

May 26, 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.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, hauled rock, patched blacktop roads in the Idana area, delivered a tank car to a location on Cherokee Rd., and worked in the shop getting all equipment ready for the chip and seal project. The Department was going to start the annual chip and seal project but with all of the moisture, they will hold off and start next week. They have started to remove the stone bridge on Kiowa Rd. All of the dirt work has been completed for the restructuring of the Sheriff's Departments shooting range. Still need to work on a few small projects for it to be complete. Last week the Department worked on the roads leading to the cemeteries for Memorial Day. Mr. Shomper provided maps with different levels of chip sealing that they are wanting to complete this year. The orange lines consist of 24 miles which will take 23 tankers of oil. This is the area that they had built into the 2020 budget. Then Mr. Shomper proposed the yellow lines that consist of 22 additional miles that would take an estimated 13 tankers of oil and would be an additional estimated amount of \$155,806. Mr. Shomper asked if it would be possible to pay for this additional amount out of the Bridge Improvement Sales Tax Fund. This would get them caught back up after decreasing the amount done for the few years. After discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to move forward with the additional 22 miles at an estimated cost of \$155,806. This will be paid for out of the Bridge Improvement Sales Tax Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A bill from Double L Manufacturing LLC for the purchase of a high flow saw blade minus teeth in the amount of \$560 needs to be paid for out of County General and reimbursed by the Clay County Park when funds become available.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer presented the final bill on the new ambulance in the amount of \$221,315.00. This includes the stair chair that was left out of the bid when purchased. The new ambulance will be delivered on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Then the quote on the purchase of two new X Series Monitors from Zoll was presented in the amount of \$70,444.90. The bids for the financing of \$150,000 will be opened next Monday. The Board approved the purchase of the two X Series monitors that will be in part of the financing discussed next week. Mr. Cramer reported that the Kansas Board of Pharmacy License has been renewed and the annual billing software maintenance has been completed. There is a PRN Paramedic employee that is interested in coming to work full time. Mr. Cramer asked the Board if he would be able to start this employee at Step 1 on the payscale since he has experience at our station. Commissioner Mayo stated that the criteria for Step 1 is to be a CPR Instructor and ACLS. Mr. Cramer knew that he was ACLS but not sure about the CPR Instructor. Commissioner Mayo asked Mr. Cramer to find out if this applicant has his credentials for CPR Instructor before they will make a decision on where he would be eligible to start.

Jody Thorman, Interim Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give an update on the Park. Jimmy Thatcher, Gail Westgate, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director joined the meeting. Ms. Thorman reported that the weekend went well and the Park is at 75% capacity. The campers were amazing about volunteering to help get the Park up and running. Ms. Thorman and the Board of Commissioners would like to thank Gail Westgate, Jon Lehman, and Mike Scott for all of the help that

they have provided the Clay County Park. They had one problem, the John Deere tractor broke down and lost a pin that has to do with the steering. They called Prairieland to come and look at it and to give an estimate on the repair cost. The Board authorized Commissioner Thurlow to make the decision on the tractor repair after looking at the repair estimate. Commissioner Mayo and Commissioner Thurlow stated that they had been in contact with several campers and with Ms. Thorman stating that the electrical was not working in areas and that they had pictures of the pedestals that were not cleaned properly and the wiring connected incorrectly. The Board of Commissioner would like to thank Griggs Electric for pulling a crew to the Park in this emergency and for taking on the job of looking at the pedestals and fixing what needed to be fixed. Ms. Thorman presented a partial bill from Griggs Electric in the amount of \$6,706.36. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve this bill from Griggs Electric in the amount of \$6,706.36 to get the park running for Memorial Day Weekend. This will be paid for out of the General Fund and reimbursed when funds are available. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Griggs Electric will be back to complete the work that needs to be done at the Park. Once the restrooms are opened there are repairs that need to be done. The Board approved Ms. Thorman to contact Bronson Brown for the plumbing repairs to the restrooms. Ms. Rickley stated that if the restrooms are opened, they will need to be cleaned very well daily with the COVID-19 pandemic going on. Commissioner Thurlow stated that he had ordered 100 pieces of wood and 2 boxes of bolts for the repairs of the picnic tables from Clay County Lumber. The campers were volunteering to repair their own tables if they had the lumber to do it. Ms. Thorman asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 15 minutes beginning at 10:03 a.m. with Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, Jody Thorman, Interim Park Manager, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:18 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Ms. Thorman stated that she has had complaints on Wayne's World looking bad and is in need of repairs. There has been over \$400 given from the campers to help with the repairs. The fence will need to be replaced. The flood waters damaged or washed away most of the fence. The Board instructed Ms. Thorman to get prices on the replacement of the fence. The Board discussed the salary that they felt Ms. Thorman should be paid for during her interim period. Commissioner Mayo stated that she has stepped up and has done a great job when needed. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to place Ms. Thorman at the base salary of \$1,637.72 bi-weekly with it being retroactive starting on 5-18-2020. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Thorman stated that she has an individual that has previously worked for the park that would like to come back as the part time seasonal help. The Board will make this decision next week. The Board will place an employment ad for the Clay County Park Manager in the Clay Center Dispatch and will take applications until the position is filled.

Robbin Cole, Executive Director of Pawnee Mental Health, met with the Board to present the 2021 Appropriation request. Ms. Cole reported that this has been a challenging year with the COVID-19 crisis pandemic. The Community Mental Health Centers were never shut down but most of their employees have been working from home for a 2-month period. They have started to transition slowly back to working in the centers. They will start seeing clients face to face on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The mission statement of Pawnee Mental Health Services is "to provide comprehensive quality mental health and substance use treatment and recovery services to strengthen the wellness of our communities." Pawnee provides

a public safety net function for the citizens of Clay County as does EMS, Law Enforcement, and the Fire Departments. Pawnee provided mental health and substance abuse treatment services to 314 unduplicated Clay County residents and 12,230 units of service valued at over \$331,000 to Clay County residents in 2019. Nearly \$127,000 was uncompensated for reasons such as limitations in insurance benefits, bad debt and sliding fee assistance. All budget dollars are used to help cover the cost of providing compensated care to Clay County citizens. Among Pawnee's biggest accomplishments this past year is the opening of the Crisis Stabilization Center on November 4, 2019. The center is the hub for access to 24-hour crisis assessment services for all ages and for crisis stabilization services. The center fills a major gap in Kansas caused by the reduction in state hospital beds and moratorium on admissions to the state hospital emergency rooms. The center provides an alternative for non-violent, voluntary admissions before escalating to the point of violence or refusal to consent to treatment. The center has been full most of the time since it has opened. With that said, and in consideration of the challenges that COVID-19 is presenting to all budgets, Pawnee has frozen its Clay County budget request for 2021 at the 2020 budget level of \$66,260. The request was left with the Board of Commissioners for review.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Dunn reported that his Deputies dealt with individuals tearing up and causing damage to dirt roads after the rain this past weekend.

Marlene Stamm, NCK Environmental, met with the Board to give the quarterly report. In Clay County there were 1-vault/lateral, 1-tank, 6-water tests, 8-tank/lateral, 3-well, 7-lagoon, and 1-lateral permits issued. Ms. Stamm stated that it has been a busy 3 months in the County. Ms. Stamm discussed increasing part of the fees for permits to cover the increase in the 2021 budget request. The current permit fees have been in effect for over 10 years. The Board granted permission to increase certain permit fees effective January 1, 2021. Ms. Stamm presented the 2021 budget request in the amount of \$12,073 from each of the four Counties along with the fees that are collected to cover wages and expenses of the County Sanitarian. The Board approve the 2021 budget request.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that she has been working with Pawnee Mental Health to use office space at the County Health Department to have the Tele-Conference Health available for clients. The COVID-19 signage that was ordered from Katalyst will arrive today and will be delivered to the small towns as soon as possible. The pass thru window will be installed at the Health Department on Thursday. The weekend was quiet on the COVID-19 reports. Clay County still reports the 5 positive cases and has 25 tests pending as of today. Ms. Kemp presented case numbers from the John Hopkins report to the Board of Commissioners. Chairman David Thurlow signed Version 3 of the Clay County re-opening plan. The park play grounds in Clay Center City have been opened up with signage posting that the equipment is not sanitized. It is suggested that after playing on the equipment that hand sanitizer be used.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-08 authorizing the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas, to submit to the qualified electors of the county the question of levying and imposing a five-year extension of the retailer's sales tax at the rate of .50 such tax. This is the renewal of the one-half percent (.50 percent) sales tax for the sole purpose of financing the cost of

roadway construction and improvements. This will be placed on the Primary Ballot for the August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Election. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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  
June 1, 2020  
Clay Center, Kansas