

October 11, 2021

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:02 pm Monday, October 11, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, at the Administration Center, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas. Vice-Chair Dean F. Haselhorst called the meeting to order. Commissioners present: Neal Younger. Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer was absent. Also present were County Administrator Darin Myers, Attorney Michael J. Baxter 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 no executive sessions.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Vice-Chair Haselhorst asked for any changes to the draft minutes of October 4, 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

Payroll #20 dated September 19 – October 2 in the amount of \$450,873.11

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

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

No persons not on the order of business.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioners both agreed the reports look good.

COUNTY TREASURER SWEARING IN

County Clerk Bobbi L. Dreiling swore into office Treasurer Elect Vern Ruder.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

County Administrator Darin Myers stated with the retirement of the Public Works Director the new Public Works Director is now in charge of both the Road and Bridge division and Noxious Weed division. The Solid Waste Department and Environmental offices were moved under the County Administrator until the new County Treasurer took office, which created a vacancy in Solid Waste. With this new vacancy it created the opportunity to combine these divisions into one Environmental Services Department. Mason Ruder and Justin Craig have both taken charge of these changes, created plans and reworked job descriptions. Both have been identified by the Commission as two individuals to lead this new department, and they have excelled during this transition. Department heads are appointed by the Commission. This is an opportunity to finalize all the changes and to appoint Mason Ruder as the new Environmental Services Director and promote Justin Craig as the new Assistant Environmental Services Director. These changes have already been included in the 2022 budget.

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

I move to appoint Mason Ruder as the Environmental Services Director for Ellis County.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AND COUNTY ATTORNEY ADJUSTMENTS

County Administrator Darin Myers asked to approve the budget adjustments of the County Attorney's office and Environmental office. The budget stabilization account would be reduced by \$62,115 and be distributed between the County Attorney and Environmental offices.

Motion: Younger Second Haselhorst

I move to approve the budget adjustments for the County Attorney's office and the Environmental department.

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

BIG CREEK IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Attorney for Big Creek Improvement District, Dennis Davidson, approached the Commission in reference to rate changes and corrections for the District. Davidson discussed the issues of the long overdue fees in the District. Most of the overdue bills have been paid, but there are a couple that have not been and one of them is the El Charro Apartments. There were fees certified to the County Clerk to be placed on the tax roll of \$36,288 that are owed by El Charro Apartments. Due to a miscomputation caused by applying the wrong rate for services, the amount of the past due fees was misstated. In fact, the past due amount is \$23,844. There will need to be additional action taken by the Commission at a later date; however, staff still has to do more research to work through and handle the corrections properly in-house before a resolution is approved by the Commission.

BUCKEYE WIND ENERGY DONATION

Emergency Manager and Assistance Fire Chief Lyle Pantle and Nolan Schmeidler with Buckeye Wind Energy presented to the Commission a donation of \$1,000 to the Ellis County Fire Department. To help prepare for emergency incidents at their facility, Shawn Braun and Nolan Schmeidler have helped coordinate training events at their wind turbines to assist the Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement departments. This donation to the fire department helps purchase equipment that is needed. This year these funds will be used to purchase wildland firefighting full face masks and additional filters. Haselhorst and Younger both thanked Schmeidler for the donation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATE

County Attorney Robert Anderson introduced the new Assistant County Attorney James Rutherford. He started October 1 and is fresh out of law school. Anderson thanked the commission for approving the additional funds for this position. They have hired a new legal assistant, Emily Hiss, as well. Anderson then gave an update on his office and reported that Charlene Brubaker will be retiring at the end of the year instead of in March of 2022. He said they are well under budget as of now with the transfer made to bring on the additional Assistant County Attorney. Haselhorst asked about the opioid settlement; Anderson said he would have to get back with them as he needs to do additional research.

ELLIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Ellis County Liaison Brad Ricke, Board President Pricilla Hunt and Director Amanda Rupp gave an update to the Commission on the Historical Society. They thanked the Commission for the continuing support. They have many things going on including planning the 50th Anniversary Celebration which will be held on November 6th. They have secured an intern from Fort Hays State University/Dane G. Hansen Internship program for the summer of 2022. They are continuing the search for space options; and they are potentially looking at the Victoria Rest Home. The Schmidt Foundation has

provided a business suite within the Eagle Business Plaza for office space for employees and board members to plan for the future of the Ellis County Historical Society. Haselhorst and Younger thanked them for their continuing hard work.

HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD GRANT

Public Works Director Brendan Mackay announced the Commission the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has accepted a grant application for road safety and signing projects for the last eight years. Ellis County has been awarded a grant six times and has successfully applied for the 2022 grant year. These projects have allowed the county to update all types of road signage at no cost to the county. The Preliminary Engineering (PE) for this project is made on a reimbursement basis from KDOT. The construction and inspection portions will be paid 100% by KDOT.

Motion: Younger Second Haselhorst

I move to accept and sign the agreement for Preliminary Engineering (PE) Design Services by Consultant (Cost Plus Net Fee Agreement).

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator Darin Myers made another announcement that Ellis County is still looking for 50-60 acres of land. There is no commission meeting on Monday, October 18th; it has been moved to Friday, October 15 at 7:30 am. He said the Ellis County Fire Department is wearing pink this month to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORT

Younger attended the City meeting. Haselhorst also attended the City meeting and will be attending the KAC meeting next week.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice-Chair Haselhorst adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, October 15, 2021, the Administrative Center Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas at 7:30 am.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Absent

ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

NEAL YOUNGER, COMMISSIONER

DEAN F HASELHORST, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

BOBBI L DREILING
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK