

September 27, 2021

Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Commissioner Thurlow were present at a regular meeting beginning at 7:45 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed.

Allison James, Lincoln Creek 4-H Ambassador, Reece Geer, Washington Headliners 4-H Ambassador, Haley Avery, Cloverleaf 4-H Ambassador, Caley Chambers, Cloverleaf 4-H Ambassador, Judy Stitt, 4-H Ambassador Advisor, and Rachel Footit, River Valley Extension District 4-H Program Manager, met with the Board to present the proclamation declaring National 4-H Week as October 3-9, 2021 throughout Clay County. 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, having supported almost six million youth across the country thus far. Whereas, 4-H has helped 134 youth in Clay County, Kansas to become confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to adopt the Proclamation for October 3-9, 2021 as National 4-H Week in Clay County. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Each Ambassador gave a report to the Board on the division that they are involved in within each of their clubs. Ms. Stitt thanked the Board for all of the support that they provide to the 4-H Clubs in Clay County.

Haley Avery met with the Board to discuss the new greenhouse project that the Wakefield High School is going to build. This will be used by different classes from Grade School to High School. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,800. They currently have donations in the amount of \$500. This will be considered as a small business for the students to oversee and the Construction Tech class will build it. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to donate \$1,000 for this project and to be paid out of the Alcohol Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Robert McGee and Dee Wester met with the Board to discuss the Pipeline Section of the Clay County Park. Mr. McGee stated that he would like to leave his camper parked through the winter unplugged from the sewer, water, and electricity and pay a storage fee to the park. They would like to be able to use it on a mild winter weekend and they are willing to pay for the electricity for when they stay there. The Board stated that they would need to contact the Corp of Engineers to get approval for that. Mr. Wester stated that they had already talked to the Corp and they are saying that the Board of Commissioner's would have to give the final approval. The Board stated that if approved this would only be in the Pipeline Section. The Board stated that they will have to talk to the Park Manager and also talk to the Corp before making a final decision on this request.

The Board approved a request from Chuck Arnold, Clay County Park Manager, asking for the one Seasonal help employee to work through October 31st, 2021 at the park. Permission was granted on this request.

A request was received from Bob Stratton to use the portable emergency lighting that the County has for the Fifth Quarter Event on October 8th, 2021. The Board visited with Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, to make arrangement for the lighting to be used for this event.

Joel Mason, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss County business. Mr. Mason reported that he will be meeting with Natalie Muruato, Economic Development Director, to work on the publications

that will need to be published for the NRP Incentive Plan. Mr. Mason also stated that he will have an upcoming appeal to work on and he will research an hourly rate to charge for this appeal.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, hauled rock, mowed roadsides, replaced pipes in several locations, laid cold mix asphalt on the Airport Rd., hauled rip rap, and tore out bridge located at 24th Rd. and Buffalo Rd. and replaced it with a tank car and should finish it today. The Chairman signed the 3-year contract with APAC-Kansas, Inc to furnish labor, materials, and equipment required for the performance of the described work for Clay County.

The Board signed a letter of support to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management to send along with the application requesting funding for the placement of a storm shelter at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer stated that he had received the invoice and the Lucas mechanical compression device equipment and will be setting a date to put into service after all training has been completed. Mr. Cramer stated that they had a booth set up at Piotique with the Lucas in action and people were very interested. The Department continues to stay busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers.

The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee in the Treasurer's Office to attend a meeting in Lincoln, Kansas.

The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee in the Register of Deeds Office to attend a meeting in Lincoln, Kansas.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Board signed two Event Approvals for employees of the Sheriff's Department to attend training in Hutchinson, Kansas and Hays, Kansas.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to discuss the County's Insurance compared to Medicare and the savings. Commissioner Mayo stated that the Health Insurance is a benefit offered to the employees. If an employee opts out of the insurance, they are not compensated for the benefit. Mr. Knoettgen presented a quote from Clay County Lumber for a DeWalt 20V Max ½ gallon wet/dry portable vacuum and cleaning kit in the amount of \$244.46. The Board granted permission to purchase the DeWalt wet/dry portable vacuum and cleaning kit in the amount of \$244.46.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to discuss the zoning on a few parcels. The Board granted permission for Mr. Mesalles to get prices on replacement office chairs.

The Board received a request from North Central Kansas Down Syndrome Society asking Clay County to proclaim October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Also, the NCKDSS will celebrate the annual Buddy Walk on October 3rd, in Clyde Kansas and ask you to join them and the 500+ people already registered for this very important event. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to proclaim the month

of October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Clay County. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board granted permission for an employee of the Courthouse to take a 3 week leave of absence without pay from the County. Employee will be required to pay for the employee and the County's share of the health insurance and will not accumulate leave hours during the leave of absence.

The Board adjourned at 12.40 p.m.

Eric A. Carlson, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
October 4, 2021
Clay Center, Kansas