

July 11, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Tuesday, July 11, 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 County Administrator Darin Myers, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Clerk Bobbi L. Dreiling.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were 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 June 22 and July 5. 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 June 1 in the amount of \$3,356.48

Tax Adjustments

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2022000088-90

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

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioners said the reports looked good.

JAILER JOB DESCRIPTION CHANGE

Sheriff Scott Braun is requesting the Commissioners approve the change of the title of Jailer to Jailer I and the change from Senior Jailer to Jailer II and add an additional requirement to hold Jailer II position. Change the title from (Jailer) to (Jailer I) to create consistency within the titles in the Detention Center. In addition to that change, I am requesting the retitling of (Senior Jailer) to (Jailer II) as well as to add a minimum requirement of the attendance of Supervisory Training to be eligible for the position since one of their tasks is supervising subordinate personnel. All commissioners liked the idea of the consistency of these descriptions. Schlyer asked how many years someone would have to work to be moved from a Jailer 1 to Jailer II. Braun said it would be four years of employment. Younger asked about the supervisor training. Braun said it was training specifically geared for the jail.

Motion: Younger Second: Leroux

I move to approve to change the job description title from Jailer to Jailer I as attached.

I move to approve to change the job description title from Senior Jailer to Jailer II and the job description as attached.

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

OUTSIDE AGENCY FUNDING

County Administrator Darin Myers is asking the Commissioner to determine 2023 funding levels of outside agencies. Schlyer indicated there was a 25% increase from last year. The agencies were asked to keep the amounts the same as the prior year. Some did follow that guideline, some did not. The Commissioners went through each agency and determined the amounts of funding as follows:

Western Kansas Child Advocacy: They requested \$10,000 this year. Last year it was \$5,000. Younger approved the amount. Leroux indicated that that if we give double what was given last year, they will be in a position as they go down the list to give everyone what they are asking for. Schlyer agreed with Leroux. The amount agreed upon is **\$7,500.**

CASA of the High Plains: They requested \$4,750. The amount agreed upon is **\$4,750.**

Hays Area Children's Center: They requested \$120,000. Commissioners were all in agreement to do no funding for this agency. This is a new request. Younger said it was a lot of money. Leroux said they got grant funding previous years. Schlyer said he had a problem with the request since they lost the grants of Tiny K and child health program. Leroux said they were one of the agencies that did not come back throughout the year to give updates. The amount agreed upon is **\$0.00.**

DSNWK: They requested \$250,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$250,000.**

DSNWK – TINY K PROGRAM: They requested \$120,000. The amount agreed on is **\$120,000.**

Big Brother Big Sisters: They requested \$5,000. Schlyer had a big problem with this request. He went to a fund raiser for the ducks and the first-place prize is \$10,000. He said it makes no sense they are asking for \$5000 but they are giving away \$10,000. Younger is asking they give \$1,000. Leroux said he was not aware of the \$10,000 prize. He does not disagree in funding them at a certain level. He said they can go another year without it and maybe reach out to them so they can explain more on their funding request, and also that questions can be asked on the \$10,000 prize. The amount agreed upon is **\$0.00.**

High Plains Mental Health: They requested \$280,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$280,000.**

Grow Hays: They requested \$180,000. This is up \$30,000 from last year. Schlyer said they are doing an excellent job but they were funded in 2020 and 2021 \$27,500, and in 2022 that jumped to \$150,000. This is a 500% increase. If \$180,000 is agreed on he said it would be a 600% increase. Schlyer wants to keep it at \$150,000. Younger said he would be willing to split it down the middle at \$160,00. Leroux said if it is split down the middle it would be closer to \$165,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$165,000.**

Ellis County Conservation District: They requested \$72,646. Schlyer is ok with this amount. Leroux said he is ok with the amount but they really need to come in and give the commission updates. The amount agreed upon is **\$72,646.**

Ellis County Historical Society: They requested \$150,000. Schlyer said they are asking for a 100% increase. He said they have done a lot in the last year. He said he would like to increase the funding, but

not sure at what level. Leroux said he is willing to fund them at a higher level like in 2018 and 2019. Younger agreed. The amount agreed upon is **\$100,000**.

