

June 21, 2021

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, June 21, 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 Deputy County Clerk Ruth Mermis. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

No changes to the order of business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There will be no executive sessions.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of June 14, 2021. No changes were given; the draft minutes were approved as submitted.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

**Payment Voucher Claims**

Accounts payables dated June 22, 2021 for \$1,712,928.55

Health Insurance payment dated June 18, 2021, for \$197,366.44

Payroll #12 May 30-June 12 dated June 18, 2021, for \$456,022.10

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

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

Public Works Director Brendan Mackay presented a speed limit request for the south end of the City of Catherine coming in on 310<sup>th</sup> that is currently posted at 30 mph. Due to an issue of excessive speed the request is to lower the speed limit to 20 mph. KSA 8-1557 states an urban district is set to 30 mph and can be lowered down to 25 with the recommendation not to lower down to 20, unless it is on a time constraint such as a school area. Discussion followed. Commissioner Haselhorst mentioned he did not think an engineering assessment is necessary and to possibly consider a resolution. Mackay said a resolution using engineering judgment would be allowed. Commissioner Younger suggested to also have a sign stating Children at Play, and if that does not work to possibly install a few speed bumps. Commissioners instructed Mackay to prepare a resolution for 25 mph and a Children at Play sign.

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

No questions or concerns were stated.

**UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

County Administrator Darin Myers presented new and updated job descriptions for the appraiser's office, environmental services department, administrator's office, IT and the health department. Only one new fulltime employee position will be created with the other job descriptions being either updated or being replaced with new job descriptions. Between all the departments, it is expected to reduce the overall payroll expenditures in these departments by approximately \$3,000 in 2022.

**Motions:** Haselhorst **Second:** Younger

To approve the attached 14 job descriptions for the appraiser's office, environmental services department, administrator's office, IT, and the health department for Ellis County.

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

**PROMOTIONS**

County Administrator Darin Myers presented recognition and congratulations to the following Ellis County employees on their promotions:

Mickie Dreiling from Noxious Weeds Administrative Assistant to Administrative Coordinator

Kim Reel from Health Department Nurse to Clinical Operations Coordinator

Kevin Haynes from EMS Paramedic Lieutenant to Paramedic Captain

Elea Durr from EMS Paramedic to Paramedic Lieutenant

Deputy County Appraiser Eugene Rupp with updated job duties and responsibilities

**COUNTY APPRAISER RESOLUTION 2021-11**

The four-year term for the position of County Appraiser is ending June 30, 2021, and appointment needs to be made.

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

To approve Resolution 2021-11 reappointing Lisa Ree as the Ellis County Appraiser

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

## RESOLUTION 2021-11

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 19-430, as amended, provides for the appointment of a County Appraiser by the Board of County Commissioners of Ellis County, Kansas, on the first day of July of 1993 and each fourth year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of said law, said appraiser shall serve a term of four (4) years and until his/her successor is appointed; and

WHEREAS, said Appraiser shall devote full time to the office except that said Appraiser shall be allowed to conduct any court-appointed appraisals during his/her normal working week; and

WHEREAS, said Appraiser shall be qualified by the director of property valuation as a certified Kansas Appraiser; and

WHEREAS, said Appraiser may only be removed subject to K.S.A. 19-431, as amended; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of said law, the Board of County Commissioners of Ellis County wish to appoint an appraiser qualified in the field of property assessment and to give to said appointed appraiser all of the powers and duties vested in and imposed upon county appraisers by law and to give to said appraiser the authorization to appoint deputy appraisers and fix their salaries with the consent and approval of the Board of County Commissioners, and to give to said appointed appraiser with the consent and approval of the Board of County Commissioners the authority to appoint such specialized help as the appraiser may need to properly assess specific properties and to pay them such compensation as the Board of County Commissioners shall provide, and the said Board of County Commissioners to furnish the appraiser necessary office space and such clerical help as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the office,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS, that Lisa Ree be and is appointed appraiser for Ellis County, Kansas for a term of four (4) years beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2025, and she shall take office upon the subscription of an oath as required by county officials.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS, pursuant to law as provided in K.S.A. 19-430, as amended, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Robert "Butch" Schlyer, Chair  
Dean F. Haselhorst, Commissioner  
Neal Younger, Commissioner

ATTEST:  
Bobbi Dreiling, County Clerk

#### **TIRE DISPOSAL RATES**

Landfill Foreman Vern Ruder reported rates are rising for the pickup of used tires, and requests to raise the rates for disposal of tires at the landfill. He will continue to pursue orphan tire grants from KDHE, which will help with tires disposed of improperly in the county ditches.

**Motions:** Haselhorst **Second:** Younger

To approve changing the rate for disposal of tires at the Ellis County Solid Waste/Transfer Station from \$200/ton to \$220/ton effective July 1, 2021.

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

#### **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM (IMT) APPLICATION RENEWAL**

Emergency Manager Lyle Pantle requested that Bill Ring Sr be appointed as a member of the Kansas All-Hazards Regional Incident Management Team (IMT).

Discussion followed.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to have Ellis County be the sponsoring agency for William (Bill) Ring Sr to serve as a member of the Kansas All-Hazards Regional Incident Management team (IMT).

#### **COUNTY DISASTER DECLARATION**

Emergency Manager Lyle Pantle requested the commission rescind the current Disaster/Emergency Declaration related to Covid-19 because the Statewide Disaster/Emergency expired 6/15/21. The state has also lifted all stay-at-home orders, as well as mask mandates. Ellis County has not received any requests for help with PPE for at least two months. After discussion with Heath Director Jason Kennedy and Administrator Darin Myers, it is the recommendation that Ellis County rescind the current disaster declaration.

**Motions:** Younger **Second:** Haselhorst

Move Ellis County rescind the current Disaster/Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19.

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

#### **RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE RESOLUTION 2021-12**

Administrator Darin Myers stated May 20, 2021, that Ellis County was designated as one of 18 additional counties listed into the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) pursuant to KSA 2021 Supp 74-50,222 for the purpose to help increase economic development and expand job growth in our area. The benefits can help lower the cost of living, bring financial incentives to residents like the student loan repayment program and a State Income Tax Waiver for five years. The main financial benefits to new residents are a 5-year personal income tax credit on their state income taxes and \$15,000 in student loan forgiveness.

Approving a \$0 dollar resolution does not financially commit Ellis County to the financial incentives for the student loan repayment program. It does, however, allow other cities, employers, and foundations to financially commit to the program. Ellis County can, by policy, sponsor new county employees who move to Ellis County in the student loan repayment program if they chose to.

Executive Director of Grow Hays Doug Williams said he was in favor of the program, but not necessarily for the county to participate at this time. He said the tax waiver would be a significant benefit for places such as Hays Medical Center, and that it could be a good recruiting tool for them.

Discussion followed.

**Motions:** Haselhorst **Second:** Younger

Move to adopt Resolution 2021-12 to recognize Ellis County as a Rural Opportunity Zone as designated by the State of Kansas.

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

Resolution No. 2021-12

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2021**

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

**Section 1.** Pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

**Section 2.** Ellis County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,222. As of May 20, 2021, the County population was 28,553 as certified by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

**Section 3.** Ellis County Commissioners hereby obligate Ellis County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

**Section 4.** Ellis County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years if the resident individual meets the terms of

qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

**Section 5.** Ellis County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

**Section 6.** The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by participating cities, employers, foundations, and the State of Kansas shall be \$15,000 over a term of five years.

**Section 7.** Ellis County shall allocate \$0 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. Ellis County shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis submitting a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Ellis County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of September each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication.

Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2021 by the Board of Ellis County Commissioners, Ellis County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
OF ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS  
Robert "Butch" Schlyer, Board Chair  
Dean F. Haselhorst, Commissioner  
Neal Younger, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Bobbi L Dreiling, Ellis County Clerk

#### **KSU FORESTRY GRANT**

County Administrator Darin Myers requested the Commission approve to accept the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant with the Kansas Forestry Service through Kansas State University. The funds would go to help purchase a front bumper mounted turret monitor on the brush truck in Ellis.

The grant is a 50/50 cost share grant, with the monitor costing approximately \$7,800. The reimbursement from KSU would be \$4,000.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to proceed with acceptance of the grant.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator Darin Myers reported 38 Ellis County vehicles were damaged in the last hailstorm. Many estimates are coming in over the KCAMP estimates. With moving to Enterprise Fleet Management, the previous balance of the expense and revenue for next year report will be changing from how it was presented to the commission, due to the hail on many involved vehicles and many of them getting totaled out.

Commissioner Haselhorst said he will be attending a KAC Board Meeting Wednesday at 10 am.

Commissioner Younger attended the Drug Court graduation; and that he has had numerous calls about allowing fireworks this holiday. Discussion regarding fireworks was held. Commissioner Younger thanked Brendan Mackay and his staff on the job well done south of Highway 40 on Yocemento Road. A vote will be held on Thursday on the side-by-side.

Commissioner Schlyer will be attending a High Plains Mental Health meeting on Thursday.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 5:51 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 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:

---

RUTH MERMIS  
ELLIS COUNTY DEPUTY CLERK