

June 7, 2021

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, June 7, 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

No changes to the order of business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There will be two executive sessions.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of May 17, June 2 and June 3, 2021. No changes were given; the draft minutes were approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Payment Voucher Claims

Account payable dated May 20, 2021 for \$60.00

Purchase Order dated May 24, 2021 for 45,729.35

Account Payable dated June 8, 2021 for 318,357.70

Payroll #10 May 2-15, 2021 dated May 21, 2021 for \$435,120.62

Payroll #11 May 16-29, 2021 dated June 4, 2021 for \$436,940.83

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

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no issues from persons not on the order of business.

HIGH PLAINS ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Director Walt Hill of High Plains Mental Health Center presented the annual update. High Plains Mental Health Center serves 20 northwest Kansas counties. While COVID-19 proved to be a challenge, Hill announced that the entire staff is back working in the office. They also provide services to help law enforcement and EMS. They offer a one-day training for EMS, teachers, etc. on how to deal with someone who is having a mental health crisis; and it has proven to be very successful. The challenge they are facing is the issue with patient psychiatric care, since Larned has a reduced number of beds. He has been working with Kansas Senator Rick Billinger to get these beds returned to Larned. Schlyer asked why Larned had reduced beds available. Hill said it has to do with the COVID situation and lack of staff.

ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Enterprise Fleet Management employee Brandon Scott talked to the Commission regarding the benefits of going with the Fleet Management Program. With this program, vehicles would be leased not purchased but still using governmental pricing and lease options. This would significantly decrease the amount of capital outlay needed to purchase new vehicles. This option also puts our employees in new vehicles which are safer, more fuel efficient and all within warranty. This would decrease the amount of maintenance, as well as free up mechanics at public works to work on heavy equipment. Haselhorst commented it sounded like the maintenance side of it has improved since he last was involved with Fleet Management ten years ago. Schlyer thought this would benefit the County.

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

Approve and move forward with the Enterprise Fleet Management program and allow the county administrator to sign the attached lease documents.

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

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

County Administrator Darin Myers discussed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and stated there has been guidance coming from the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Kansas Office of Recovery regarding the ARPA funds Ellis County will be eligible to receive. There are several actions that need to be taken before any of the funds can be sent to Ellis County. One of the first steps is to appoint a single

point of contact and authorized representative. The Commission all agreed to appoint County Administrator Darin Myers. Myers also went on to say that he would like to send out a RFP to hire a CPA to help with these funds. He indicated that several county administrators that he has talked to are doing the same thing, since this process will take three to four years to complete. The Commission advised Myers to move forward with sending out an RFP to see what it would cost to hire a CPA to help oversee these funds.

DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS

Director of Fire & Emergency Management Darin Myers said in the past the Commissioners have relaxed a portion of the 2018 Resolution to allow residents to discharge fireworks. He is suggesting setting the 2021 times and dates the same as the City of Hays to avoid confusion. If the current Commission would like to proceed as in years past, fireworks will be allowed to be discharged in the unincorporated areas of Ellis County on July 2-4 from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm each day.

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

Move, per Resolution 2018-5, to relax the discharge portion of this Resolution in the unincorporated areas of Ellis County on July 2, 3 and 4th from the hours between 10:00 am and 11:00 pm.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator Darin Myers asked the Commission chair to sign another utility lease agreement for the Northwest Business Corridor project.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORT

Younger talked about the rain that Munjor received that caused some flooding issues. He said he had several residents contact him to have public works look at the culvert situation. He said he had one individual pledge \$5000 to help with the situation. Public Works Director Brendan Mackay approached the Commission on the concern of these culverts. He stated that it would take a lot of money to replace them, and we don't have the funding to replace all these culverts. He said he would go to Munjor and check out the situation. Haselhorst asked when the Codell Road would be finished. Mackay said they are working on it but have been working on other damage from the last storm; he hopes to get it done in the near future. Haselhorst had no report. Schlyer had a meeting with the Hays Mayor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: _____ **Haselhorst** **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 is land usage. Those persons to attend in addition to the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Bill Jeter, Mason Ruder and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 6:10 pm

The Open Session resumed at 6:20 pm with no action taken.

Motion: _____ **Haselhorst** **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 is litigation. Those persons to attend in addition to the Board of County Commissioners are County Counselor Bill Jeter, Brendan Mackay and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 6:28 pm.

The Open Session resumed at 6:38 pm with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 6:38 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 14, 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:

BOBBI L DREILING
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK