

July 18, 2022

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 pm Monday, July 18, 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 no executive sessions.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Chair Schlyer asked for any changes to the draft minutes of July 11. 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 July 13 in the amount of \$21,083.29

Payroll withholdings dated July 13 in the amount of \$234,427.83

Payroll #14 June 26-July 9 and paid on July 15 in the amount of \$526,806.72

Open Edge dated July 14 in the amount of \$931.69

Waste Connections for Solid Waste dated July 13 in the amount of \$24,142.84

Payment vouchers dated July 19 in the amount of \$748,453.83

Purchase Order #7672 to Kirkham Michael & Associates in the amount of \$94,000

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

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

None.

### **MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

Commissioners said the reports looked good.

### **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS**

Board Member with Big Brothers and Big Sisters Scott Braun introduced Jenny Bates with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She clarified that the Duck Derby event is all donated money for the \$10,000 cash prize. She further indicated that all prizes in relation to the Duck Derby are donated. She said this event garners them about \$40,000 every year. Schlyer commented he was not aware how the funding went with the \$10,000 cash prize and will give reconsideration on the funding for BBBS. Younger and Leroux were also in agreement.

**Motion:** Leroux Second: Schlyer

I move to add the \$5000 outside agency request from Big Brothers and Big Sisters in the list of what we fund to outside agencies.

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

### **CATHEDRAL ROAD ENGINEERING AGREEMENT**

Public Works Director Brendon Mackay is requesting approval of the contract with Kirkham, Michael & Associates for the 2022 KDOT Cost Share Program. Earlier this year Ellis County was selected by KDOT for the 2022 Cost Share Program for \$700,000 in funding. This funding along with the County's share will replace the pavement from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to Old Hwy 40 on Cathedral Avenue. This project will be a continuation of the stretch on Cathedral Avenue currently under construction with the 2021 Cost Share Program. Kirkham, Michael & Associates applied for the grant and developed estimated costs on Ellis County's behalf, along with assistance from county staff. This contract will cover the topographic survey and construction plans for the project. The plan is to replace the existing asphalt with a new concrete roadway to match the 2021 Cost Share Program project under construction. The new roadway will follow the current path and will replace entrances, signage, pavement markings, and retaining walls under the railroad bridge. The \$94,000 for Preliminary Engineering Services will come from Fund 78.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Schlyer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

I move to approve and sign the Preliminary Engineering Services contract with Kirkham, Michael & Associates in the amount of \$94,000 for the 2022 KDOT Cost Share Program replacing the pavement on Cathedral Avenue from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to Old Hwy 40 and sign Purchase Order #7672.

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

### **OPIOID SETTLEMENT PAYMENT**

County Administrator Darin Myers is asking the Commission to approve the planned expenses for the funds received from the opioid settlement. Back on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Ellis County Commission approved Resolution 21-25 opting Ellis County into the Kansas Attorney Generals Opioid lawsuit. At that point, the county was unsure of what kind of funds would become available to the county. However, different allowable uses of the funds have been briefly discussed. Last week, Ellis County received the first payment from the Attorney General's Office in the amount of \$5,361.96. With acceptance of the funds, staff will create a new fund to deposit this and any future settlement funds into as it cannot be mixed with any other funds. In the allowable uses document, there are a variety of ways these funds can be used. Staff is suggesting the funds to be used to continue the support for the Ellis County Drug Court. This will help continue their efforts and support those who are in need. Ellis County Drug Court was formed in 2018 and was modeled after the national guidelines of treatment courts. Their goal is to combat substance abuse addiction while having an alternative to jail for drug court participants. Drug court participants complete an intensive regimen of treatment, supervision through Northwest Kansas Community Corrections, random drug testing, and attendance in court in front of the drug court judge. This program not only helps beat their addiction but have the support to maintain their sobriety and not be a drain on community resources. District Judge Glenn Braun spoke with the Commission and gave an update on how the drug court was doing. He thanked the Commission for their continued support and for the payment of this \$5,361.96.

### **WESTERN KANSAS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER LETTER**

County Administrator Darin Myers is asking the Commissioners to sign the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center letter of support for their organization as they request a grant to help fund their organization. The Commissioners all signed the letter of support.

### **EMPLOYEE IN-SERVICE DAY**

County Administrator Darin Myers asked the Commission to approve the closing of County offices for an employee in-service training and benefit enrollment day. Before COVID, Ellis County had started an employee in-service training program. This was approved by the commission allowing county offices to be closed so all employees could gather and attend training developed by staff and the safety committee members. Topics to include at the last meeting was CPR and AED use, fire extinguishers, active shooter training, and cyber security awareness training. Since COVID, with the effort of minimizing gathering employees, the in-service training has not been conducted. Staff is requesting the commission approve the closure of offices on October 10, 2022, to continue with this effort. This is a federal holiday of Columbus Day. If approved, this would not include all the staff at the transfer station as they will need to remain open for business. All other county departments would be required to attend. It would be requested from the offices of the elected officials to also attend. For this year, planning is still being conducted, but it is the thought to have different employee benefit companies come and give short presentations to the employees on their offerings. They would also set up booths for employees to have one-on-one meetings. It has also been discussed to possibly have the health department provide immunizations, boosters, and blood draws to help employees. At the last in-service day, we also asked the commission chair to attend to be able to have discussion with county employees. Lunch would be provided to the employees.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leroux** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger**

I move to close the Ellis County offices on October 10, 2022 for an employee in-service day.

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

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator Myers discussed the holiday party for County employees. He said that it was discussed at the executive team meeting on what date to have it on. It was decided to have it on December 10<sup>th</sup> out at the Ellis County Fairgrounds in the Unrein Building. Myers said the County provides the meat dish, while the departments will all sign up to bring a side dish. The Commissioners agreed to have the holiday party. Myers said they had sold as scrape iron to an individual some old non-operable water trucks and a fire truck some years ago. This individual is now needing the titles to these vehicles and they are still in the County's name. Myers is needing permission to sign the titles. The Commissioners were fine with Myers signing the titles.

### **COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Leroux said he is working with the State Leadership Kansas Group. He said from Wednesday evening through Friday there will be 40 individuals touring different businesses and locations in Ellis County. Younger attended the Ellis City meeting and the Imagine Ellis County meeting; he also thanked all the staff of Ellis County for doing a good job. Schlyer had no report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Schlyer adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 1, 2022, the Administrative Center Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas at 5:00 pm.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

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NEAL YOUNGER, COMMISSIONER

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JOE LEROUX, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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BOBBI L DREILING  
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK