

August 17, 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 \$95,745.86 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Board to give an update on the Medical Center. Mr. Gillard would like to start meeting every two weeks. Mr. Gillard reported that the Doctors Office in Clyde opened earlier in the year and the one in Riley will start seeing patients in October. Both of these new offices are a great benefit for each of the areas. The Medical Center is implementing an electronic medical records system. This is necessary so that all records can be viewed in both places, the Doctors Office and at the Medical Center. Mr. Gillard reported that Clay County Medical Center has earned a 5-star rating in patient experience by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The 5-star rating places CCMC as one of 266 Hospitals/Medical Centers to receive this rating.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper reported that he has the figures for the City of Vining for the County to fix the one block and to provide the maintenance year around. The cost would be \$4,160 to remove the current rock and to fix the road as it should be and then an estimated cost of \$650 per month for grading and upkeep. Mr. Shomper will present these figures to the City of Vining. Last week the Department graded roads, repaired road damage, mowed roadsides, did patching on blacktop roads, repaired a ditch on 13th Rd. between Kiowa Rd. and Limestone Rd., trimmed trees down in the Wakefield area, placed a 60-foot driveway pipe on Ottawa Rd., placed pipe on 14th Rd. between Cherokee Rd. and Deer Trail Rd., worked in the shop because of the rain, and hauled rock. The John Deere mower is down for repairs, the bearings on the back wheel have went out. They are currently using the bat wing mower. Mr. Shomper stated that they have been asked to place a couple of pieces of equipment in the Wakefield Birthday Bash Parade. He thought that they could put a motor grader and a dump truck in the parade. Permission was granted for Mr. Shomper to place equipment in the Wakefield Parade.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department continues to stay busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. Mr. Cramer and Dr. Kelly will be meeting with the Riley County EMS Director regarding the Riley County request to help cover the northern townships in Riley County. Neither Mr. Cramer or Dr. Kelly are against helping out, but they do not want to have it as an automatic mutual aid. Those residents do not pay taxes to maintain the EMS Service in Clay County. The Board of Commissioners in Riley County need to make sure that these people in Riley County are provided the service and are taken care of.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to ask permission for an employee of the Health Department to receive 8 hours of sick leave out of the Clay County Sick Leave Pool.

April Swartz, Varney & Associates, CPA, met with the Board to present the 2019 Final County Audit. Ms. Swartz reported that the audit was all done remotely this year with the COVID-19 Pandemic and that all requirements were met and that there were no findings or violations found in the audit.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the update on the COVID-19 Pandemic. Jimmie Thatcher, Mayor of Clay Center, Johnny Ihnen, City Fire Chief, Bill Robinson, Chief of Police, Kerry Rozman and Amelia Blackwood, City Clerk's Office were present. Ms. Kemp read a statement to the Board of Commissioners concerning the SPARKS Funding. Ms. Kemp stated that she feels that the County is making an error on the application when reimbursement for payroll expenses is denied to the City and the County Departments. I am respectfully asking that you revisit this issue before the final application is submitted. Ms. Kemp has gone back and listened to webinars again and there are questions that are asked during the sessions. The questions and answers are provided on the document that Ms. Kemp gave to the Board. On the Instructional SPARKS webinar, they stated that they are encouraging Counties to reimburse for expenses for the Cities and Schools. Planning is an allowable expense, so you can only reimburse them for those hours that they spent directly planning on COVID-19. Ms. Kemp highly recommended that the Board overspend the funds allowed knowing that some of the reimbursements or projects will not be approved by the State then we will not have funds that are not used and will have to be returned to the State. Commissioner Thurlow stated that he would consider the salary reimbursements for the County and the Cities but was not sure how to figure who gets what with the amount of funds that are available. Commissioner Mayo stated that in preparation of the 2022 budget that the reimbursements section will need to be watch or they will be over-estimated and will cause an issue with the budgets. After much discussion, the Board of Commissioners made the decision to allow all of the salary reimbursements request to be placed on the SPARKS funds application which would cause an over spending of the funds available in the amount of \$100,514.92. The application will be completed and sent in before 5:00 p.m. today and we will wait to see which requests are approved.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Equipment is being put in the new patrol unit and it may be ready to use by the end of the week.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, reported to the Board that Clay County has it 26th positive case of COVID-19 over the weekend. They only have the one case that is still active in the community. Ms. Rickley stated that there maybe more cases with school starting and with school activities going on in the County.

Whitney Baer, Noxious Weed, met with the Board to present maps on the area that the Department has sprayed this season. Ms. Baer stated that this year hasn't been an ideal year for spraying with the moisture that we have had and the wind blowing. Commissioner Thurlow asked her about spraying the ditches and right-a-ways for trees. Ms. Baer stated that they had spot sprayed some areas for trees. Commissioner Thurlow asked if it would help if the Highway Department would let them know where they had mowed so that they could then go in and spray. Ms. Baer stated that it would help a lot in knowing where they had mowed. Commissioner Carlson asked about taking the new truck out with the two different tanks and spraying for two different items at one time. Ms. Baer reported that they will be back out in the fall spraying again. There is a period of time that it doesn't do any good to go out and spray.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to give a Department update. Mr. Mesalles stated that a portion of the Appraiser training has been moved to online training with the COVID

pandemic. They had to have the fuel pump replaced on the Ford Pickup. Mr. Mesalles informed the Board that he has had a request for a variance in zoning on a parcel in Clay Center Township. The current parcel is a 5-acre tract with an irrigation pivot that comes across the corner of the tract. They are requesting to split off a 2-acre tract and leave the residence and building on the 3-acre tract. The 2-acre tract will later be combined with the adjoining agriculture acres. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to grant the variance to split the 5-acre tract into one 2-acre tract and one 3-acre tract. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, asked the Board to come up to the Courtroom to discuss the seating in the Jury Box. Judge Bosch had asked if the back row of original jury chairs could be removed and replaced with folding chairs during the pandemic period. The Board discussed the subject and decided that they do not want the chairs removed. The chairs are original furnishings of the Courtroom. They are concerned with the storing of the chairs for they each have a large metal base on them and weigh approximately 70 pounds and then they are concerned that they could possibly damage the carpet in the removal and then putting the chairs back in place. The Board will return next week to view the plexi glass guards that will be placed between the jury chairs.

The Board adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
August 24, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas