

June 14, 2021

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 14, 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, and County Clerk Bobbi L. Dreiling. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Chair Schlyer announced that there will be a Resolution at the end of the outside agencies budget requests.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any updates to the Draft Minutes of June 7, 2021. With no updates given to the draft minutes, the June 7, 2021 minutes stand approved as submitted.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion: Haselhorst Second: Younger

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

Health insurance claims dated June 9, 2021 in the amount of \$21,072.88

Health insurance claims dated June 9, 2021 in the amount of \$3,970.84

Accounts payable claims dated June 11, 2021 in the amount of \$1479.00

Solid Waste claim dated June 9, 2021 in the amount of \$21,989.01

Solid Waste credit card claim dated June 10, 2021 in the amount of \$597.57

Purchase Order #7546 to Sweeney’s Pavement for \$21,750

Disposition: The motion passes by a voice vote of three to zero.

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

No issues from persons not on the Order of Business.

### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Commissioners had no questions on the May Financial Report.

### **ITC GREAT PLAINS UTILITY WORK**

Eric Ivey of ITC Great Plains discussed with the Commission the upcoming work ITC Great Plains will be completing with utility lines in Ellis County. They will be low flying a helicopter to inspect power lines. All this work will begin in July. He stated to the Commission that ITC Great Plains did donate to the ARC park being constructed, and gave \$10,000 to High Plains Mental Health Center.

Before the requests from outside agencies started, Commissioner Younger said that if all the requests were funded, he would like to see these agencies back at a Commission meeting at a later date to give an update on how their agencies are doing.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS**

#### **High Plains Mental Health - \$280,000 - 2022 Budget request**

High Plains Mental Health Executive Director Walt Hill introduced his staff members Kaylee O’Conner and Whitney Moeder. Board Member present was Bill Ring. Hill stated that they received \$280,000 for the 2021 budget and are asking for \$280,000 for 2022.

#### **Western Kansas Child Advocacy - \$5,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center Developmental Director Tony Burnett is asking for \$5,000 for their budget request. Their request last year was \$4,500. The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center is a safe, child-friendly setting for children to talk with caring adults. Schlyer made the comment that there is no charge for the family for these services.

#### **CASA of the High Plains - \$4,750 – 2022 Budget request**

CASA of the High Plains Executive Director Tabatha Keith discussed the CASA Program where the Court appoints a CASA volunteer to a child in the court system. They are requesting \$4,750 for 2022.

#### **Hays Area Children’s Center - \$120,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Hays Area Children’s Center Coordinator Jennifer Oborny discussed the Hays Area Children’s Center 2021 Budget request of \$120,000. This funding would help support the Infant-Toddler Special Services

with disabilities from birth to three years of age.

**DSNWK – Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas - \$240,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas President/CEO Jerry Michaud asked for \$240,000 for the 2022 budget. Comptroller Kerry Edwards was present. They have been serving people with disabilities for 54 years. He said they are very short staffed with 42 open positions. Schlyer asked if their consumers were affected with their employment last year; Michaud said they were. They have not had to close any of the residential centers as of yet.

**DSNWK (ACCESS Transportation) - \$50,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Michaud introduced Wade Kruse with ACCESS Transportation. Public transportation is provided for the City of Hays and Ellis County. The County and City of Hays help with funding the local match from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and Federal Transportation Authority (FTA). They are asking for \$50,000 for their 2022 budget.

**Grow Hays - \$200,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Grow Hays Executive Director Doug Williams thanked Commissioners for their support in 2021. He introduced some of their directors: Joseph Beckner, Joe LaRue, Kris Munsch, Jason Ball and Errol Wuertz. They are asking \$200,000 for 2022. Williams discussed the benefits of funding Grow Hays with a possible half-mill levy instead of the \$200,000 budget request. Schlyer asked what the residents of Ellis County gain if they would allow a half-mill levy. Williams said they would see the same things they see now, but more. They plan on adding a couple of positions to help with recruitment and retainment. Younger stated he liked his ideas and is concerned about the shortage of houses and workforce.

**Ellis County Conservation District - \$61,896 in General Funds and \$10,750 for the Ellis County Cost Share Program at a total of \$72,646 – 2022 Budget request**

Ellis County Conservation District Treasurer of the board of supervisors Tom Walters and District Manager Sandi Scott discussed their program and requested \$61,896 in General Fund and \$10,750 for the Cost Share Program. Also present was Megan Lambert serving as the RNCS supervisor. Members present Alan Roth, Travis Groff, Brett Schmidt, Mary Pfeifer, Landon Leiker, and Dominic Pinalto.

**Ellis County Historical Society - \$72,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Ellis County Historical Society Liaison Brad Ricke discussed what has been going on with the Ellis County Historical Society in the recent months. Amanda Rupp is the interim director. She is asking for the same budget amount as last year of \$72,000. She discussed with the Commission how they are now up to 16 board members. She said they are at a crossroads as the funds they did have are now depleted and they have to rely on funding from the City and the County. The volunteers she is working with now have a passion to keep the existing artifacts preserved, but also preserving more artifacts from the recent past. Schlyer questioned Rupp on if there would be more funding made available, what exactly would they do with it. Rupp replied that she doesn't want to answer that until she can come back before the board with a solid answer. Haselhorst asked if they are doing any fundraising to which Rupp replied they are working on that. She said they are looking into a new building but they only in the planning stages. She discussed how memberships has fallen in the last couple of years, and they are making plans on trying to get those numbers back up.

**Ellis Alliance Association - \$1,750 – 2022 Budget request**

Ellis Alliance/Development Corporation spokesperson Sophia Hendrickson asked for 2022 budget request at \$1,750. She said the City of Ellis has very active volunteers.

**Council on Aging**

Ellis County Council on Aging Chair Oren Windholz presented the council's recommendation for the 2022 budget at a total of \$85,495.

**Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging - \$15,000**

**Foster Grandparents – No budget requested due to COVID**

**Senior Companions – No budget requested due to COVID**

**Hays Senior Center - \$51,300**

**Victoria Meal Site - \$2960 (\$960 for stipends for volunteers)**

**Ellis Nutrition Center - \$16,335**

**Humane Society - \$2,600 – 2022 Budget request**

Humane Society representative Jessica Frieb requested \$2,600 for their 2022 budget.

**Center of Life Experience - \$3,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Center of Life Experience Executive Director Ann Leiker requested \$3,000 for the 2022 Budget. Leiker explained that they provide professional facilitation of support in healing at loss of adult, child and suicide.

**Heartland Community Foundation - \$5,000– 2022 Budget request**

Sarah Meitner requested \$5,000 for the 2022 Budget. They would again need the 2022 Budget funding in February for this match.

**Options Domestic & Sexual Violent Services - \$5,000 – 2022 Budget request**

Options Domestic & Sexual Violent Services Executive Director Jennifer Hecker is asking for \$5,000 for their 2022 budget.

**COUNTY PARKING LOTS**

County Administrator Darin Myers presented the RFP on the parking lot repairs. The financial impact for the 2021 capital plan is \$21,750 which is below the \$55,000 allocated for this project. Staff is recommending the low bid and two alternates. The work should be completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>, and the low bidder understands that they work may have to be done on off hours to coordinate work schedules at the different facilities.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Younger \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Haselhorst  
Move to accept the low bid from Sweeney’s Pavement Maintenance LLC in the amount of \$21,750.  
Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote of three to zero.

Schlyer ask for a motion to approve Resolution 21-10.

Resolution No. 2021-10

**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, K.S.A. 68-114 and 26-501 et seq. provides the authority to exercise eminent domain procedure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS, that:

That Darin T. Myers, Ellis County Administrator, is hereby authorized by the Board of County Commissioners of Ellis County, Kansas, to pay into the District Court of Ellis County, Kansas, in the Matter of the Acquisition of Property by Eminent Domain, Case No. 2021-CV-000039, the sum of \$188,335.00 for total just compensation for the benefit of Diamond P Trust Company, a Business Trust for the purpose of acquisition of land necessary to construct a new highway and to improve lay out, relocate or alter and/or widen portions of 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Feedlot Road in Ellis County, Kansas, and an additional sum of \$1,975.00 for the benefit of each of the Appraisers, Doug Stites, Robert Munsch and Terry Claycamp, for their fees and expenses.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021, by the Board of Ellis County Commissioners, Ellis County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELLIS COUNTY KANSAS

Robert (Butch) Schlyer, Chairman  
Neal Younger, Member  
Dean F. Haselhorst, Member

ATTEST:

Bobbi L. Dreiling, County Clerk

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Younger \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Haselhorst  
Move to accept Resolution 21-10.  
Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion carried by a voice vote of three to zero.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS**

Interim County Administrator Darin Myer said there was one mistake on the outside agencies funding requests with Ellis County Conservation District. The line item funding for \$61,896 was presented but did not include the match program of \$10,750.00. He will notate that and bump that request up to the \$72,646. The next time to review the outside agencies' requests will be at the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Younger said he attended the Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services and Northwest Community Corrections supper and open house to tour their buildings. He was concerned about the employees' safety at Community Corrections. He will be attending another work session with the City of Hays on the side-by-sides on Thursday. Haselhorst had no report. Schlyer had no report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was called for.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 7:04 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 21, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
NEAL YOUNGER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
BOBBI L DREILING, COUNTY CLERK

DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSSIONER