

June 8, 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.

Abatement 2019A55 in the amount of \$11.58 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Laura Schwartz, Dee Dee & Troy Anderson met with the Board to discuss the purchase of additional lights for the pixel Christmas tree that was purchased last year. There are 16 additional strands of lights that can be purchased to fill in and make it a full lighted tree. Along with the lights comes 10 more songs to play. After discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase the additional 16 strings of lights to fill in the remaining parts of the pixel trees in the amount of \$4,074 to be paid for out of the General Fund. Mr. Anderson stated that they will put up the tree for the community even if the COVID-19 pandemic is still around. People can do social distancing on the Courthouse Square or can sit in their vehicle and listen to the music. Ms. Anderson asked that if anyone wants to use a part of the square during the Festival of Trees that they need to contact one of them and they will come down and take care of the cords or help them get electricity. Do not unplug anything in without asking. Also, the outlet plugs need to be changed to the weatherproof outlets to be able to withstand the weather.

Ryan Wilson, Clay Center Dispatch, went live on Facebook at 8:40 a.m.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to sign the Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement between Clay County Commissioners and Union State Bank for an amount of \$150,000.00 at an interest amount of 1.74 % for three years with one annual payment each year. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Chairman signed the agreement. Brad Hohman with Hohman Electronics will be here on Friday to install the radio and equipment in the new ambulance. The mirror has been repaired on Medic 8 at Perfection Auto Body.

Hayley Whitehair, Conservation District met with the Board to present the 2021 Budget request. Also, in attendance were: Bevin Law, Chairman, Greg Sherbert, Luke Wohler, Carrol Adams, Josh Wohler, and Annelle Meals. Mr. Law started the meeting with thanking the Commissioners for taking the time to meet with them. Clay County has been fortunate over the last year to have Josh Wohler on as KACD Technician. In August, his one-year employment contract will be up, but we have been told that the state has enough funding to renew his contract for another year. This position is funded through a State Grant. Mr. Law stated the Conservation Office administered 3 cost share contracts for the Lower Lower Smoky WRAPS area. The Clay County Conservation District earned a \$300 incentive from KACD for administering these contracts once they were completed. Ms. Whitehair reported that in April they learned that the DOC had a large amount of uncommitted NPS funds available to districts to be allocated by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. They were able to request an additional \$13,500 for 5 septic systems and 1 well plugging project to be implemented in Clay County. The District maintains a close working relationship with USD 379 to offer the conservation poster contest to elementary students, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Festival, the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Environmental Education Day, and the Envirothon program for high school students. Unfortunately, they had to cancel the Envirothon competitions and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Environmental

Education Day this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Meals will be working with the students at Lincoln School for Ag Educational Day. They are excited about this program at Lincoln School. Ms. Whitehair presented the budget request to the Board for the 2021 year with a \$2,300 increase from 2020. The funding for 2021 is in the amount of \$48,000. This request was left with the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that the weekend got really busy with COVID contact tracing. As of today, there are no positive cases in Clay County. The Board approved overtime hours for COVID related tracing hours for the County Health employees. Commissioner Mayo stated that he would like to move to Phase 4 for the mass gathering for Graduation. Ms. Rickley stated that they have been working with Brett Nelson, Superintendent for USD 379 and they are good with the stages that we are taking at this point. Dr. Penner and Dr. Kelly feel that we need to move cautiously into Phase 3 to see what the effects are from Memorial Day. It all comes down to personal responsibility of each individual. Ms. Rickley stated that she will be meeting with the Fair Board to provide information and to help them decide about events for the fair. Ms. Kemp reported that Phase 3 starts today. COVID-19 is not over we are just changing phases. People need to be responsible for themselves and for their families. Ms. Kemp discussed the SPARK funding that has been allocated to Kansas Counties for COVID related reimbursements. The renewal of the Clay County Emergency Operational Plan has been extended until August 2021. This is great news.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. This weekend was busy for the Sheriff Department. One of the Deputies vehicles had to have repairs done on the air conditioning at an estimated cost of \$300.

Lori Feldkamp, Big Lakes Development Center, met with the Board to give an update and to present the 2021 Appropriation request. The mission of Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc. is to deliver quality services that promote choice, independence and inclusion for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Vision-Providing opportunities for a full and meaningful life. Values-WE STRIVE: Support, Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Valor and Enthusiasm. Big Lakes provides services for 226 adults and children with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Riley, Geary, Clay and Pottawatomie counties in Kansas since 1973. Services are provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They currently employ 231 full and part-time staff positions. The programs include: Adult Day Services, Residential Services, Center-Based Employment and Training, Community Employment, and Case Management. Currently Clay County is serving 26 individuals. The COVID-19 pandemic has been very hard on clients, not being able to be together and not going to work. The staff has been very good at following procedures. The nursing staff has gone into the group homes every day to make sure that everyone is staying healthy. The County Mill Levy dollars support the Big Lakes transportation services. Big Lakes maintains a fleet of 35 vehicles for 144 clients that provides daily transportation for our clients from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. So, this is a very important need to the clients. The 2021 request is the same as the 2020 funding in the amount of \$64,260. The request was left with the Board for consideration in the 2021 County Budget.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, called the Board by phone to discuss the hours that she had worked for the last two weeks. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to grant a variance on the required number of hours worked for Ms. Rickley since she has put in extra hours with the COVID-19 related pandemic. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to discuss the purchase of a new leaf blower. The old one was 12 years old and the motor has locked up. The quote from Prairieland for a new Stihl SH86 C-E Handheld Shredder Vac/Blower is \$289.99. Commissioner Carlson made a motion to purchase the SH86 C-E Handheld Shredder Vac/Blower in the amount of \$289.99 from Prairieland. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lori Huber, Economic Development Director, met with the Board to discuss the possibility of Kansas Works, a program with the Department of Commerce to post available County jobs openings on their website at Kansasworks.com. This information will be provided to individuals that file for unemployment. The Board granted permission for Kansas Works to post this information on their website. The Board received a letter from the Kansas Department of Commerce stating that on the behalf of Governor Laura Kelly and the State of Kansas they are pleased to award Clay County a Community Development Block Grant–CV in the amount of \$132,000 through the Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Supplement program. Ms. Huber conference called Carol Torkelson, with North Central Regional Planning Commission for guidance on filling out documents and signing the contract to receive the funds for this grant. Ms. Torkelson and Ms. Huber will attend a conference call with the Department of Commerce on Thursday for question and answer session. The contract is due to the State by July 2<sup>nd</sup>. NCRPC will be administering this grant so they will receive \$12,000 for the administration fee. The remaining \$120,000 will be available for businesses in Clay County to apply for through a grant application as long as they meet all of the qualifications. Ms. Huber will return next week with more information and the contract for the Board to sign.

Dalanna Nichols, District Court Administrator, met with the Board to present the District Court 2021 Budget and for the purchase of a new printer for the Court Service Office. The bids for a Lexmark MX410de printer were reviewed as follows: Central Office Service & Supply - \$389.00

Amazon - \$639.99

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase the Lexmark MX410de printer from Central Office Service & Supply in the amount of \$389.00. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Nichols presented the proposed 2021 budget for District Court asking the Board to consider the redesign of the front counter and installation of bullet resistant glass for safety of the employees. The budget was left with the Board for study. The Board instructed Ms. Nichols to get some estimates on the cost of the redesign of the counter and the installation of bullet resistant glass to have an idea as to what this project would cost. The State of Kansas Office of Judicial Administration had COVID-19 grant funds available and the District Court Office was granted a laptop and the Court Services Office was granted a tablet.

The Board approve the purchase from T & H General Store for a total amount of \$4,630.50 out of the General Fund to be reimbursed when funds are available for two portable carports to replace the two

shelter houses that were damaged from the flood waters and to purchase one additional carport to be placed in the pipeline section as a shelter house at the Clay County Park.

The Board adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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David M. Thurlow, Chairman

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Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
June 15, 2020  
Clay Center, Kansas