

May 18, 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 \$177,730.58 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Accounts payables in the amount of \$185,706.67 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Rick James, County Attorney, joined the meeting. Commissioner Mayo asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 20 minutes beginning at 8:02 a.m. with Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Rick James, County Attorney, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is personnel. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:22 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go back in to Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for an additional 10 minutes beginning at 8:23 a.m. with Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Rick James, County Attorney, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is personnel. 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. Mr. Shomper reported that they had to close off a road on 4th Rd. between Osage Rd. and Prairie Rd. The grader operator hit the corner of a culvert and the culvert collapsed and the road will need to remain closed until the culvert is replaced. Last week the Department graded roads, hauled rock, patched blacktop roads, mowed in the Longford area, removed a log jam on 2nd & Kiowa Rd., replaced pipes in several locations, and cleaned the patching machine and the distributor to have it ready to chip seal. This week the grader operators will spend time on roads leading to cemeteries for Memorial Day. Caterpillar was out at the shop for 2 days upgrading computers in the equipment. They will need to return for one more day to finish the upgrades. Mr. Shomper stated that they trained two of the newer employees on operating the distributor for the chip seal project. Ryan Wilson, Clay Center Dispatch, went live on Facebook at 8:45 a.m. The City of Clifton has asked if Clay County would be willing to chip seal 2 streets in Clifton on the Washington County side if the City would pay for the service. This would be approximately a 3-mile area to do. The Board of Commissioner's granted permission for Clay County Highway Department to chip seal 2 streets in Clifton on the Washington County side and City of Clifton reimburse Clay County for the cost of this service. The oil for the sealing has been ordered and will be delivered on Tuesday May 26th. They will start the chip sealing project over by the Idana area. Mr. Shomper asked permission to purchase two new chairs for two of the office employees from Central Office Service & Supply in the amount of \$261.98. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase two new office chairs from Central Office Service & Supply in the amount of \$261.98. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Also, Mr. Shomper asked to replace the vacuum that they use in the offices. The current one keeps overheating and shuts off. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to allow up to \$275

for the purchase of a new vacuum sweeper. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to pay the replacement tooth on the excavator bucket at a cost of \$204 out of County General to be reimbursed by the Clay County Park when funds are available. This damage was done when the Highway Department was removing the vaulted toilets for the park. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shomper expressed that at this time the Highway Department has finished their work at the Clay County Park.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Medic 4 had minor damage done while pulling into the hospital bay. They were able to touch up the scuff with the touch up paint that they have on hand. Mr. Cramer reported that currently they are good with the supply of Personal Protection Equipment that they have on hand. Central Office Service & Supply contacted the EMS Department and informed them that they have two different types of infer-red thermometers in stock. There is a no name one for \$109 and another one for \$139. Mr. Cramer said that he would like to replace the older one that they currently use and that he could use the stimulus funds that they received on this type of purchase. The purchase agreement from Zoll Medical Corporation for the Zvent and supplies in the amount of \$12,192.87 was signed by Commissioner Thurlow as Chairman of the Board. The Zvent and supplies will be paid for out of the stimulus funds. The annual State Ambulance Service License renewal has been completed at the cost of \$260. The financing of the new ambulance that is to arrive in June was reviewed. Mr. Cramer stated that the cost of the ambulance is \$217,800 and that he would like to purchase two Zoll monitors in the amount of \$35,000 each to be placed on the new ambulance and to replace the E Series monitor that in February can no longer be used. In the 2020 budget there is \$150,000 in capital outlay. Kayla Wang, County Clerk, stated that if they use the entire \$150,000 that means EMS cannot purchase anything else out of capital outlay. Ms. Wang would recommend leaving a small amount in the fund in case of emergencies like the need to replace an appliance or a computer purchase. The total of the new ambulance and the two monitors would be approximately \$287,000 and if they would finance \$150,000 for three years and pay \$127,000 out of the capital outlay that would leave \$10,000 left in the capital outlay fund for the rest of the year. Mr. Cramer stated that he would like to order another new ambulance in 2022. Ms. Wang stated in order to be able to pay for the new ambulance in 2022 they would need to increase the capital outlay fund for the budget years 2021 and 2022 to \$175,000. So that they could save \$110,000 out of the 2021 and 2022 budgets to pay for a new ambulance plus make the estimated lease payment of \$55,000 for three years which would leave \$10,000 each year for additional purchases. The Board instructed Mr. Cramer to draft the letter to the financial institutions in the County to get the best interest rate for the purchase.

Mike Carney, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give an update on the Park. Gail Westgate, Park Board Member, Dana Rickley, County Health Administrator, and Rocky Cramer, EMS Director was also present. Mr. Carney handed in several bills for review and to be paid out of County General and reimbursed by the Park when funds are available. Mr. Carney stated that there were three different brands of pedestals in the park and that he had ordered some of the incorrect receptacles but had then ordered the correct ones last week. Border States was going to find out if the Park could return the ones that were ordered incorrectly. Mr. Carney stated

that he had always kept a few extra on hand in case one went bad in the pedestal so that he could replace them. Commissioner Carlson stated that he didn't feel that we needed to keep that many on hand and needed to return them is possible. Commissioner Thurlow asked if the Electrical is done. Mr. Carney stated that the electrical is completed, waterline is done, the big dock is in the water and he has finished spreading rock in holes around the park. Commissioner Thurlow asked about the handing out of the document for the COVID-19 Clay County Park re-opening plan. Mr. Carney asked if he could print the documents in the County Clerk's Office. Permission was granted for the printing. Mr. Carney stated that he does not feel that there will be an issue with handing out the documents. He stated that the Park has lost a lot of campers with all of this. Ms. Westgate stated that they have had like 20 volunteers plus herself that would help with the enforcement of the documents being filled out. Commissioner Thurlow asked if the State Parks were enforcing any new policies with the COVID-19 rules. Mr. Carney stated that he doesn't think that the State Parks have any new rules to follow. The Park Ranger said that business is as usual. Commissioner Thurlow stated that he doesn't understand how they can get by without enforcing the rules since they are a State Park. Mr. Carney stated that they want people to get out and go fishing. I have seen a lot of people fishing from the banks. The difference might be because that side of the lake is Geary and Dickinson County. Commissioner Thurlow asked about taking temperatures from campers. Ms. Rickley stated that you need to stay home if you are sick. Commissioner Thurlow stated that you cannot quarantine in the park. Ms. Rickley stated that you shouldn't be in the Park if you are sick. If volunteers should go around and take temperatures, do they need to stay 6' away for the social distancing. Ms. Rickley stated that this is the protocol and the recommendation that they be using Personal Protection Equipment. Ms. Westgate stated that a gathering of 30 people will not be an issue because there are no events planned at the Park plus she does not feel that even a party of 10 will be an issue either. They will hand out paper work and be ready to go. Commissioner Mayo asked about the gathering of people around a fire ring and about hosting a party. Ms. Rickley stated that a gathering of up to 10 people is allowed. If it is family, they are exempt from the gathering of 10 people and social distancing. Commissioner Mayo stated that the Officer on duty Saturday night stated that there were 9 individuals present, another one was leaving and one was in the trailer when he arrived at the camper. Mr. Carney stated that they were standing at least 6 feet apart and playing the corn hole game. Commissioner Mayo stated that he had talked to the County's Insurance Company (KCamp) and opening the campground could be a liability issue to the County if someone stated that they thought that they had caught COVID at the park. They would want to know if we are enforcing the rules. It is very important to enforce the rules of the County policies. That is why we are having Griggs Electric inspect 25-30% of the pedestals and the H frames because we are working under Griggs license and having Mr. Carney and volunteers do the electrical work that/could put the County at a liability risk. Ms. Westgate stated that she will be there all week to help hand out the new plan and help collect the papers. Commissioner Mayo asked as to when does Phase 2 start. Ms. Rickley stated that the campground is outside in the sunshine and for campers to follow park rules so it should start now. Ms. Westgate stated that all of the rules are in place. Mr. Carney asked about charging the campers for this weekend and until the end of the month plus the off seasonal per night rate plus \$1.00 per day for storage and \$1.00 per day for electricity. Then as of June 1st, they would begin collecting the seasonal rate. The Commissioners agreed to the camper charger as Mr.

Carney requested. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to open the campground as of today with the terms in place. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The contact tracker sheet can be dropped off at the office and Rhonda will bring it to the Office and put in the County Health Departments box to be picked up. Commissioner Thurlow stated that if everyone will work together this can be done and will work out. Commissioner Mayo stated that with all of the flooding last year what we have put up with I move that we terminate the Park Manager effective today. Commissioner Carlson seconded. The motion passed by majority vote with Mayo and Carlson voting aye and Commissioner Thurlow opposed. Here is a list of items that will need to be returned to the County and Mr. Carney will need to move out of the campgrounds with no camping at the Clay County Park for the rest of this year. He will have until the end of May to get his personal belongings out of the Park. Commissioner Thurlow stated that they have had issues over the last five years with doing things. You have done a good job to a certain point but there have been issues. Mr. Carney stated that he has put a lot of work into the Park and he wanted to know why these issues were not addressed. Commissioner Mayo stated that they were addressed over a period of time and the Board had given Mr. Carney a lot of slack and there comes time that we can't give anymore slack. Commissioner Carlson stated that Mr. Carney had pretty much stated at the last meeting when he got up and left that he wasn't going to do anything with the new paper work. Mr. Carney stated that he never said that he wasn't going to do anything. Commissioner Carlson stated that Mr. Carney did not say good-bye when he left the meeting and that he did not answer when he was asked how he would respond if the paper work was thrown at him. Mr. Carney stated that he did respond and asked what he should do because the Commissioners didn't back him the last time, he had the paper work thrown at him. Commissioner Mayo stated that the County had kept him on the payroll all year. He had off all last summer when the Park was flooded and didn't miss a check and then in January and February there was a lot of work to do and he didn't do anything. We wouldn't have to have the army of volunteers that are down there working now. We could have laid you off but we kept you on the payroll. Mr. Carney stated that he was hired for a 9-month job and that the salary was spread over a 12-month period. Commissioner Mayo stated that he did not work in March, April, May, June, July, August, and September either. Mr. Carney stated that he had worked at the Landfill. Commissioner Mayo stated that he had a bit but not that much at the Landfill. Mr. Carney stated that he had gone down to the Park and had taken all of the pictures for FEMA and had documented all of that stuff. Also Mr. Carney stated that 90% of the Park was under water and his hands were tied. He had no hub to work out and all of his stuff was displaced. Commissioner Mayo stated that he didn't need a shop to pick up limbs and items. Commissioner Mayo stated that he was not going to argue with Mr. Carney. Commissioner Thurlow stated that there were a lot of things that has went on. The picnic tables should have been moved further out of the water and the breakers and receptacles should have been removed out of the pedestals before the flood water got too high. Whether that is our fault or whoever's fault, we didn't know that needed to be done but you as the Park Manager should have known that. We have spent tons and tons of money that we should not have had to spend and could have been prevented. Mr. Carney asked again that he could not camp in the park and the Board agreed that he could not.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that Clay County officially has their 5th positive case of COVID. The individual has not lived in Clay County since they were diagnosed and is currently hospitalized in another County. Ms. Rickley and Ms. Kemp worked together to Amend the Clay County Plan for Re-opening to include Phase 1.5. The social distancing and the gathering of not more than 10 people did not change in the new phase. Bids to have COVID informational signs made and to place them in the Cities and at the Clay County Park. The bids are as follows:

Central Office Service & Supply – Quantity 10 to 75 - \$17.00 per sign

Quantity 80 & up - \$15.00 per sign

Gate 9 – Quantity 50 signs - \$11.50 per sign

Quantity 100 signs - \$8.75 per sign

Katalyst – Sign & Grafix – Quantity 75 – 11” X 17” White Styrene - \$7.11 per sign

