reel said there would be no financial impact as there is a COVID grant that would cover these expenses. Schlyer said normally he would not agree to such a closure; but, with the recent COVID-19 and change of staff, he agrees to close the office.

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

I move to allow the Ellis County Health Department to close March 29-31 to allow staff to attend the health department conference.

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

#### **DAILY JAIL RATES**

Sheriff Scott Braun is asking for approval for an increase for the housing of inmates. Upon review of the daily costs of inmates for food, lodging, medical, staff cost and inflation it was found that the current \$40 per day per inmate cost is creating a deficit for the County. The increase would offset expenses should Municipalities house inmates with the Sheriff's office and begin payment from the Kansas Department of Correction at the rate of \$65 per day after the inmate is sentenced to prison. This is not intended for a revenue source, but rather to be budget neutral.

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

I move to approve the increase of the housing of inmates for outside Municipalities and KDOC from \$40 per day to \$65 per day.

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

#### **NATIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION/30 X 30**

The Commissioners had asked Jeter to provide information and clarification on the news going around between National Heritage Foundation and the "30 x 30 Land Grab" program. In May of 2021 the County Commissioners approved Resolution 21-09 to oppose the National Heritage Foundation. The Commission has asked if the County would need to adopt a new resolution to also oppose the 30 x 30 program. He said there is a Resolution that he can prepare another Resolution for the 30 x 30 program. The Commission said they would discuss it at a later date to see if they will need a new resolution.

#### **ELLIS COUNTY BURN BAN**

Fire & Emergency Management Director Darin Myers is asking for guidance from the Commission on whether to implement a burn ban. On January 10, 2022 the commission approved a burn ban Resolution 2022-04 for the unincorporated areas of Ellis County. At that time there had been minimal snow moisture on the ground and the burn ban was not implemented. Two months later there is still minimal moisture received and with temperatures starting to rise the changes of wildland fires will continue to increase. Myers said to not cause confusion he is suggesting the burn ban be put in place and stay in place until a significant amount of moisture is received. The Commission told Myers to proceed in placing the burn ban into effect.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator Myers gave each of the Commissioners a 2022 budget book. Myers indicated that the first week of April is when the budget forecast needs to be looked at for 2023.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Younger attended a school board luncheon and the Ellis County Planning and Development meeting. He thanked the Firefighters of Ellis County, as well as all employees. Leroux visited with the County attorney and Heartland Community Foundation. Schlyer had no report.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Schlyer**                      **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

To recess into Executive Session for 10 minutes under the following exception to the Kansas Open Meeting Act pursuant to the attorney-client privilege exception with the subject to be discussed during executive session service contracts. Those persons to attend are Chair Butch Schlyer, Commissioner Neal Younger, Commissioner Joe Leroux, County Counselor Bill Jeter, Sheriff Scott Braun and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 5:35 pm.

The Open Session resumed at 5:45 pm with no action taken.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Schlyer**                      **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

To recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes under the following exception to the Kansas Open Meeting Act pursuant to the preliminary discussion of acquisition of real estate exception, with the subject to be discussed during executive of potential purchase. Those persons to attend are Chair Butch Schlyer, Commissioner Neal Younger, Commissioner Joe Leroux, County Counselor Bill Jeter, Public Works Director Brendan Mackay and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 5:45 pm.

The Open Session resumed at 6:05 pm with no action taken.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Schlyer**                      **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

To recess into Executive Session for 5 minutes under the following exception to the Kansas Open Meeting Act pursuant to no-elected personnel matter exception, with the subject to be discussed during executive personnel issues. Those persons to attend are Chair Butch Schlyer, Commissioner Neal Younger, Commissioner Joe Leroux, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 6:05 pm.

The Open Session resumed at 6:16 pm with no action taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 6:16 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, 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:

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BOBBI L DREILING  
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK