

July 6, 2020

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes from June 29, 2020 and July 1, 2020 were approved as printed. Account payables in the amount of \$1,317,688.31 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week with the rain some of the roads were washed so grader operators were sent out to blade and work the roads, hauled rock, mowed roadsides in the southern end of the County, replaced pipes, and replaced planks on bridges that were damaged. This past weekend there was vandalism done to several stop signs in the southern part of the County. The signs will need to be replaced.

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. One new EMT has completed the orientation and the seconded new EMT will start their orientation this week. Mr. Cramer reported that he made an offer to a Paramedic for the vacant position and he has accepted the offer.

Jeff Gaiser, Museum Curator, met with the Board to present the proposed 2021 budget appropriation request that is the same as last year. Mr. Gaiser stated that the Museum is now open to the public Tuesday thru Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Mr. Gaiser reported that with them having been closed with the COVID-19 it allowed them time to work on items and to do research that they had not been able to do since they had moved.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Management, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that we have 2 additional positive cases of COVID in Clay County making a total of 9 cases. The contact tracing is getting more time consuming and more difficult to keep up with. Not enough staff to do the work. Ms. Kemp stated that she will put in a request for assistance from the State on contact tracing. Not promising that we will get help but that it is worth a try. Ms. Rickley also stated that she is not able to fill the vacant RN position with the starting pay that Clay County currently has on their payscale. Commissioner Mayo asked Ms. Rickley what it would take to get someone hired. They understand that the medical positions here have a lot of competition with surrounding towns. Ms. Rickley responded that they would need to up the base pay to at least \$25.00 per hour. County Health has 3 RN positions and 1 LPN. After discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to add an additional \$3.00 per hour to the base pay of the RN and LPN position on the payscale and then to add the percentages that go with the years of service longevity. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board granted permission for the County Health Department to get an additional cell phone to be shared within the Department. Ms. Kemp reported that she had contacted Central Office to have them look at a project to be able to hold virtual conferencing. Steve McMahan with Central Office had left a message stating that they would not be able to assist with this kind of a project. Ms. Kemp presented a Resolution to the Board concerning the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-08 that Clay County will begin the process of safely, strategically, and proactively provide communities within Clay County, Kansas the resources they need to both mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and invest in long-

term economic recovery. Clay County, Kansas Board of County Commissioners accepts any funds appropriated to Clay County, Kansas by the State of Kansas through the State's Coronavirus Relief Fund pursuant to the terms designed to ensure the lawful use of funds and transparency, equity, and accountability. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Dunn asked permission for a part time employee of the Sheriff's Department that has not completed his first year of employment to use 24 hours of his accrued vacation. Permission was granted.

The Board called Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, to discuss the possibility of hiring a firm to handle all of the required commitments and reports for SPARK funds that the County will receive for the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be researched and discussed at a later date.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to give a report on Building Permits. Mr. Mesalles stated that we are on track with last years permits. In 2020 there have been 55 permits applied for and at the same time of year in 2019 there were 53. Of the 2020 permits, 6 of them are new homes. Mr. Mesalles discussed the purchase of a water cooler to have in the office for the employees to use when they go out into the field to work. The quotes that he received are as follows:

Clay County Lumber & Supply – \$179.99 (water bottle is stored on the bottom of the unit)

Central Office Service & Supply - \$183.00

Wall's True Value - \$154.99

After reviewing the bids and Mr. Mesalles pointing out that the one from Clay County Lumber has the bottle in the bottom of the unit so it would not have to be lifted and put on the top would be an advantage to the employees. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the water cooler from Clay County Lumber in the amount of \$179.99. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee of the Appraiser's Office to attend training in Topeka, Kansas.

Shannon Stark, Travel & Tourism, met with the Board to present the 2021 proposed budget for Travel & Tourism. The budget was left with the Board for review.

Lori Huber, Economic Development Director, met with the Board to discuss the CDBG-COVID-19 applications that she has received. They have 11 applications so far and 4 do not qualify and 7 do qualify. Ms. Huber just wanted to remind the Board that there is still a need of funding for businesses if they would consider this with the SPARK funding. The CDBG has too many restrictions for some business to be considered for.

Mike Argo, Fair Board President, called the Board by phone to inform them that they will not be having the races at the Fair. They are not able to find insurance coverage because of the COVID-19. So, they have been looking into groups to have another concert on Saturday night. The problem is they all cost between \$2,500 - \$3,000 to get them here. Mr. Argo stated that he knows the County has helped them with the cost of the concert on Friday night but thought he would just ask to see if they would help with another one. Commissioner Mayo asked what they were doing with the Fair Premiums that they receive

from the County since they won't be using them for the Fair this year. Mr. Argo stated that he would look into that avenue to see if they could those funds for the concert.

Commissioner Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-09 making the Executive Order issued by the Governor of Kansas mandating the use of face masks in all public places less stringent and making it not a requirement to wear face masks in public but it is optional. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

---

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

---

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk  
July 13, 2020  
Clay Center, KS