

August 21, 2023

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. Payroll in the amount of \$206,249.81 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account payables in the amount of \$357,814.18 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Board received a quote from Schurle Signs for the lettering to be placed on the new Clay County Events Center located at the Fairgrounds in the amount of \$5,077.78. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to accept the bid and to sign the sales agreement for the letters to be placed on the north and the south ends of the building. This will be paid for out of the County General Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Chairman signed the sales agreement.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, met with the Board to present two Special Event Cereal Malt Beverage applications for the Longford Rodeo Club, Inc. The Longford Rodeo will be held on September 1st & 2nd, 2023. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to approve the two Special Event Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses for the Longford Rodeo Club, Inc. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper reported that APAC is currently laying asphalt in the County. The project seems to be going slower but everything is laying good. Last week the Department trimmed trees down by Longford, bladed roads, built up the roadway on 19th Rd between Kiowa Rd. & Limestone Rd., removed the bridge and placed a tank car on 3rd Rd. between Deer Trail & Elk Rd., hauled material and rock, mowed roadsides, replaced planks on a bridge. Mr. Shomper stated that one of the heating and air units at the shop needs to be replaced. The Board instructed Mr. Shomper to get bids and to return with them next week.

Alec Trembath, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department is currently at 569 emergency runs or out of town transfers for the year 2023. They will start interviewing to fill a vacant position this week. The EMS trucks will start being available for standby for sporting events and for community events. This next weekend will be the Birthday Bash in Wakefield and the Races at the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the 2024 Budget for the Mulberry Rural Fire District with the mill levy rate of .310 and a budget in the amount of \$1,800 as published. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to adopt the 2024 Budget for the Riverside Drainage District with the mill levy rate of 4.985 and a budget in the amount of \$43,000 as published. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of 17.097 with the levy of 17.137 for the Clay County Highway District. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the 2024 Budget for the Clay County

Highway District with the mill levy rate of 17.137 and a budget in the amount of \$2,055,000 as published. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of 54.297 with the levy of 55.433 for the Clay County budget. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to adopt the 2024 Budget for Clay County with a mill levy rate of 55.433 and a budget in the amount of \$20,288,701 as published. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Kemp reported that the Cybersecurity Training that she attended last week was a very informational class. Ms. Kemp would like to see other County Department Heads attend this training. The Board granted permission for Ms. Kemp to start the process of arranging a Cybersecurity exercise for the County employees to attend here. This exercise is provided by the State of Kansas.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee of the Health Department to attend a training in Wichita, Kansas. Ms. Rickley reported that the Ford Escape needs to be looked at by a repair shop to see what the issues are with it. The Board granted permission for the repairs to the County Health Ford Escape. Ms. Rickley stated that a correction was made on the dollar amount of the grant application from last week. Chairman Thurlow signed the new application.

Jake Young met with the Board to ask permission to use the Fairgrounds for the 4th Annual Ian Roetman Memorial Ball Tournament on September 23rd, 2023 at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Mr. Young also asked permission to have Scanolli's manage a beer garden at the tournament. Mr. Young stated that everything will be the same as last year and there will be fencing placed to make the area contained. It will be a fun filled day with several teams signed up to play ball. After discussion, the Board granted permission to Mr. Young for this event.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga stated they are in need of replacing tires on one of the patrol units. The quotes were received as follows:

Friesen Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram - \$1,161.18 (set of 4 Michelin Latitude Tour HP)

Kansasland Tire & Service - \$831.30 (set of 4 Wrangler All-Terrain Adventure)

Kansasland Tire & Service - \$733.56 (set of 4 Wrangler Steadfast HT)

After reviewing the quotes, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the 4 Wrangler4 All-Terrain Adventure tires from Kansasland Tire & Service in the amount of \$831.30. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board received a lease for a new postage machine at the Courthouse. The 5-year lease on the current machine will expire in October. The cost of the new machine and lease is \$599.70 quarterly and we currently are paying \$571.98 quarterly on a 5-year-old machine. After discussion, the Board granted permission to update the postage machine with a new lease at the cost of \$599.70 quarterly.

Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park Manager, met with the Board to give a Park report. Mr. Arnold provided the Board with the last Bank Statement and with the Profit & Loss report for the park. Mr. Arnold asked the Board if the Highway Department would be able to help with the drainage issue at 2nd St. & Bridge St. This is the drain that they use for the swimming pool and it is washing holes on both sides of the street. Mr. Arnold reported that the bath/shower house was vandalized on Tuesday August 15th. They threw toilet paper everywhere and broke a toilet with pieces of it flying everywhere. Vernon Osbourn called in by phone and expressed to the Board that Mr. Arnold needs to stop telling rumors when they are not true and that he has proof if they would like to verify. The Board stated that they would discuss this issue with Mr. Arnold. Mr. Arnold stated that the Dodge pickup is in bad shape and not sure if it would make it to Clay Center. The Board instructed Mr. Arnold to call Friesen's to set an appointment to have it looked at. If it is not drivable then call Bobby Shomper to see if the Highway Department could possibly haul it up here.

Natalie Muruato, Director Grow Clay County, met with the Board to give an update on Grow Clay County. Ms. Muruato stated that they were not awarded the large daycare grant, but that they did receive several other grants to use for daycare. The School District will be working on converting a room at the Middle School to use as a daycare. They hope to have it up and running by March of 2024. Ms. Muruato is now working on a housing grant to have middle income housing available sometime soon. Ms. Muruato stated that they would like to purchase a software program called Placer.ai that provides real time data on all types of information. Ms. Muruato provided an example of a property overview on a parcel in the City of Clay Center and show the Board how the software works and how they would use it for different projects. The cost of the software is \$15,000 for one year. After listening to the presentation of the software, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase the software in the amount of \$15,000 for one year. This will be paid for out of the Economic Development Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
August 28, 2023
Clay Center, Kansas