Quantity 75 -11” X 17” Polyethylene - \$7.33 per sign

Quantity 75–18” X 24” Double Sided Coroplast sign- \$8.68 per sign

Quantity 75–18” X 24” Double Sided Coroplast sign- \$10.63 per sign

After reviewing the quotes, Ms. Rickley stated that she would like to order 75 – 11” X 17” White Styrene signs to be placed in bathrooms at the cost of \$7.11 each for a total of \$533.25 and then 200 of the 18” X 24” Double sided coroplast signs at a cost of \$8.68 each for a total of \$1,736.00 for a grand total of \$2,269.25. This will be paid for out of the COVID funds that are within the Health Department Budget. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the COVID Informational signs from Katalyst Sign & Grafix in the amount of \$2,269.25 and to be paid for out of the COVID funds within the Health Department Budget. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Rickley also presented a bid from DS Glass Shop LLC for a pass through window to be installed at a cost of \$1,526.11. This can also be paid for out of the COVID Funds. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase a pass-through window from DS Glass Shop in the amount of \$1,526.11. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Pam Kemp presented the Board with a Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Clay County, Kansas. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-06 declaring a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Clay County, Kansas. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Kemp handed out a chart to follow on Releasing cases and contacts from isolation and the time that they should be in quarantine. There will be another food/commodities distribution done on May 21st in Clay County. Also, the State has provided a Safe Memorial Day Guidance for people to follow for the upcoming Holiday. Commissioner Mayo wanted to thank Ms. Rickley and Ms. Kemp for all that they have done through this pandemic and told them that they had done a great job.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Dunn stated that the 2nd part of the commercial tankless hot water heater is not working and will need to be replaced. The first half was replaced in July 2019. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to have Mel’s Plumbing replace the 2nd half on the commercial tankless hot water heater.

Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Dunn reported that the re-designed shooting range will be completed this week.

The Board called Jody Thorman, Interim Park Manager by phone to discuss the Park. Ms. Thorman stated she knew that the Park had a storage unit but was not sure if they still had it. She wanted to know if the Board had the contact number for Artic Ice, that she would need to call them for this upcoming weekend.

Todd Slagle met with the Board to ask for funding for the Legion Baseball. They would appreciate the same amount as last year for they need to purchase uniforms, baseballs, bats, and pay umpires. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate \$1,200 out of the Alcohol Fund and \$1,200 out of the Parks & Recreation Fund for a total of \$2,400 the same as last year. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thurlow called Whitney Baer, Noxious Weed Director, by phone to ask how the spraying has been going. Ms. Baer responded that they haven't done a lot yet with the wind and the rain. Commissioner Thurlow asked how the new spray truck was working out. Ms. Baer stated that it had been good so far, but there was a lot to learn on it with it being a computerized spray system. The Chemicals that the County has for sale will have to be sold at the cost that the County has paid for them. This change was because the Board of Commissioners lowered the Noxious Weed levy for the 2020 budget.

Butch Hess met with the Board to ask permission to use the Memorial Statue on the west side of the Courthouse for the Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony on December 7th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This event usually last around an hour. Last year there was a conflict with the lighted Christmas Tree display. They had to unplug the music for the speaker to be able to be heard. The Board of Commissioner granted permission for the use of the Courthouse Square for the Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony. The Board will talk to the Christmas Tree committee about this issue.

Christine Swaim, Clay County Treasurer, met with the Board to report on Tax Collections for the 2019 Tax Year. Ms. Swaim reported that as of May 15th for the 2018 tax year, the County was at 3.68% uncollected and as of May 15th for the 2019 tax year, the County was at 3.46%, so the collections have been a little bit better for the 2019 tax year. Ms. Swaim presented the Board with a Statewide County Comparison of 2018 vs. 2019 Taxes Collected. Taxes that are unpaid as of August 1st, will be published in the newspaper. Ms. Swaim feels bad for people that are struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Swaim asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 10 minutes beginning at 11:35 a.m. with Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Ms. Swaim asked the Board for permission to remain closed to the public at 8:00 a.m. for a 15-minute staff meeting twice a week for a period of time. Permission was granted.

Rick James, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss the status of the damage at the Park that was caused by Johnson Service Company out of Kearney, Nebraska in September 2019. Ms. Thorman, Interim Park Manager told the Board that she believes that they can fill in the ruts with dirt and it will be fine.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to report that she has an employee leaving and would like permission to hire to fill the vacant position. Permission was granted to fill the position from the applications that she currently has. The Landfill will be closed on Saturday May 23rd, 2020 for the employees to observe the Memorial weekend.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to authorize the addition of Jody Thorman, Interim Park Manager on three Clay County Park accounts at the Farmers & Merchants State Bank. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
May 26, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas