

May 8, 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.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Mason asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Attorney-Client Privilege Exception for 10 minutes beginning at 8:23 a.m. with Joel Mason, County Attorney, Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is pending litigation matters. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:33 a.m. with no action being taken during the session.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed roads, hauled selectfill, hauled rip rap from the Wakefield Elevator, hauled rip rap to a location on Sunflower Rd. just north of Broughton Rd., did a ditching project on 22nd Rd. between Buffalo Rd. and Cherokee Rd., worked in the shop, and cleaned out a pipe on Indian Rd. between 19th Rd. and 20th Rd. Mr. Shomper stated that the Highway Department worked all day Wednesday with the outside of the new building located at the Fairground. Mr. Shomper wanted to remind the Board that with the Highway Department doing this work there should be a savings that BHS needs to give the County in labor, material and equipment rental costs. Mr. Shomper reported that there is a bridge that Clay County and Cloud County share on Meridian Rd. The quote to replace the bridge received from Husker Steel was in the amount of \$223,970 and Norfolk \$24,875 for a total of \$248,845. Clay County and Cloud County will each pay for one-half of the costs. Clay County's share will be \$124,422.50. After much discussion, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to pay for one-half of the cost of the bridge in the amount of \$124,422.50 and this is to be paid for out of the Bridge Improvement Sales Tax Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed the purchase of a Juniper Geode GNS3S to be able to pin point GPS locations from Bench Mark Equipment & Supplies in the amount of \$2,533.57. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase the Juniper Geode GNS3S unit from Bench Mark in the amount of \$2,533.57. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department has been extremely busy this past week. They are currently at 334 runs so far this year. The Department still has had no employment applications turned in to fill the vacant positions. The Board approved an Event Approval for several employees of the EMS Department to attend the NCK Trauma Symposium in Beloit, Kansas. The week of May 21st–27th, 2023 will be EMS Week. There will be several activities going on within the County.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Kemp reported on the communication and the exercises that are held with the Nursing Homes in Clay County. This is so important in case there would be a disaster. Ms. Kemp stated that there is a chance of bad weather later in the week.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that last week was a very busy week for the Department. Sheriff Benninga informed the Board that they had to have Mel's Plumbing work on one of the toilets in a cell. The toilet is not repairable and will need to be replaced at the cost of \$4,299. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase a new replacement toilet from Mel's Plumbing in the amount of \$4,299. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This will be paid for out of the Inmate Account.

Janel Michaud, CCARE President, Sandy Fox, Treasurer, Patricia Halstead, Board Member, and John Rieb, CCARE Manager, Ms. Michaud reported that they are able to have Air Conditioning installed in the kennel room and possibly the epoxy flooring done by receiving a nice donation that they are so thankful for. The T&R Cat program has been working well. CCARE received a Grant from Bissel Pet Foundation that will help pay part of adoption fees in the month of May. August will be the month for Clear the Shelter. Ms. Michaud reported that they had an Intake for Strays Only of 105 dogs in 2022 and they adopted out 152 dogs in 2022. The Board asked if they were there to request a donation again this year. Ms. Fox stated that they would appreciate a donation the same amount as previously given but would always take more if the Board wanted to give it to them. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate \$8,000 out of County General Fund to CCARE for the year 2023. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Sam Boling met with the Board to discuss issues that he is having with the Clay County Park Manager. Mr. Boling stated that he was on the permanent list to camp at the park and when Mr. Arnold took over, he threw the list away and started over and now he is not on the list to get a permanent spot anymore. He has been told several different answers by Mr. Arnold. One he could stay for one month, then he was told he could stay till the end of October, then he told him to leave in a week and he is now trying to kick him out of the park. He has 2 witnesses that were there when Mr. Arnold told him he would have a permanent spot to camp. Mr. Boling wanted to know why it's ok for Mr. Arnold to break the rules when it is convenient for him. Mr. Arnold acts like he does not like Mr. Boling and doesn't have to follow the Park rules. Mr. Boling is asking for help from the County Commissioner in getting this matter solved for him to have a camping spot. The Board will look into this issue and will be getting back with Mr. Boling.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to present a Residential NRP application for approval. The Board reviewed and Chairman Thurlow signed the approved application. Mr. Mesalles reported on the 2023 Appraised Values for Clay County as follows:

2023 - \$728,023,550
2022 - \$709,432,980
Difference - \$18,590,570

This is a small increase compared to previous years. The assessed value for setting the tax levies will be as follows:

2023 - \$108,660,495
2022 - \$108,247,163
Difference - \$417,332

This is the 2023 values for Real Estate only.

The Board adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
May 15, 2023
Clay Center, Kansas