

September 28, 2020

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 7:45 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Payroll in the amount of \$64,721.54 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Logan Fickes and Zachary Stitt, 4-H Ambassadors, 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 for National 4-H Week. 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, having supported almost six million youth across the country thus far; and has helped 110 youth in Clay County, Kansas to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders. The Board of Clay County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2020 as NATIONAL 4-H WEEK throughout Clay County, Kansas, and encourage all of our citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and continues to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Austin Gillard, CEO CCMC, met with the Board to give an update on the Medical Center. Mr. Gillard reported that CCMC has hired four additional staff members to run the Cerner Electronic Records Program and that the increased work load will not be put on current staff members. The Riley Clinic open house went very well. An estimated 100 individuals toured the facility. They will start seeing patients on October 5th. CCMC has made a large investment in equipment for video conferencing. Video conferencing is the way that meetings are being held now days, so this equipment is important for training sessions and for several types of meetings. Mr. Gillard reported that two years ago the Medical Center implemented a program called MDsave. This is a program to help local residents without insurance or with high-deductible health plans save money and get more of the medical care they need. Through the MDsave marketplace (<https://www.mdsave.com/ccmc>), patients have access to a wide variety of medical procedures at prices that are up to 60 percent off the average rate, as well as simplified billing and educational resources. This is a pay cash program that allows services at a low cash price. This program has been very beneficial to a lot of patients. Earlier this year CCMC received an award that they were in the top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in United States. This week they received word that they are now in the top 10 Critical Access Hospitals in the United States. Mr. Gillard stated that this is a real honor to have received this award.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded dirt and rock roads, replaced bridge planks at four locations, mowed roadsides in the eastern part of the County, did ditch work, removed trees, and trimmed trees. Closed road, replaced a culvert on 24th Rd. between Prairie Rd. and Quail Rd., poured flowable fill, laid asphalt and opened road. Closed road, replaced culvert on Cherokee Rd. between 7th Rd. and 8th Rd., poured flowable fill, laid asphalt and opened road. The sign crew went out and replaced and repaired signs. Several tires on the lowboy trailer had to be replaced. Made deliveries of culverts that were purchased to several landowners. Delivered two loads of sealing chips to the City of Clifton. A bid was received from Mel's Plumbing for the placement of a gas line and a new water line for the installation of the power washer in the amount of \$2,660. The Board granted permission for Mel's Plumbing to install the gas line and the water line for the install of the new power washer. Permission was granted to purchase two Microsoft

Office Professional 2019 in the amount of \$439.99 each from Networks Plus for the two new laptops that were purchased.

Jake Young met with the Board to pay the fee for the CMB License for the first Annual Ian Roetman Memorial Ball Tournament that will be held on October 3, 2020 at the Fairground ballfields. Mr. Young provided the Board with a layout of the beer garden along with the I.D. Check point and the beer sales location. The Board approved and the Chairman and the County Clerk signed the Cereal Malt Beverage License.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that the Department had a very busy weekend with emergency runs and out of town transfers. An invoice to be paid for out of the SPARKS fund in the amount of \$13,339 for the purchase of the CAPR Helmets was signed and approved by the Board. Only one estimate was received for the classroom flooring from Chris Fyfe in the amount of \$11,000. This estimate included the removal of the carpet, grinding the entire concrete floor and staining the concrete. The Board granted permission to accept the estimate from Chris Fyfe in the amount of \$11,000 to refinish the flooring in the classroom. This will be a project that is paid for out of the SPARKS funds. Medic 8 is back from the Wilder Autobody and back in service.

Arnie Knoettgen, County Maintenance, met with the Board to discuss the inventory of faucets that could possibly be changed to the Sloan Optima Battery Powered Hand Washing Faucets. The corrected total cost for the faucet and the installation is approximately \$600 each. This will be paid for out of the SPARKS funds. The inventory list was reviewed and it was decided which faucets would be replaced. The Board instructed Mr. Knoettgen to move forward on this project and to order the faucets. Mr. Knoettgen reported that he was not able to find a Billy Goat Over Seeder in close vicinity. The Board stated that they really did not want to pay PrairieStone for the over seeding and then purchase one too. When the County could purchase one and use it every year. The Board instructed Mr. Knoettgen to try and find a Billy Goat Over Seeder and have it shipped if it could be here soon.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Jimmy Thatcher, Mayor of Clay Center and Dr. Timothy Penner, County Medical Director, joined the meeting. Ms. Rickley reported that Clay County was reporting a total of 56 positive cases, following 3 active cases and 6 contacts. The Health Department has followed a total of 185 contacts relating to the 56 positive cases. Ms. Rickley also reported that the mask wearing is going well at school and they really want to keep the kids able to continue going to school. Nursing Homes are required to do a lot of testing on the employees and the residents at this time. Ms. Rickley stated that she will be sending the businesses in Clay County a letter asking for their input and opinions on making Masks Mandatory. Mayor Thatcher stated that this is Community Health verses the spirit of the Community. With the optional mask wearing the people have continued to stay and shop local. The City has had the highest sales tax income months that they have ever had. Mr. Thatcher is concerned that if we make it mandatory masks that this could change the spirit of the citizens. Ms. Kemp stated that they are not asking to make it mandatory, that they are making a recommendation so that our community will be more proactive in wearing a mask. There are now studies that prove that wearing masks does make a difference. Dr. Penner stated that he has visited with 100% of the Medical Doctors in Clay Center and that they are all in support of wearing a mask. All of them are just trying to prevent

the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Ms. Kemp stated that she feels that we should encourage people to wear masks and that the businesses should feel like we support them also. Mayor Thatcher stated that this is really hard to enforce since it is not a law. The Board agreed for Ms. Rickley to send the letter out to the businesses and to see how they felt about the mask mandate. Ms. Kemp informed the Board she has been granted the EOC Grant that she applied for in the amount of \$15,066. This will be used to purchase new tables and chairs for the ESA classroom.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report.

Chandra Schwab, County Health Registered Nurse, Dana Rickley, County Health Director, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk, met with the Board to discuss a clerical error that was made on a Health Insurance deduction. Ms. Schwab stated that she had received notice of this on Friday and had visited with Ms. Wang. It was decided to discuss this issue with the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Schwab expressed that she had a family and would not be able to pay the amount requested back. The Board stated that they understand that errors do happen and they understand that this would be a hardship on Ms. Schwab to pay back. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to pay for this error out of employee benefits and to dismiss the request for the employee to pay. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
October 2, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas