

August 10, 2020

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were all present at a regular meeting beginning 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Payroll in the amount of \$178,182.73 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Rose Ann Reed visited with the Board by phone to thank them for the bridge that was replaced on 25th Rd. and Prairie. The Highway Department did a very nice job on this project. Ms. Reed has one concern. With the big rains that we have had, there is a drop off on the southside approach that will need to be filled in. Mr. Shomper stated that he will go out and look at it and they may have to use some rip rap to fill in the hole.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department worked on grading roads, mowed roadsides in the northern and northwest parts of the County, worked on a culvert on 6th Rd. and Indian Rd., graded dirt roads to get them in shape, picked up all of the road closed signs that were used in the flood waters, worked on a ditch repair on 3rd Rd. and Indian Rd., patched blacktop roads in the western part of the County, removed two tile culverts and replaced them on 14th Rd., worked the two extra graders to get extra roads in the County graded, open the road at 12th and Hackberry Rd., closed Hackberry Rd between 13th Rd. and 14th Rd., repaired a ditch issue and placed rip rap on 13th Rd. between Kiowa Rd. and Limestone Rd., removed a tree off of 15th Rd. and Redwood Rd., and removed a log jam on 17th Rd. between Hackberry Rd. and Indian Rd. Mr. Shomper reported that part of a low water crossing has washed out on 29th Rd. between Kiowa Rd. and Limestone Rd. It is still able to be crossed, just the edges have washed away and will need to be repaired. All of the paper work has been completed for the painting of the white lines on the blacktop roads. Hopefully this project will be starting sometime soon.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department has received the loaner Z-Vent and Auto Pulse to use while the County owned units are in for maintenance. Mr. Cramer reported that he will be meeting with Dr. Kelly to discuss the request from Riley County on the mutual aid for EMS coverage in the northern part of Riley County and will then report back to the Board. Permission was granted to spend up to \$250 on an office chair for the EMS Assistant Director.

The Board approved a difference in the cost of the Watchguard Security Suite Renewal for the Landfill which was first quoted at \$164.58 to the correct price of \$183.30.

Lori Huber, Economic Development Director, met with the Board to discuss that the CDBG-CV process has not been completed at this time. Changes from the State have slowed down the process. Several of the forms that are required to receive a grant were reviewed with the Board. Ms. Huber reported that the software called Matchmaker has been a very positive program for staying in contact with all of the business and is well worth the quarterly expense of \$450.

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 Clay County has had their 24th positive case of COVID. They continue to ask people to follow the 6-foot social distancing and to wear a mask if they are not able too. The USD 379 School Opening Plan was discussed. Ms. Kemp and Ms. Rickley both feel that it is a good plan and that the School Board has worked very hard on it. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-11 stating that WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas, notes that Governor Laura Kelly issued Executive Orders 20-58

and 20-59 giving Kansas Counties guidance on school opening for the fall semester of 2020; and WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas, further notes that the State School Board, by a 5-5 vote, on July 22, 2020, rejected Governor Laura Kelly's guidance and opted to allow these decisions to be made at the local level; and WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas, believes it is in the best interest of the children, as well as their parents, of Clay County that school resume on the schedule set by USD 379 this fall; and WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is empowered, pursuant to K.S.A. 19-101 to set guidance for USD 379 and other county entities. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas;

1. The County of Clay will opt out of the provisions set forth in Executive orders 20-58 and 20-59.
2. Public School in Clay County will resume on the schedule set by USD 379.
3. Private Schools will resume on the schedule set by their governing body.
4. The wearing of masks will not be required in Clay County schools, public or private.
5. Temperatures will not be taken except when required by the school nurse.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon publication.
7. This Resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper as required by law.

Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff and Alan Benninga, Investigator, met with the Board to discuss the laptop computers that Sheriff Dunn requested for the Department as a project under the SPARKS funds. Sheriff Dunn stated that he feels that the laptops are a necessity if there should be a positive case of COVID in the Law Enforcement Center. This would keep the Officers out of the office and still able to work from their patrol unit. Also, if they are working an accident and waiting on a wrecker which sometimes takes 30-45 minutes to arrive, they can be working on their reports at the scene. Commissioner Mayo stated that he doesn't feel that they are needed and that a couple of Deputies do not want them. He also feels that the annual cost to maintain the 7 computers is too expensive. Commissioner Carlson asked what the difference is between keeping up the annual cost of these computers compared to paying annual expenses on all of the computers that employees in different Departments have. Mr. Benninga stated that he supports the purchase of the laptops and thinks that they are a good idea for the Department. Sheriff Dunn stated that we need to move forward with the times and keep up with technology.

Shannon Stark, Travel & Tourism, and Jeff Gaiser, Museum Curator, met with the Board to present an Event Grant Application. Ms. Stark reported that the Museum will be hosting another traveling exhibit called Imprinting the West. Mr. Gaiser stated that the exhibit will be 48 framed hand-colored engravings and lithographs and will be on display for a 7-week period beginning September 1, 2020 thru October 20, 2020. Ms. Stark stated that the Museum is asking for \$1,000 out of the Travel & Tourism Fund to help with the expenses of this exhibit. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve the Event Grant Application in the amount of \$1,000 for the Clay County Museum to host a traveling exhibit. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Stark showed the Board the new designed ad for Clay County that will be placed in the Kansas Magazine.

The Board held a workshop for the distribution of the SPARKS Funds for reimbursements and projects that are related to COVID-19. Those in attendance were: Jimmie Thatcher, Mayor of Clay Center, Brett Nelson, USD 379 Superintendent, Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, Dana Rickley, County Health Director, Johnny Ihnen, Clay Center Fire Chief, Bill Robinson, Clay Center Police Chief, Kerry Rozman and Amelia Blackwood, City Clerk's Office, Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, and Chuck Dunn, Sheriff. The Board provided everyone with a spreadsheet report on what had been requested for reimbursements and projects. Commissioner Mayo stated that he would rather pay for projects than reimbursement since they have already been paid for. Ms. Kemp stated that the reimbursements are important also since the

Departments have paid for expenses out of their budgets that were not budgeted for. Commissioner Mayo stated that he didn't think that salaries should be allowed for reimbursements. Ms. Kemp said that the time spent attending the EOC planning meetings and COVID related meetings are allowed for reimbursement. The Board went through the entire spreadsheet and reviewed each reimbursement expense and project quotes, listening to explanations from each entity or department that was in attendance and making the decision to either keep or removed from the document. Commissioner Mayo stated that Economic Development such as businesses have a real need for help. Ms. Kemp stated that businesses will have the opportunity in Phase 2 for financial assistance. Commissioner Mayo still requested to keep the amount that was allocated on the spreadsheet for businesses. After working through the document, the Board decided that they would do the final review in a special meeting on Wednesday morning on August 12, 2020 after the Canvass of the Primary Election.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to review several employment applications to fill a vacant position in the recycling center. Ms. Carroll stated her recommendation and the Board agreed for her to make the offer to see if it would be accepted.

Jody Thorman, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give an update on the park. Ms. Thorman stated that Jim Fredericks who was a previous temporary summer employee has asked to come back to work at the Park. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to rehire Jim Fredericks for temporary summer help at the Clay County Park. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The flood waters have gone back down. Breakers are being put back in the pedestals and campers are starting to move back into their campsites. The storm that came through early Sunday morning caused some damage. There are large branches off of trees that have fallen and trees that will need to be removed.

Susan Mall, Register of Deeds, met with the Board to present quotes to purchase 4 chair-mats as follows:

Navart's - \$531.15

Central Office Service & Supply - \$872.00

After reviewing the quotes, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase 4 chair-mats from Navrat's in the amount of \$531.15. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Mall requested the use of SPARKS Funds for the implementation of remote access for abstractors to be able to do their work without coming into the office. People from out of town wouldn't have to travel a distance for a small amount of research. There would be a fee charged to be able to access, download and print the documents. They would be able to pay a daily, monthly, or yearly for this remote service. Commissioner Mayo asked how much this would cost to set up. Ms. Mall stated that CIC would charge a set up fee of \$6,300 and then there would be an annual cost of \$4,900 to maintain this program. So when setting the fees they would need to consider the cost to implement and maintain the program. Ms. Mall would also like to purchase a laptop computer and monitor to use at the County so that people are not walking back to the employee's desks. The Board stated that they will consider these purchases in their final distribution of the SPARKS funds.

The Board adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
August 17, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas