

January 4, 2021

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. Minutes were approved as printed.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Board to give an update on the Clay County Medical Center. Mr. Gillard reported that they have provided care for several COVID-19 positive patients in the last couple of weeks. Over the last 10 days, approximately 25% of the tests have come back positive. Most of the tests are being done on people with symptoms. The Medical Center has received a shipment of vaccine and currently 98 employees have been vaccinated. The Medical Center seems to be seeing a lot of people that are needing post COVID care for gaining strength and to help with lung function. The remodel project at the Clay Center Family Physicians seems to be going well. Phase 1 which is the infectious disease control area will be completed by the end of January.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County Business. Mr. Mason reported to the Board that the SPARKS funds that were asked to be returned to the County were returned last week and deposited back in the SPARKS account.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve the Workers Comp Insurance renewal with Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties (Kworcc) for the year of 2021 in the amount of \$60,310. This will be paid for out of Employee Benefit Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Abatement 2020A20 in the amount of \$31.42 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, replaced or repaired signs throughout the County, repaired salt spreaders, sent all salt trucks out a couple of times with the ice and moisture that caused icing on bridges, worked in the shop preparing the tree saw to start working on tree projects today, and the new loader will arrive at the Highway Department today. Mr. Shomper reported that he had received notice from Kansas Department of Transportation of 5 bridges that need to be inspected by the first of February. Two of these bridges belong to the City of Clay Center. Mr. Shomper will contact Schwab Eaton to set up a time to get the inspections done. Mr. Shomper discussed the different options of asphaltting the blacktop roads in Clay County. A map was provided on what they would like to get done in the 2021 year. Normally they lay approximately 10 miles of asphalt every year. They feel that they are getting further behind and would like to try to get 27 miles done if they can manage the cost of it. The Board agreed that it would be nice to asphalt that many miles if the funds are in the Highway Department Budget.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that they had 6 calls in 2021 and 50% of those were out of town transfers. Mr. Cramer asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception for non-elected personnel for 15 minutes beginning 9:04 a.m. with Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, and Kayla Wang,

County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is personnel. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:19 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Mr. Cramer reported that the classroom was painted this last weekend and that it looks nice with the newly stained concrete floor. They will need to contact Stryker Co. for the cot in Medic 5 has a broken latch on the battery cover and it needs to be fixed while under warranty.

An estimate was received from Griggs Electric on the replacement of 188 pedestals for the Clay County Park in the amount of \$67,492. This would include disconnecting the old pedestals, pull them out of the ground, install new pedestals in ground and hookup, waterproof connections and test for each pedestal. This would replace the ones that were flooded in 2020 and the old ones east of the park office for a total of 188 pedestals. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to have Griggs Electric move forward on the replacement of the 188 pedestals in the amount of \$67,492 to be paid for out of County General and to be paid back when funds are available. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to place an ad in the Clay Center Dispatch to take employment applications for the Park Manager's Position at the Clay County Park. The applications need to be returned to the County Clerk's Office and the deadline will be February 1st, at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to sign Resolution 2021-01 setting the salaries for the Clay County Elected Officials for the 2021 year. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Kemp stated that she had done some research concerning the age of individuals that have tested positive in Clay County. It seems to be 70% of positives are age 65 and under and 30% of positives are older than 65 years of age. So, this is not just a virus that attacks the elderly. Ms. Rickley stated that the pandemic has been hard on the Nursing Homes for the patients and the staff. The School District has started doing PCR and antigen testing on staff to help stop the spread of the virus. Ms. Rickley reminded the Commissioners that back in July they approved the RN and LPN Nurses a \$3.00 an hour raise, and stated that they would review Ms. Rickley's salary at the beginning of 2021 with her being an RN also. After much discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to change the bi-weekly salary for Ms. Rickley to reflect the \$3.00 hourly increase. This will need to be changed on the 2021 Wage Scale also. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to continue the additional \$5.00 per hour for the contact tracers until February 16, 2021 and it will then be evaluated. This additional pay will be paid for out of Grant funding. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to approve the 2020 Departmental Inventory for Clay County. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board signed a letter of support for Twin Valley Communications to apply for funds to expand broadband to under-served areas of Clay County via the State's Broadband Acceleration Grant Program.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly update.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion for the County to extend the FFCRA Act to pay 80 hours of sick leave per employee that has qualifying reasons for Leave related for COVID-19. This benefit will cover from January 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2021. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
January 11, 20201