

August 2, 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. Account payables in the amount of \$522,890.59.

The Board reviewed the reimbursements and project costs for the Cares/SPARKS Fund requests that have been received from Cities and County Departments. There are some requests that the Commissioners do not feel are COVID related or that they are concerned with the cost to maintain the annual costs after the initial purchase. Another concern are the requests for additional employees and how these entities plan to continue the employment of these individual after December 30th, 2020 when the SPARK funds are gone. They will make the final decision next week on this matter.

Randy Gassman, Pottberg, Gassman, & Hoffman, Chtd., met with the Board and held the final 2021 Clay County budget workshop, Mr. Gassman presented the final County Budget to the Board with a final mill levy of 60.222. This is down 1.001 mills from the 2020 levy. Mr. Gassman also presented the Rural Highway District Budget with a final levy of 20.301 mills. The Board was satisfied and approved both final levies for publication. The Budget hearing will be held August 24th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. for both budgets.

Shana Sterling met with the Board to ask them to consider not making the children that attend school wear masks. Ms. Sterling has 4 children and stated that her family does not wear masks. She would like the Board to consider the mental health and the anxiety that the masks could cause children to have if they are forced to wear masks. Ms. Sterling is asking that you consider no mask for all ages, not just K-5th grade. The Board stated that they will take this request into consideration.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department worked in the shop on the rainy days servicing the pickups and equipment, mowed in the southwestern and western part of the County, graded roads, hauled rock, patched blacktop in the southern part of the County, did rip rap repair at 30th and Sunflower Rd., replaced bridge planks on Elk Rd. between 6th Rd. and 7th Rd., and filled in erosion on a box culvert. Culvert washed out on Indian Rd. and 6th Rd. The Department placed several road closed signs in Wakefield at the Clay County Park. Broughton Bridge area remains closed as of today. Mr. Shomper stated that he had a call from Dean Link concerning the drainage issues at 15th Rd. and Quail Rd. Mr. Shomper stated that he will be going out to look at this issue. A letter was received from the City of Vining that the City Council voted to turn over the maintenance of Parallel Street from Bridge St. to Mulberry St. over to the Highway Department. The Board asked Mr. Shomper what he was charging the City of Vining for this maintenance. Mr. Shomper reported that he would charge them for the materials needed such as rock since they maintain the road outside of the City limits. The Board stated that he needs to draw up a figure for the costs of the expenses to provide maintenance and present it to the City. If we do this at no costs then we may be asked to provide this service for the other small cities within the County.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to discuss her job duties, the responsibilities, important decisions and the number of hours that she has put in with the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms.

Rickley feels that being in a salary position is not fair when the pandemic has gone on for this long of a period and continues. Commissioner Mayo stated that there is a Resolution that they have considered that after a stated period of time, a salaried position can be paid for the overtime hours that is required of them to work in an emergency situation. They will research this issue and discuss with the County Attorney. Ms. Rickley is also concerned with the amount of work with the contact tracing that is having to be done that two of her employees have stepped up the plate and have done. Ms. Rickley has requested SPARKS funds to cover this COVID related expense and she would like to compensate these two employees for the work that they have done. They are on call 24/7, receive calls in the middle of the night, and take laptops home to do tracing work. Currently they are tracking 32 individuals. This would be paid out in the amount of \$5.00 per hour as a contract employee for the time that is spent on contact tracing. A voucher will be issued for those hours. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to pay contact tracers \$5.00 per hour above their normal wages as a contract employee. This expense will be reimbursed from the SPARKS funds. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported on the emergency runs that the Department has made. Mr. Cramer stated that Diedra Stout is updating the Infection Control Policy for the Department. The Board approved Ms. Stout to attend an online training for the Infection Control Officer in the amount of \$413.96. The new X Series Monitors have arrived, the Auto Pulse will be sent in for repairs since it reading an error. The company will be sending out a loaner to use. The Z-Vent states that maintenance is due, so they will be sending it in for maintenance and a loaner will be sent out for the Department to use. Mr. Cramer has received two bids on the building project making 4 bedrooms instead of two, but is waiting on one more bid to arrive. Mr. Cramer informed the Board that he has received a bill from the Clay County Medical Center in the amount of \$167.13 for the use of a Registered Nurse on a transfer to Salina. The letter states that Mr. Gillard thanks the Department for the ongoing commitment to the patients with North Central Kansas. And understands that staffing has been difficult for the EMS organization but in using a member of CCMC's nursing team or medical provider team to do transfers causes a staffing and financial burden to the CCMC. The CCMC is requesting a payment of \$167.13 to cover the wage expense of our team members during the aforementioned transfers. Mr. Cramer asked this to be put on record, that the County should not be paying this bill. EMS stated that they did not have a Paramedic available for this transfer and if CCMC had an RN available they would do the transfer. Mr. Cramer stated that we are a Ground Ambulance Service with ALS capabilities when available. Mr. Cramer will discuss this matter with Dr. Kelly, EMS Medical Director, and will report back to the Board. Mr. Cramer also received an email from the Assistant EMS Director at Riley County regarding the EMS coverage in areas of northern Riley County. The Riley County Board of Commissioners would like to explore a mutual aid agreement with Clay County concerning seven townships in northern Riley County. Riley County is asking if Clay County would be interested in an automatic mutual aid agreement for this area. This would be used if their North County Unit was in service or on another call then Clay County would automatically respond to the emergency in Riley County. Mr. Cramer stated to the Board that he would not be in favor of the automatic mutual aid agreement. The Counties have a standing mutual aid for help if needed in an emergency.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to re-appoint Susie Swanson and Lisa Last to the Riley County Joint Corrections Advisory Board. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board of Commissioners would like to thank Ms. Swanson and Ms. Last for their years of service representing Clay County on the Community Corrections Advisory Board.

Pam Kemp, EM Manager and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Timothy Penner, County Medical Director, Brett Nelson, USD 379 Superintendent, Joel Mason, USD 379 Attorney, and Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, joined the meeting. Ms. Rickley reported that Clay County is at 21 positive COVID cases and they are following 32 for COVID tracing. Mr. Nelson reported that USD 379 Schools will start August 18th, 2020 in the classrooms. They have formed two committees of teachers of all levels, parents, administrators, nurses, and Ms. Rickley, County Health Director. USD 379 has developed a plan for the start of the school year. Mr. Nelson stated that the biggest challenge has been the Governor's Executive Order No. 2059 mandating that all ages wear mask all day. That mean our students and teachers will be wearing a mask at a minimum of 7 hours. The District recommends masks but would like flexibility for learning needs. In the plan the District recommends masks for K-5th grade and requires mask for 6th – 12th grades if the 6-foot social distancing cannot be followed. In some classes there will be around 10 students so they will be able to stay 6-feet apart. KSB is stating that if the County would adopt a Resolution stating that they agree to the USD 379 modifications. Then the School District can make modifications to their plan to keep the students and staff safe. Dr. Penner stated that he feels this is an excellent plan and that he supports the USD 379 School Plan. They have put a lot of time, effort and care for the students and staff in this plan. Mr. Nelson stated that the priority is getting the students and staff back to school safely. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to instruct the County Attorney to draft a Resolution reflecting the USD 379 School Boards Opening Plan concerning the wearing of masks and the universal temperature screenings being taken. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Carlson stated that common sense is what needs to be used in this process. Mr. Nelson really appreciates everyone working together on this matter through this pandemic. Ms. Kemp reported that the average age is 37 years old that are testing positive for COVID. The COVID deaths have leveled out at this time. Ms. Kemp asked the Board if there were any flood damages within the County from all of the rain that was received in the past week. The Board stated that there was damage to a few roads and at the Clay County Park. Mr. Kemp stated that we should probably pass the Local Disaster Resolution to be able to file a loss with FEMA if the dollar amount is large enough. Ms. Kemp discussed the amount of PPE that the County and each Department should have on hand. She is recommending that each Department have at least a 60 to 90 day supply of PPE on hand in case there would be an outbreak of positive cases of COVID in Clay County.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-10 proclaiming a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Clay County. The Board of Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas finds that certain conditions have caused, or eminently threaten to cause wide-spread or serve damage, injury or loss of live or property in disaster proportion in Clay County, Kansas.

Craig Parry met with the Board to discuss drainage issues in Sherman Township. Mr. Parry provided a map for the Board with the current locations of bridges, culverts, and tubes. Mr. Parry stated that older

bridges and tubes are being replaced with smaller culverts and tubes that are not able to handle the amount of water coming from the land above them. This is becoming a very serious problem for it is making deep cuts in the farm ground. The Board asked Mr. Parry to visit with Mr. Shomper about his concerns and ask him to come and view the issues.

The Board approved the rental of a Crawler in the amount of \$3,000 per week. to use at the Landfill while the Landfill's Crawler is in the shop for repairs.

The Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
August 10, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas