

April 17, 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. Payroll in the amount of \$211,485.98 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$297,778.25 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Abatement 2022A21 in the amount of \$1,321.74 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss the road located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Rd. & Jayhawk Rd. Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser and Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, were also present. After much discussion, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to take no further action on 2<sup>nd</sup> Rd. & Jayhawk Rd. and to proceed as an open road based on the Implied Dedication. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department dug out a pond on 16<sup>th</sup> Rd. between Countyline Rd. and Valleyview Rd., worked on building a road up, tore out a bridge on 21<sup>st</sup> Rd. between Sunflower Rd. and Thunder Rd. and hope to set the boxes and pour concrete within the next week.

Rocky Cramer, EMS, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department has been really busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. Mr. Cramer stated that he has been working with Dr. Kelley on the EMS Protocol Revisions and hope to have it completed soon. They had 3 EMT's and 1 AEMT take the agility test and passed so they will work at this time as PRN'S for the Department.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Kemp stated that she had put together an emergency meeting concerning the wildfire evacuations. There was a good turnout of people from the School District, City Police Department, Sheriff's Department, EMS, Wakefield City Police Department, Clay Center City Fire Department, County Clerk, and Health Department Director. It was a good work session on the evacuation plan.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that County Maintenance and Sheriff Benninga worked on a door in B Block of the jail. Sheriff Benninga stated that the Rural Fire Departments worked well at responding to several fires that were burning within the County. This week the Department will get ready for the Prom that will be held on Saturday night.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, gave a report on a letter from KDHE concerning the 2022 groundwater monitoring report that Associated Environmental Inc was to provide for Clay County. Ms. Carroll stated that Associated Environmental Inc. has not provided a copy of the report yet. The Board instructed Ms. Carroll to stay on this and to get this issue resolved.

The Board signed and approved an invoice to BHS Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$286,913.07 for a payment on the new Multi Use Building at the Fairgrounds.

Shannon Stark, Assistant Director Grow Clay County, and Taylor Mall met with the Board to present a quote from Gate-9 on welcome bags for Travel & Tourism. Ms. Stark stated that they have not officially decided on the style of bag that they are purchasing, so asked if the Board would allow her to spend up to \$1,300 on the welcome bags. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to allow up to \$1,300 for welcome bags to be paid out of the Travel & Tourism Fund. Commissioners Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Stark also informed the Board that Gate-9 will sell the t-shirts that they stock for a cost of \$4 and will put the screen print on them for no cost. They would like to order 250 shirts in a variety of sizes at a cost of \$4 for a total \$1,000. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve the purchase of 250 shirts at a total of \$1,000 from Gate-9. This is to be paid for out of Travel & Tourism Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved Grow Clay County to use the Clay County Fair Grounds for the Independence Celebration on July 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2023.

Dean Michaud met with Board to inform them how dangerous low water crossing bridges are. Mr. Michaud has seen several vehicles hit the bottom of the crossing on the one that is located at 27<sup>th</sup> Rd. and Buffalo Rd. Most of these crossings are marked with signs but he has seen a few that are not marked. Mr. Michaud requests that the County place signs warning individuals that there is a low water crossing ahead.

Natalie Murrato, Director of Grow Clay County, met with the Board to discuss the building of a Child Care Facility in Clay Center on the Lincoln School grounds. There is still a real shortage of daycare providers in Clay County. Even with the 5 new daycares there is a shortage of 27 spots throughout the County. The Child Care Facility would be done through an Accelerator grant application that is due by May 15<sup>th</sup> , 2023. I know that is a short time frame to get everything done by but if we don't try for the grant we will never know if we would have received it or not. Ms. Murrato asked the Board if they would be willing to make a donation to help with the 25% of matching funds that are needed for the grant. Ms. Murrato also asked for a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners. The Board asked several questions and decided to table this request for a week so that they can research and think about request.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with Board to give a quarterly report on building permits. So far in 2023 the Appraiser's Office has issued 30 permits Countywide. Of those 30 permits, 2 of them are new dwellings and the others are different types of construction. The Board approved two Event Approvals for employees of the Appraiser's Office to attend training in Manhattan, Kansas.

The Board adjourned at 12:30 p.m. to go to the new building at the Fairgrounds.

The Board reconvened at 12:44 p.m. for a tour of the new building.

A letter was received from Kaitlin Moore, Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health Agent K-State Research and Extension Office asking if they could use the Courthouse Square to set up for a StoryWalk. This would be

held on May 16<sup>th</sup> , 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A StoryWalk is a children’s book that has been deconstructed, laminated and each page adhered to what looks like a yard sign and placed around the perimeter of the Courthouse Square. The community is encouraged to walk around the square and read the book as they walk along. The Board granted permission for the event but will require Ms. Moore to be in contact with Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, to discuss the placement of the signs with the sprinkler system on the square.

Brett Ohlde, BHS Construction Superintendent gave a tour and provided the updated information to the Board. The air conditioning units arrived last week and that was a lot sooner than expected. This week the sidewalks and approaches will begin. On Thursday they will work on connecting the sewer and water. The inside of the building has the first coat of paint. The ceilings will be installed and then the second coat of paint will be done.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

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David M. Thurlow, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
April 24, 2023  
Clay Center, Kansas