

March 27, 2023

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.

Rich Avery met with the Board to request a donation for the Wakefield High School Trap Shoot. Mr. Avery reported that he has triple the number of students participating in trap shooting this year and along with this comes extra expense. They currently have 12 students that are out for the sport and will be able to go to competition this year. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate \$500 out of the Alcohol Fund to the Wakefield High School Trap Shoot. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Avery thanked the Board for the donation. It will be used for eye and ear protection and targets.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed roads, finished hauling chips, removed trees on Frontier Rd. between 12<sup>th</sup> Rd. & 13<sup>th</sup> Rd., removed a bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> Rd. between Kiowa Rd. & Limestone Rd., tank car placed at 28<sup>th</sup> Rd. & Limestone Rd., tank car placed at 29<sup>th</sup> Rd. & Valleyview Rd.

A letter was received from the Board of Directors of North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc. that Clay County has an open position on the Board. The term is from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Cherie Birkbeck has indicated her willingness to fill this position. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to appoint Cherie Birkbeck to the of the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Board of Directors. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

A written report was received from Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, informing the Board that the Department is at 221 emergency runs and out of town transfers. Medic 8 has been taken to Glavan Ford for a front-end alignment and they discovered that the drag link needs to be replaced. The part has been ordered and the estimated cost will be \$800.

Melissa Stellner, District Court Clerk, met with the Board to present the contract for the additional office to be repaired and painted by Andrew Askew Construction, LLC. in the amount of \$5,100. The Chairman signed the contract that was previously approved at an earlier meeting.

The Board approved payment of \$6,460 to be paid to KWORCC for an additional premium that is due with the 2022 audit on wages for Workers Comp coverage.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Kemp presented a document on the weather for this week with the chance of storms. Ms. Kemp provided the Board with some information on the Cybersecurity testing that North Central Regional Planning Commission is working with Homeland Security on several Counties. Ms. Kemp attended training last week in Salina and reported that they had good speakers several exercises were done.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Rickley reported that she has an employee that will be retiring later this year and would like permission to place

an employment ad in the paper to hire a replacement. The Board granted permission to run the employment ad in the paper. Ms. Rickley asked if it would be possible to take a full-time position and change the status to two part-time positions. The Board stated that would be fine but their benefits will go to part-time status as well.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benniga reported that they have been working with USD 379 and will be holding a Crisis Drill at the Clay Center Middle School on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Randy Milligan and Dr. Brad Logan, Research Associate Professor Emeritus of Archaeology, met with the Board to discuss the Table Mound Cemetery also known as Diphtheria Hill Cemetery in Five Creeks Township. Mr. Milligan owns the property surrounding the cemetery. He has made a lane and there have been gates placed at the entry. The diamond shaped parcel was donated in the early 1800's to be used for the cemetery. Mr. Milligan stated that he had visited with Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, and that he would help cleanup and mow the Cemetery. Dr. Logan stated that the gravestones in this cemetery memorialize pioneers who died from 1877 to 1883. It is believed that most died during the diphtheria epidemic that took the lives of more than 30 children in Five Creeks Township in 1878. The disease prevailed among immigrants to the area until 1883, eventually leading to the death of at least 90 children in Clay County. Dr. Logan stated that he has distant family that died as children that are buried in this cemetery. Both Mr. Milligan and Dr. Logan feel that this Cemetery deserves recognition of the pioneers and their children of Clay County that were lost to the diphtheria disease before the development of vaccines and other medical treatments were available. Mr. Milligan presented a quote from Mastercarved Memorials for a 3-foot etched granite Historical Marker on a cement base including installation in the amount of \$2,980. After much discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to place a Historical Marker at the location of the Table Mound Cemetery also known as Diphtheria Hill Cemetery in the amount of \$2,980 to be paid for out of the General Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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David M. Thurlow, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
April 3, 2023  
Clay Center, Kansas