

October 26, 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.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Commissioners to provide an update on the Medical Center. Mr. Gillard reported that CCMC will begin extending the hours of the Convenient Care Unit to include weekdays, Monday-Friday, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The new weekdays hours will start on Monday November 2nd, 2020. An appointment will be required and only 4 appointments per weekday will be allowed due to COVID-19 screening process and the cleaning of each exam room. Convenient Care Clinic is also offered on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Gillard presented the Board with a Resolution and drawing of the substantial need for the renovation of the dietary facility located within CCMC. This would be located where the old lab used to be. There would be a spacious dining room and a courtyard outside for individuals to enjoy. This would be paid for by HHS Stimulus Funds. The plan is to start this project in mid-December. After much discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-12 giving the authorization to proceed with the renovation of the dietary facility located within CCMC. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Thurlow asked Mr. Gillard to clarify that the hospital currently does not have any Intensive Care Units. Mr. Gillard stated that they do not have actual ICU rooms but they have two Advance Care Rooms. Currently they have two Negative Pressure Rooms that are used for COVID patients and that they are looking into turning 11 more rooms in to Negative Pressure Rooms to have if needed. CCMC have purchased two COVID testing machines so that results can be received within a few hours and not days later.

The Board received notice from Butch Hess, American Legion, that the Pearl Harbor Service that was to be held on December 7th, 2020 has been cancelled.

Abatements 2019A57 and 2019A58 in the amount of \$45.80 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, mowed roadsides, sprayed tree stumps, fixed a driveway, picked up used oil, cleaned ditches and cut trees on Thunder Rd. between 21st Rd. and 22nd Rd., a ditching project that involved cutting down a hill on Indian Rd. between 11th Rd. and 12th Rd. and made sure that all of the blades and salt and sand spreaders were ready for winter weather. They winterized all summer equipment and put away for the winter. Now that Harvest has completed, they will work on jobs that involve closing a road down for a period of time. Bids to purchase Wheeled Excavator were reviewed as follows:

Foley Equipment – Caterpillar Model M320F Wheeled Excavator - \$312,027

Foley Equipment – DEMO Caterpillar Model M320F Wheeled Excavator - \$304,791

Both units include one-year standard warranty, extended 84 months warranty, 60" Ditch Cleaning Bucket, Dymax: Vortex-Max 60" Mower, and Mounting Bracket. Mr. Shomper stated that they tried different brands such as Volvo and John Deere and did not recommend them because of safety issues. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the new Caterpillar Model M320F Wheeled Excavator in the amount of \$312,027. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The bids for financing of the above purchase were reviewed as follows: This will be for two years with one annual payment per year.

GNCBank – 2.24%

Farmers & Merchants State Bank – 1.15%
Union State Bank – 1.90%
United Bank & Trust – 2.36%
Caterpillar Financing – 2.50%

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to accept the bid from Farmers & Merchants State Bank in the amount of 1.15%. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board signed an Event Approval for two employees of the Highway Department to attend a meeting in Salina, Kansas.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, if an employee tests positive, the Department Head is instructed to send the employee home to stay for the duration of the time that is directed by the County Health Director. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer reported that the Department continues to stay busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. The Department is taken all of the precautions that are available with the increase of positive cases of COVID in the County. The capper hoods arrived last week and they have received the training and have put them to use with being cautious and staying safe in transporting a patient. Mr. Cramer wanted to state in the minutes that it was not a Clay County ambulance and it was not the EMS Department that was in the Trump Rally parade that was held last week.

Shannon Stark, Chamber of Commerce, met with the Board to give an update on Travel & Tourism and the EDG. Monte Green, EDG Chairman and Steve McMahan, EDG Vice Chairman joined the meeting. Mr. Green stated that Ms. Huber had resigned in October and that EDG is trying to figure out what would work best for them. Ms. Stark and the Chamber Board has approached EDG and has stated that they both have similar interest for the individuals of Clay County. EDG wants to get the most out of the budget that they have to work with and the Chamber struggles to continue their services. Both Boards have met together to see if they were to combine together, they would still have two separate missions but overlap a lot of services. Mayor Jimmy Thatcher joined the meeting. EDG continues to have day to day items that have to continue to be done, so they have appointed Ms. Stark as Interim Economic Development Director to provide these services. There is no time set to hire a new Director at this time. The Chamber Director/Travel & Tourism is a part-time position and the Interim Director is also part-time. Commissioner Carlson stated that he wants to express that he is concerned with it being Clay County Economic Development and Clay Center Chamber of Commerce and that the entire County needs to be served with the Economic Development Director position. Ms. Stark stated that together she feels we can do more for all of the County. Mr. McMahan stated that services for both entities like the phones and the internet are separate and they could be combined. The employees would be able to answer the phone for both services. There needs to be a public face for the Economic Development position. They will continue to work on this idea and keep the Commissioner informed. Ms. Stark gave a report on Travel & Tourism and provided copies of the ads that will be printed in the 2020-2021 Annual Kansas Travel Guide, the Kansas Byways, and the Kansas Magazine representing Clay County. Ms. Stark reported that she has been in contact with the new Short Stop about the possibility of placing a Visitor Display with a Point of Interest map for Clay County in it.

The Board granted permission for the Covenant Church to provide free hot dogs on the Square on October 30th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Halloween Howl.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager and Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that Clay County has had an increase with COVID positive cases. We are currently have had 101 positive cases with 22 still being active. They are following 57 contacts. Ms. Kemp stated that individuals are still having problems understanding the different stages of being quarantined. They are trying to provide educational materials to these individuals. Ms. Rickley reported that she has received \$32,000 for Trauma Informed Care and is working with Pawnee Mental Health to provide Teleconference for patients to be able to attend their sessions without traveling. She also received \$25,000 for Overdose Date Grant that involves the State, County, and Cities and is working with Riley County Community Correction to provide drug screenings in our County. Also, County Health received \$19,000 for staffing and infrastructure for providing service in the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to give a report on the Building Permits in Clay County. Mr. Mesalles reported that since July they have one new home permit issued for a total of 7 for the year 2020. At this time a total of 89 permits have been issued in 2020. This is compared to 109 issued in 2019. The Board felt that this was still a good number of permits for this year with everything going on with the pandemic. Commissioner Mayo asked about the Keystone Pipeline and when the ten-year exemption would be completed so that it could be put on the tax roll. Mr. Mesalles said that it should be valued and placed on the tax roll in 2021, but has a feeling that they may protest the value and it could be held up in Court.

Arnie Knoettgen, Clay County Maintenance, informed the Board that the flooring to be replaced in the public area at County Health is estimated at a cost of \$5,000. This will be paid for out of the SPARKS Funds. Also Mr. Knoettgen asked to purchase 50 bags of Ice Melt from Clay County Lumber in the amount of \$9.99 per bag. This is the same price as last year. Permission was granted to purchase 50 bags of ice melt from Clay County Lumber.

Commissioner Thurlow stated that they needed to discuss the Business Grant applications that were received. Commissioner Mayo excused himself from the discussion and exited the room. The Grants were reviewed and each one was discussed. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to accept the Business Disaster Assistance Program Grants as previously decided for the Businesses that applied for the Grant in the amount of \$500,000 that the County allocated from the SPARKS Funds. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

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