

March 23, 2020

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Payroll in the amount of \$181,426.27 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Ryan Wilson, Clay Center Dispatch, started the live stream on Facebook at 8:15 a.m.

Abatement 2019A54 in the amount of \$100.34 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Dave Bloom, Bloom Construction, called the Board of Commissioner to inform them that they will have most of the projects completed within a couple of days at the Clay County Park. Mr. Bloom stated that the new shop is near completion and they are working on one of the shelter houses. The Board thanked Mr. Bloom for all of the work that they have done for the County.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, and Jeff Germann, Assistant Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department worked at the Clay County Park taking out all of the trees that had died from the flood damage. The new tree saw that was purchased from Double L Manufacturing worked really well. They cut over 100 trees down and hauled them to a location. The blade on the saw did warp. They will see about repairing the blade or to replace it will be an estimated \$700. They will need to purchase 22 carbide teeth at an estimated cost of \$15 each. There were a couple of trees that had metal fence post in the middle of the trees that could not be seen. The trees had grown around the posts and that was hard on the teeth of the saw. The Board informed Mr. Shomper to repair or replace and to charge the Park for these expenses to be paid for out of County General Fund. The Department also hauled rock, bladed roads, and cleaned in the County shop on days that it was rainy. Mr. Shomper stated that they have went around the Department and have marked all items that are excess and no longer being used. They will be selling these items at some date on Purplewave and getting rid of them. The Department worked on a project at 4<sup>th</sup> Rd. and Sunflower Rd. where there was a hole in a pond bank and was affecting the drainage in that area. They cleaned out the ditch and built a limestone rock bank to hold the water. The Board approved a request for an employee of the Highway Department to receive 5.5 hours from the County sick leave pool. So far this year the Highway Department has spent over \$170,000 on rock.

The Board received a written request from John Gier asking permission to use the west side of the Courthouse Square for Farmers Market on Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. starting April 25<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. There will be no market on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 because of the Piotique Celebration. The Board granted permission for this event.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that they had attended a conference call with the State Board of EMS and it seems that emergency runs are down statewide right now. The Department has implemented a few daily procedural changes with the COVID-19. Scott Fisher, Clifton EMS Service contacted Mr. Cramer about the possibility of resource sharing if needed. Mr. Cramer stated that they will share resources with Clifton if they have them available. Mr. Cramer will be interviewing applicants for the vacant position that they currently have in their Department.

Mike Carney, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give an update on the Park. Several bills were reviewed for the new shop and bathroom addition, rock, and repair of three shelters. The Board approved payment for the bills out of County General and to be reimbursed when the funds become available. Mr. Carney reported that the Highway Department had cut 107 trees down in the park that were previously dead or ones that had died from being under water for 9 months with the flood and helped haul them to a designated area. The State Forester will return in 30 days to view a few more trees that they were unable to determine if they were alive and could be saved. The Board instructed Mr. Carney to try and contract his KDEM Representative to at least report that the culvert had been replaced since that claim is approximately three years old. Mr. Carney has received multiple phone calls asking about the Corp of Engineers closing down the campgrounds. Since Clay County leases the grounds it is will be up to the County to make that decision on the Park, not the Corp of Engineers. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to keep all of the Clay County campgrounds excluding the boat ramp closed until May 1st, 2020. Individuals that already have their campers there can leave them, but they are not to stay in the campers until the park is open. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Dunn reported that they have hired a jailer to fill the upcoming vacant position. The Department is taking extra precautions, cleaning and disinfecting the areas and following guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rick James, County Attorney, met with the Board to report that Jim Beck, Representative for the Clay County Task Force had contacted Mr. James and wanted to know if the Task Force could send their employees home with pay for a period of time with this COVID-19. The Board of Commissioner stated that even though they receive tax dollars, they do have their own Board of Directors to make that decision and they can legally send their employees home with pay.

The Board implemented and approved a temporary County Guidance Policy on sick leave and vacation during the COVID-19 pandemic. These policies will remain in effect until rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to discuss the changes at the Landfill during the pandemic period. Clay Center City will not be picking up residential recycling for a few weeks. At this time the public will not be allowed to come in the recycling building. They are being instructed to place their recycling in the trailer at the Fairgrounds and there are three trailers sitting at the Landfill. The recycling will need to sit for three days in the trailers because of the COVID-19 before being emptied for the safety of the employees. The Landfill will be closed with limited access to the public. There are instructions on the gate to follow for assistance. The Board reviewed the proposal from Schwab Eaton on continuing to provide solid waste engineering services at the Clay County Landfill. Schwab Eaton proposes to provide the engineering services on their standard hourly rates with a total not to exceed the amount of \$17,500. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to accept the proposal from Schwab Eaton in the amount of \$17,500 to provide Engineering Services for the Clay County Landfill. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Scott Taddiken, Cowboy's for Christ, met with the Board by phone conference call. Mr. Taddiken thanked the Board for taking the time to talk to him by phone and reported to the Board that the Cowboy's for Christ have what they call Open Arena during the County Fair where children can come and ride the horses, brush the horses and watch a horse be shod. They provide snacks, drinks and coloring books for all the children. At the Fair they have over 200 children attend and at Morganville's After Harvest Celebration they had 50 children attend. This is something fun for all kids to do. Mr. Taddiken asked the Board if they would be willing to make a donation to help with the expenses for this event. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate \$500 to the Cowboy's for Christ Open Arena Event. This is to be paid for out of the Parks & Recreation Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Taddiken thanked the Board and also thanked them for letting the Cowboy's for Christ use the Fairgrounds for their activities.

Jonathan Lang, KCLY Radio, joined the meeting.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Administrator, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that the restaurants in Clay County are providing curbside and limited services to the public. The Sale Barn was allowing 50 people in for sales and if someone left then another individual would be allowed to go in and were trying to follow the 6-foot personal space as recommended. Childcare services are still open, but have changes to follow such as: increasing sanitation and placing cribs further apart. Currently there are no positive cases in Clay County. Ms. Kemp reported that the exposure takes two weeks to work through. At the time of this meeting Ms. Kemp recommended leaving the limit of 50 people at a gathering per the Executive Order from the Governor. This order has since changed to limiting of 10 people at gatherings per Executive Order from the Governor which replaces the previous order. The 6-foot of personal space is the most important action to implement. Ms. Kemp also would like to warn the public that there are several scams currently happening with the COVID-19 pandemic. So be careful when giving your personal information out. Ms. Kemp informed the Board that she has asked Mr. Mesalles, County Appraiser to temporarily handle the Flood Zone projects.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to present an Event Approval. The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee of the Appraiser's office to attend a meeting at the end of May in Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Mesalles reported that there was an increase in the taxable 2020 values for Clay County. The increases for the last three years are as follows:

2020 Appraised value increase - \$12,000,000  
2019 Appraised value increase - \$14,800,000  
2018 Appraised value increase - \$18,000,000

The 2020 values include 2.8 million in new construction. Mr. Mesalles informed the Board that the increase in Agricultural values is on a slow decline in the 8-year cycle. Also, there has been a building permit applied for at 2877 Hackberry Rd that is in the flood zone. This started in 2013 when the original building permit was applied for on a 50'X100' building. In 2014 FEMA re-designed the flood zone maps, in 2017 and 2018 the building was destroyed by storms. In 2019 they applied for a building permit in a new site but still in the flood zone. Mr. Mesalles is recommending a variance to build in the new location even though it is in the flood zone after the taxpayer has gone through all of the previous happenings. After discussion, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to grant a variance to build at the new location

even though it is still in the flood zone at 2877 Hackberry Rd. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Carpet tiles have been ordered for the floor that has been repaired in the Appraiser's Office.

The Board returned a call to Mike Leiszler to discuss the bridge that is located on Parallel Rd west of Clifton. Mr. Leiszler wanted to know when the bridge was going to be replaced. The Board stated that it is on the list of bridges to be worked on but that there are others that are in worse shape than that one. They will visit with the new Highway Administrator about this bridge at the next meeting.

The Board adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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David M. Thurlow, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
March 30, 2020  
Clay Center, Kansas