Ellis Alliance Association: They requested \$1,750. The amount agreed upon is **\$1,750**.

Foster Grandparents: They requested \$8,552. They had no funding last year because of Covid. The amount agreed upon is **\$8,552**.

Senior Companion: They requested \$22,050. They had no funding last year because of Covid. Younger said he would like to see \$23,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$23,000**.

Hays Senior Center: They requested \$37,115. The amount agreed upon is **\$37,115**.

Northwest Kansas Area on Aging: They requested \$30,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$30,000**.

Victoria Meal Site: They requested \$2,960. The amount agreed upon is **\$2,960**.

Ellis Nutrition Center: They requested \$20,295. Schlyer said they did have some issues since Covid. He would like to increase their funding from what they had in 2022 which was \$16,335. He would like to see it at \$20,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$20,000**.

Center for Life Experience: They requested \$5,000. Younger recused himself since he is a board member. Leroux said he would like to go what they went with last year or if they are looking at an increase like they have done with some other agencies, he is good with \$4,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$4,000**.

Options Domestic Violence: They requested \$10,000. Schlyer said this is up 50% from last year. He said this is a very big increase. Leroux said they do wonderful work like many other agencies but it was very clear that the agencies needed to stay as close as possible to last year. The amount agreed on is **\$7,500**.

Heartland Community Foundation: They requested \$5,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$5,000**.

DSNWK (ACCESS Transportation): They requested \$50,000. The amount agreed upon is **\$50,000**.

Humane Society: They requested \$2,600. The amount agreed on is **\$2,600**.

UPDATED 2023 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW

County Administrator Darin is asking the Commission to review the updated draft of the 2023 Ellis County budget. Following up with the 2023 budget process is reviewing the budgets presented by the department heads and elected officials. These updates are after the discussions with the commission for budget direction upon the first review of the operating budget on June 6th. in preparation of the July 25th budget hearings with staff.

Some direction staff is still needing on the budget are:

- Revenue Neutral Rate: Myers was given direction to send the Clerk the request for an RNR hearing. Leroux said it would be good to keep the mill levy where it is.
- Potential additional commissioner funding cost increases. He was given direction to add \$100,000 to the budget in the event we have the petition pass.

- Retirement contribution rates. Myers said the employee participation is at 98 employees which is up from 23 employees. Commissioners had indicated that if there was good participation, they would increase the funding to a \$45 match. Younger said he is in favor of increasing the match. Leroux said it assists in recruiting and retention so he is in favor of the match as well. Schlyer said he is in favor of it as well.
- Budget Stabilization. Myers said this is in Department 97. This is for added funding for what may be approved for potential raises. Schlyer said we can not get behind the curve again on raises. Younger and Leroux agreed.
- Capital funding requests. Myers explained why the department heads/elected officials will be requesting capital funding requests. Schlyer said you need to plan for capital and having that in the budget.

Some of the capital projects identified in the capital planning document are also identified in the projects staff has presented to the commission for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These are:

- Law Enforcement Center HVAC repairs
- Aerial photography
- Public Safety North tower radio replacement
- Public Safety radio encryption
- Laptop replacements
- Public Safety back-up data recovery system.

As the commission is aware, the valuations for the county were anticipated to increase for 2023. For the 2022 budget computations, the estimated assessed valuation for Ellis County was \$404,277,572. For 2023, the counties estimated assessed valuation is now \$458,836,373 or a difference of \$54,558,801. For the Fire District, the 2022 estimated assessed valuation was \$139,095,549. For 2023, the fire districts estimated assessed valuation is \$162,789,897 or a difference of \$23,694,348. With the increases in fuel, inflation, and the increased amount to the road and bridge capital funds, it is expected to exceed the revenue neutral rates (RNR) for both the county's general fund and the fire department funds. Since this is expected, it is requested the commission give the county administrator the direction to notify the county clerk of the intent to exceed the RNR rate. This was new for the 2022 budget process and will continue for the 2023 budget. This will require the commission to hold a second public hearing on the RNR rate, state individual votes for or against, and to pass a resolution for the RNR increase. With the overall operating general fund budget is still expected to not increase the mill levy for 2023. The current rate is 37.395 mills for 2022 and 37.18 in 2021. However, with the goal of keeping the mill levy at approximately 37 mills, it will exceed the 2023 RNR rate which is 32.976. Other items of interest are how the sales tax collections are coming in, as well as the funding level for the employee health care fund. Sales tax collections continue to benefit the county budget. For 2023, a better estimate of how much sales tax is collected can be figured and input into the budget.

