

May 14, 2020

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present for a special meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Ryan Wilson, Clay Center Dispatch, went live on Facebook at 4:05 p.m.

Lori Huber, Economic Development Director, met with the Board to discuss the release from Governor Laura Kelly announcing more than \$9 million in federal funds that will be available to the state's Community Development Block Grant Program to support community responses to the COVID-19 crisis. The Economic Development Grants provide communities with funding to help local businesses retain jobs for low-to-moderate income people. Grant funds can be used for expenses such as working capital (wages, utilities, rent) or to purchase up to 60 days of inventory needed to reopen, once allowed to reopen. Ms. Huber asked if the County would be the administrator of the application for this grant so that businesses in the small cities would be eligible to apply for this funding also. There are two types of grants available, the Micro which is for small businesses with up to 5 fulltime employees with a maximum of \$30,000 in funds available and the Regular which requires at least 6 and up to 50 employees with a maximum of \$50,000 in funds available. This is a reimbursement type of grant. You must spend the funds and then be reimbursed. The expenses can be dated back to March 1st, 2020. The Board agreed that the County will be the administrator for the Community Development Block Grant Application. The County will apply for a maximum of \$300,000 to be distributed to the business that apply for the funding. The Public Hearing has been set for Thursday May 21st, 2020 at the Clay County Courthouse, County Commissioners Meeting Room, 712 5th Street, at 8:00 a.m.

Ms. Huber discussed the effects that the COVID-19 has had on local business within the County. This has been a trying time for some of the smaller business.

The Board reviewed a few of the changes in the newly released Governor Executive Order 20-31 which establishes a new phase to the Plan to Reopen Kansas. The new 1.5 Phase effective May 18, 2020 continues the reopening efforts with some restrictions.

The Board adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
May 18, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas