

March 14, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, March 14, 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 Acting County Administrator Mike Leiker, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Clerk Bobbi L. Dreiling.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of March 7th. No changes were given; the draft minutes were 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 March 9 in the amount of \$7,544.40

Open Edge dated March 10 in the amount of \$417.35

Waste Connections dated March 9 in the amount of \$16,761.26

Enterprise Lease dated March 14 in the amount of \$21,961.96

Payroll #5 dated February 20 – March 11 in the amount of \$436,899.16

Purchase Order #7648 to Lewis Ford in the amount of \$59,520

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

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

MONTHLY FINACAL REPORT

Commissioners said the reports looked good.

HIGH PLAINS MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Director of High Plains Mental Health Walt Hill gave an update to the Commissioners. They received two federal grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support expanding services in Northwest Kansas. It will help them expand services that haven’t been available before.

GROW HAYS ANNUAL REPORT

Director of Grow Hays Doug Williams gave an update to the Commissioners. They hired David Clingan on January 1, 2022 as the new Director of Recruitment & Retainment. He has made an immediate impact on our ability to respond to recruitment opportunities and has contacted prospective retail companies that would be positive for our community. They are continuing to work on BASE grant applications, retiree community, Highland Addition, St. Joseph Grade School, an apartment complex on 4th and Fort and Ellis Estates.

COUNTY REAL ESTATE VALUES

County Appraiser Lisa Ree said real estate valuation notices will be mailed to real property owners March 15th, with the majority of property owners seeing an increase in their valuations from 2021 to 2022. The overall increase in values is 15%, with some areas of the County seeing increases more than 20%. Commercial and rural property saw an increase as well. Ree said there is a shortage of homes for sale in Ellis County. In January there were ten homes for sale in Hays; for the whole County there were 16 homes for sale. The RHID project east of the hospital is one way to narrow this gap for the supply vs demand. Ellis County's trend for sale prices in the County has drastically increased. The average sale prices has increased from \$165,000 in 2019 to \$206,000 in 2021. Property owners will have until April 14th to schedule a hearing in protest.

BRUSH TRUCK REPLACEMENT

Assistant Director of Fire and Emergency Management Lyle Pantle requested approval to purchase a new chassis. The brush fire truck "Mini 51" has significant engine issues. Staff has worked with Hays, Salina and Shawnee Mission Ford dealerships to locate a F-550 on the lot which could be immediately available. They also searched within a 500-mile radius of Hays. About a dozen trucks were identified online, but every dealership when called said they were no longer available and will not have any available in the immediate future. Fleet orders for 2022 have closed and 2023 are not available to order for production yet, and it would be more than a year before a truck could be delivered. Prices to order a new F-550 at retail prices were then requested. Two were received back, and the third requested that we wait to order a 2022. The low bid received for a 2022 Ford F-550 model was from Lewis Ford in Hays for \$59,520. This is in the ECFD capital budget plan for 2024, however, there is enough money in the capital fund for the purchase now.

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

I move to approve the purchase of a new F-550 chassis from Lewis Ford in the amount of \$59,520.

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

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES OF NORTHWEST KANSAS GRANT SUPPORT LETTER

Director of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas (DSNWK) Jerry Michaud asked the Commission to sign a letter of support for \$200,000 in tax credits to make needed repairs on aging facilities and improve accessibility for persons in our community who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Commissioners all agreed that the letter of support should be signed.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Acting proxy for County Administrator Mike Leiker asked the Commissioners if they would be attending Little KAC in Colby, Kansas on April 20th. Schlyer said he would not be attending; Younger and Leroux would be attending. He asked if they would be attending the Kansas County Commissioner Association conference in April. Schlyer and Younger indicated they would not be attending; Leroux indicated he would attend. Leiker updated the Commission on the go-live of the Tyler New World Public Safety, and said it was going well. He said Ellis City had asked if they could piggyback on our panic alarm system. He said some of his staff had helped them install it and it went live last week.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Younger attended the Ellis City meeting and the Northwest Kansas Juvenile meeting. They are still talking about getting a new building. He also sat in with Treasurer Vern Ruder. He thanked County Clerk

Dreiling for helping with the school election at Roosevelt Grade School. Leroux had no report. Schlyer had no report.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 6:03 pm. The next regular meeting with be held on Monday, March 21, 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