The total amount budgeted to be transferred into the budget next year is \$2,100,000 for the health care sales tax and \$875,000 for the general sales tax. These are both still conservative figures using the longer time average, which is the lowest estimated figure. The employee health care fund has also saved Ellis County by providing nearly \$1 million in reserve funding (\$997,558) over the last two years. In 2022 the commission agreed to use this fund to absorb health care increases to pass along savings to the employees. If the county was still on the State Employee Health Care plan, this amount would have

been completely lost in premiums paid to the state. Staff has been in contact with the county's insurance consultant and the county is projected to see an increase of 5-10% in 2023. However, these figures will not be known until the renewal period come late September or into October. This increase has already been figured into the 2023 budget presented tonight.

The Solid Waste Fund has a budget request for \$1,397,322 which is an increase in expenditures of \$223,682 from 2022. Most of this increase deals with the increased price of fuel to transport the solid waste from the transfer station to Garden City. The 2022 estimated monthly expense for that transportation is about \$20,000 per month. Due to the price of fuel, these monthly rates have increased to \$36,000 last month. Due to this, staff is currently working on potential rate increases for all solid waste customers. Staff has also been in contact with customers on these potential changes, so they are able to plan ahead. These figures will be brought back to the commission for review and approval before the budget process is completed.

The Ellis County Fire Department budget request is \$684,760, an increase of \$57,721 from 2022. Revenues for the fire district will also change as a higher portion of the revenues for the fire district come from oil & gas valuations in the county. The main portion of this increase is for increased costs in fuel, apparatus repairs, and an increase in the amount the paid-per-call firefighters receive.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator Myers said several staff members are going to Wichita this week for the Kansas Infrastructure Seminar. He let the Commission know that during the month of June they had over 50 supervisors do supervisory training. Myers said the Northwest Planning Commission asked to be in the agenda next week. They are asking the County to rejoin. Schlyer said from his perspective he has no interest in the organization at all. Leroux and Younger agreed. Myers asked about the Victoria Community Coalition funding. Schlyer said at this time he is unwilling to do any funding at this time since they did not know what they would even do with the funding. He said it is too premature. Leroux said he would like to be supportive of the project but since they are not yet a not-for-profit agency yet, they can not do any funding. He doesn't want to close the door for funding down the road. Younger agreed. It was agreed to leave them out of the 2023 budget process.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Leroux said he went on a tour with the Treasurer and Sheriff on the properties that are on the foreclosure sale. Younger asked for an update on the HVAC system. Myers said the load calculations for the building have been determined for the generator. They have repaired all the air handling units. The new chiller is on order and there is a six month wait. They are replacing the handles on the valves. They also met with Adams Brown in regard to their needs as well. He said it will be late fall before they switch over. Younger would like a before and after picture of the chiller to show the community. He also attended the Ellis City meeting last week. He is asking the Commissioners to agree to allowing the public works department to help Ellis assist them on taking the berm down so the water runs off. He also helped in serving the bike tour that went through. Schlyer had no report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: _____ **Leroux** **Second:** _____ **Schlyer**

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. The subject to be discussed is the tax

foreclosure sale. Those persons to attend are Chair Butch Schlyer, Commissioner Neal Younger, Commissioner Joe Leroux, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 6:03 pm.

The Open Session resumed at 6:13 pm with no action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: _____ **Schlyer** **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 regarding a current lease agreement.

Those persons to attend are Chair Butch Schlyer, Commissioner Neal Younger, Commissioner Joe Leroux, County Counselor Bill Jeter, Sheriff Scott Braun and County Administrator Darin Myers.

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

The Executive Session started at 6:14 pm.

The Open Session resumed at 6:32 pm with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 6:32 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, 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