

May 4, 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 \$180,357.66 was reviewed and approved. Account payables in the amount of \$414,135.81 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Ryan Wilson, Clay Center Dispatch, went live on Facebook at 8:20 a.m.

Pawnee Mental Health provided the Board with a Proclamation declaring the Month of May as Mental Health Month 2020. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the Proclamation declaring the Month of May as Mental Health Month. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Proclamation states: Whereas, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and Whereas, prevention works, treatment is effective and people do recover; and Whereas, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen shares the burden of mental health problems and has a role in promoting and supporting mental health efforts; and Whereas; as a result of COVID-19 people are facing unprecedented pressures which effect their mental health and over-all health and well-being; Therefore, Clay County, does hereby proclaim **May 2020 as MENTAL HEALTH MONTH** and calls upon the businesses, schools, government agencies, healthcare providers, organizations and citizens of Clay County to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, its relationship to a strong, vibrant community, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, met with the Board to give a report on Tax Collection. Ms. Swaim reported at this time with the 2018 tax year, the County was at 29.95% on uncollected taxes and at the same time for the 2019 tax year we are at 29.10% on uncollected taxes. Ms. Swaim recommends with the COVID-19 pandemic, that the taxpayers use one of the following ways to pay their taxes: pay online, mail their taxes to the office, or use the drop off box located in the north entryway. You will also be able to pay in the office but will need to practice the social distancing and the limit of 10 or fewer individuals in the lobby at one time.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department worked on grading roads, several miles of blacktop was patched, replacing and placing signage according to the bridge inspection report, repaired and cleaned out several pipes, hauled rock to the northern part of the County, hauled rock to the Clay County Park, tore out the old bridge and replaced with a new tube west of Jayhawk Rd on 25<sup>th</sup> Rd., and hauled rip rap and used it at 11<sup>th</sup> and Cherokee Rd. The two tankers that were purchased will be delivered on May 12<sup>th</sup> and be dropped on the jobsites. Mr. Shomper will be contacting Husker Steel to see what the status is on the start dates for the two bridge replacements that are to be completed this summer. We may need to contact a couple of contractors to get quotes on the replacement of a culvert on 9<sup>th</sup> Rd. The culvert is located 25-30 feet deep in a creek and the County does not have the equipment to handle this type of a replacement. The Board granted permission to get quotes to see what this would cost. The mowing employees have worked on the mowers and tractors and are ready to start mowing roadsides.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that the run volume is down a little compared to 2019. They feel that it may be related to the COVID-19 where people are staying home and not getting out. The Board granted permission to get prices on the placement of a glass shield at the reception window for the EMS Department.

Danny Mesalles, Appraiser, met with the Board to give an update on the Department. The office that had the new flooring laid is complete and have moved back in. The Personal Property Valuations have been sent out. Taxpayers have until May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to appeal the values. Building permits have been slow this year. The office has only received 24 permits so far in 2020.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, met with the Board to report that she has found N95 masks and would like to order thirty for the Courthouse employees and twenty for the Sheriff's Department. Also, we have found the surgical procedure masks that the employees can use in the Courthouse and for the Election Workers in August. We will have to order a minimum of 500. The Board granted permission for both purchases.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to report possible hail damage to the County Health roof. There are spots that are leaking. Also, the roof of the Courthouse needs to have some shingles replaced that have fallen to the ground. Mr. Knoettgen will contact McGee Roofing to come and look at both buildings.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, Dana Rickley, County Health Administrator, and Dr. Timothy Penner, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Clay County will be following State guidelines for re-opening the County. The County can put into place stronger restrictions than the State but not less restrictions. There are a few Counties that are continuing to enforce the Stay at Home order. Individuals coming into our community from a stay at home community need to stay in their own County. People need to embrace the orders and step up and be cooperative. Dr. Penner reported that hospitalization and deaths are leveling out or dropping, but there are more positive cases because more testing is being done throughout the State.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Dunn reported that they are working on applying for a grant to purchase new bullet proof vest for the Deputies. The current ones are 6 years old and need to be replaced with better ones.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to ask permission to have repairs done on the recycling box truck. They feel that it maybe a sensor that keeps shutting down the truck and it won't restart. The Board granted permission to take the box truck to TSI, Inc for repairs. They need to replace one tire on the roll off truck, also the roll off truck needs to be looked at. Ms. Carroll hoped that it does not have a cracked head for it is using a lot of antifreeze. The Board granted permission to take the roll off truck to Barnes Repair in Clifton. The Board granted permission to have repairs done on the skid loader. Ms. Carroll asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Confidential Date Exception for 20 minutes beginning at 10:54 a.m. with Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Rhonda Carroll, Landfill

Director, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is project confidentiality. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:14 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. The Board instructed Ms. Carroll that the C&D Pit needs to be handled differently. They need to keep the piles of construction items pushed into the pit more often and not let the items be scattered over a large area.

Shannon Stark, Clay Center Chamber Director, met with the Board by conference call to ask for funding for the purchase of additional shirts for the Small Business Donation Campaign. This has been an amazing fund raiser, there have been over \$9,000 donated to help the small businesses. Commissioner Mayo excused himself from this discussion since he owns a business in Clay Center. Ms. Stark stated that they would like to do another order of the T-shirts, this time ordering part youth sizes and adult sizes for a total of \$2,200. The County paid for the first order of shirts in the amount of \$2,350 and Ms. Stark was wondering if they would possibly fully fund or partially fund this order too. Commissioner Carlson asked if they had been to the City of Clay Center to ask if they would fund the additional order. Ms. Stark stated that she had not been to the City. Commissioner Carlson and Commissioner Thurlow both agreed that she should make this request for the funding from the City.

The Board adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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David M. Thurlow, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
May 11, 2020  
Clay Center, Kansas