

May 10, 2021

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, May 10, 2021, 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 Neal Younger and Commissioner Dean F Haselhorst. Also present were County Administrator Darin Myers, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Clerk Bobbi L Dreiling. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

There were no changes to the order of business.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There will be one executive session.

#### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of May 3, 2021. No changes were given; the draft minutes were approved as presented.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** Haselhorst **Second** Younger

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

##### **Payment Voucher Claims**

Purchase Order #7595 to Davis Moore Chrysler Dodge for \$34,486.01

Payroll #9 April 4-18, 2021 dated May 1, 2021 for \$429,668.62

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

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

Health Services Director Jason Kennedy updated the Commission on the new KDHE guidelines on mandatory quarantine on travel to Colorado and other US sites. The guidelines do not have a lot of practicality and would be an impossible task to monitor and enforce. He is asking for guidance on how to handle putting these new guidelines out to the public. He is suggesting that we do not enforce it and not force any sort of mandate on anyone travelling; that if they do travel to these sites and they don't feel well they quarantine themselves. Schlyer said whatever Kennedy feels is appropriate he is in support. Haselhorst and Younger expressed the same sentiments.

#### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS**

All reports looked good.

#### **WESTERN KANSAS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER UPDATE**

Development Director Tony Burnett introduced himself as the new director to Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. He explained what their center is all about. They cooperate with law enforcement and child protective agencies and help fight child abuse. One of their main offices is in Hays. They are in the process of purchasing the building next to their current offices so they can expand their therapy suites, office space and have off-street parking for clients. They serve 34 counties in Kansas. In 2019 they had 613 interviews with only 505 interviews in 2020. He feels this is in large part due to COVID, as the schools have been closed and teachers recognize and report abuse. Schlyer said they provide a very valuable service. Haselhorst and Younger both thanked him for coming and for the update.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY POSITION**

Ellis County Attorney Robert A. Anderson, Jr. gave an update on his office. To date they have filed over 600 criminal cases, with a typical year being right at 500 cases. He reported that his Assistant County Attorney Charlene Brubaker-Holzmeister is retiring in March of 2022. He indicated he would like to bring on a replacement attorney prior to the retirement so to make a smooth transition. He would like to transfer \$70,000 from money set aside for the County Attorney's office held in the budget stabilization line into the Ellis County Attorney's 2021 budget; that would get him through the remainder of this year to hire on the 5<sup>th</sup> attorney who would ultimately become the 4<sup>th</sup> attorney after the retirement in 2022. Schlyer asked if it will be difficult to get an attorney hired. Anderson indicated he's never gone through the process but from his own experience upon graduation everyone is looking for a job. Schlyer indicated he would support the hiring of the 5<sup>th</sup> attorney. Haselhorst and Younger are both supportive of hiring a 5<sup>th</sup> attorney at this time.

**Motion:** Younger **Second:** Haselhorst

I move that \$70,000 be transferred from the Budget Stabilization line item 001-97-1705 to the Ellis County Attorney's office 2021 budget.

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

#### **SHERIFF OFFICE SQUAD ROOM REMODEL**

Ellis County Sheriff Scott Braun requested approval for the Sheriff office squad room remodel. This would include installation of cabinets, workstations, removal of carpet squares and the installation of tiles. The current desks are 13+ years old and are breaking. The squad room is also lacking storage space so the installation of cabinets would eliminate that problem. Installing workstations would create a more functional work space. Money will be transferred from the 2020 Sherriff's budget to Fund 006 for this remodel.

**Motion:** Haselhorst Second: Younger

Approval of bids from First Class Kitchen & Bath in the sum of \$17,005.60, Floors-n-More in the sum of \$2,600 for a total of \$19,605.60.

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

#### **SHERIFF OFF HOURS**

Ellis County Sheriff Scott Braun is requesting that he be allowed to change the Sheriff's office hours to 4:30 pm to allow the staff to complete necessary paperwork/duties before 5:00 pm. This would save on overtime expense.

**Motion:** Younger Second: Haselhorst

Approval of the change of the Sheriff's office hours from 5:00 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

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

#### **PATROL VEHICLE**

Ellis County Sheriff Scott Braun asked for approval to purchase a 2021 Police Service Dodge Durango. This vehicle is being purchased on the State bid pricing availability. The vehicle was budgeted for and funding is available in Fund 16. Lewis Chrysler and Hays Chevrolet were both contacted to submit bids but they declined. While Braun likes to try to keep his purchases local, this would not be the case for this purchase. Schlyer questioned if there was going to be a trade-in vehicle to which Braun said they would be keeping that vehicle as he anticipates transporting of prisoners will increase and they will use this vehicle here just in town.

**Motion:** Haselhorst Second: Younger

Commission accept the bid from Davis Moore Chrysler Dodge on a 2021 Dodge Durango AWD Police Service vehicle for \$34,486.01.

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

#### **REORGANIZATION OF APPRAISER POSITIONS**

Ellis County Appraiser Lisa discussed with the Commission of the anticipation of three expected employee retirements in the near future she has been working on a succession plan for the last three years. In preparing for a retirement in 2022, the office has hired an Appraiser 1-Office. This indivial will be trained in the oil and gas valuation process. The duties performed by the Administrative Assistant has been assigned to the two current Appraiser 1-Office staff. With the assignment of more responsibility, these two staff will be promoted to Administrative Assistant. This will have no additional cost to the Appraiser's budget for 2021; however, there will be a savings in personnel costs due to this restructuring. These changes have been included in the Appraiser's 2022 budget proposal.

**Motion:** Schlyer Second: Younger

I approve the County Appraiser's office to reorganize the current staffing structure to include two Administrative Assistant positions effective May 16, 2021.

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

#### **SCHEDULE BUDGET HEARINGS.**

County Administrator Darin Myers indicated that the next step in the 2022 budget development process is the scheduling of special meetings to allow department directors and elected officials to meet to discuss their 2022 budget proposals. The staff is requesting the meetings to be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> from approximately 8:00 am to 12:00 each day and to be held in the Commission chambers. All commissioners were in favor of getting these meetings schedule.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator Darin Myers said the City of Ellis is requesting a grant through KDHE for a forklift for their recycling center and they need the approval of the Commission for the grant.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORT**

Haselhorst said he would be attending a KAC meeting on May 21 in Topeka. Younger said he is doing

another working session on June 17<sup>th</sup> on the side-by-sides and is asking for support. Schlyer had nothing to report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Haselhorst**                      **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

To recess into Executive Session for 15 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 is litigation, those persons to attend in addition to the Board of County Commissioners are County Counselor Bill Jeter, County Attorney Robert Anderson, Ellis County Appraiser Lisa Ree and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 5:44 pm  
The Open Session resumed at 6:01 pm with no action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm. The next regular meeting with be held on Monday, May 17, 2021, 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

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

ATTEST:

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BOBBI L DREILING  
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK