

August 16, 2021

Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Commissioner Thurlow were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Account payables in the amount of \$86,588.94 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason informed the Board that he will be reviewing all search warrants that are issued at all times of the day and would like to purchase a tablet or iPad to have at home for this purpose. The Board granted permission for Mr. Mason to purchase a tablet or iPad for the reviewing of search warrants.

The Board approved a bill from City of Wakefield for the purchase of three stop signs to be placed at the intersection of 3rd St. & Birch St. in the amount of \$394.87 and to be paid for out of County General Fund.

Jeff Germann, Assistant Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Germann reported that last week the Department placed several pipes and installed driveways in several locations, hauled rock, graded roads, patched black top roads, worked in the shop, trimmed and removed trees, did sign work, and broomed the chip sealed roads to get ready for painting the stripes. Mr. Germann stated that they expect the asphalt crew to move into the southern part of the County within the next two weeks.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that Medic 3 is out of service for right now. They continue to get error codes and are unable to figure out what is causing these codes. They will need to take it to a Chevrolet Dealer to see if they can figure out the issue. Mr. Cramer stated that he had received the price on replacement batteries for the portable radios. The cost is \$105 each and he would like to order 6 new batteries. The Board granted permission to order the 6 replacement batteries at the cost of \$105 each. In the near future they will need to look into the prices of new radios. The current radios for EMS, Sheriff's Department, and Highway Department were purchased in 2011.

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 currently there are 21 active COVID cases in Clay County. All of the active cases are individuals that have not been vaccinated or have not completed the series of the vaccine. Ms. Rickley stated that County Health has attended the Sports Night for the School District here in Clay Center and Wakefield to provide the vaccine to those that wanted to receive it. Ms. Kemp reported that beds in hospitals are a hot item right now. Not just because of COVID, but it seems that there are a lot of other sicknesses happening also. Ms. Rickley informed the Board that she has ordered additional flooring for the Health Building so that the flooring will all be the same in that area. There are a few maintenance projects that need to be done at the Health Department. The trees need to be trimmed, fix the down spouts and the drainage around the building, and to power wash the building.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that the Department has been participating in training once a week and this is working well. The Deputies are required to have 40 hours of training every year. The Board signed two Event Approvals for employees of the Sheriff's Department to attend training in Hays, Kansas and Hutchinson, Kansas.

Marlene Stamm, County Sanitarian, met with the Board to give the quarterly sanitation report for Clay County. Ms. Stamm reported that she continues to be very busy with permits in Clay County. The report stated that there were 6 Tank/Lateral, 1 New System, 8 H2O Tests, 1 Inspection, 1 New Tank, 2 Additional Laterals, 3 Laterals only, 6 New Homes, and 5 New Wells permits in the last three months. Ms. Stamm stated that she continues to have issues with individuals finishing and finalizing project on the permits that have been issued. The work required with a permit needs to be completed in a timely manner. The transmission went out on the vehicle that Washington County provides her to drive within the four Counties district. They looked for a different vehicle, but with the times it is very difficult to find a good vehicle that is within reason on the price. The decision was made to replace the transmission in the vehicle instead of trying to purchase a different one.

Mike Argo, Fair Board President, met with the Board to discuss the new building. The Board discussed with Mr. Argo what they would like to see in the new building at the Fair Grounds and then reviewed what would be required in order to use the Rescue Plan Funds. They would also like to put a storm shelter or safe room in place. Currently there is no type of shelter for anyone to use that is playing ball or any event that is being held on the grounds. The Board would like to be involved in the planning of the new building as they move forward.

Randy Milligan, Board Member of the Clay County Rural Water District #2, met with the Board to discuss the Rescue Funds that are available. Mr. Milligan stated that the Water District has a total of 7 wells. There are 5 wells in Clay County and 2 wells in Ottawa County that the district maintains. There are 350 meters and serves approximately 900 people. This is a 40-year-old district and the Board that is currently serving runs the district on a \$220,000 budget. The Board would like to do some updating within the district such as installing a valve system throughout the district. Mr. Milligan made a request for funds that are available through the American Recovery Plan. He requested \$150,000 but would take any amount that is available. Mr. Milligan feels that this request would qualify with the water being a public health issue. The Board stated that they would consider this request and would let him know of their decision in the near future.

Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give and update on the park. Mr. Arnold reported that this has been a good year for the park. The campground has basically been full all season with a long waiting list. There are a few concerns on individuals that are delinquent on paying the monthly rent for camping. The Board instructed Mr. Arnold to make sure that his records are correct and to keep good records so that at the end of the season he can turn all this information over to the County Attorney. Commissioner Carlson stated that there are several dead trees that need to be marked with spray paint so that they know which ones are dead later this fall to get cut down. Commissioner Mayo stated that we will need to look into purchasing a few trees each year to plant. But will need to be careful of the kind of tree that is planted. Mr. Arnold stated that they are starting to have small issues with one of the Grasshopper mowers. The Board instructed Mr. Arnold to call Bruna's to see what they

would do if we purchased one or two new mowers. They will decide after reviewing the quotes on what they will do with the current mowers.

The Board adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
August 23, 2021
Clay Center, Kansas