

November 2, 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. Payroll in the amount of \$189,625.13 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account Payables in the amount of \$428,655.33 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, placed rip rap at a bridge located at 23rd Rd. and Meadowlark Rd., rip rap placed on Quail Rd between 9th Rd. and 10th Rd., finished ditch work on 17th Rd. between Indian Rd. and Jayhawk Rd., and worked in the shop inventorying all tools and machinery. Mr. Shomper reported that the two laptops that were approved for purchase have been back ordered and now they are not sure when they would arrive, so Mr. Shomper cancelled the order on the laptops and ordered two desktop computers from Central Office Service & Supply and they have already arrived in the office just waiting to be installed. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to trade the current mini Excavator in with a payment of \$6,000 to receive a new mini excavator with an angled blade. This will be paid for out of the Road & Bridge Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Dr. Kelly and Mr. Cramer discussed keeping all of the EMS staff safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Kelly requested that Mr. Cramer close the EMS Building to the public. The phone numbers are posted on the doors for the public to call if they need to contact them. The Department continues to be busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. Medic #3 had a code check engine light come on and they have stated that they need to replace the fan clutch and wiring harness replaced at an estimated cost of \$800. The Kansas Board of EMS did a random spot inspection on all of the vehicles within the Department and no deficiencies were found.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to re-appoint Herbert Mugler to another two-year term on the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors. His concern for seniors and family caregivers is a great asset to Clay County and to the entire area. The term of this appointment begins on January 1, 2021 and expires on December 31, 2022. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to re-appoint Sara Brockman to the Big Lakes Developmental Center's Board of Directors for another three-year term. The current term is due to expire on January 1, 2021. Ms. Brockman is a great asset in representing Clay County on this Board. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kayla Wang, County Clerk, presented the Board with a Proclamation for them to sign declaring Monday November 2, 2020 as Election Worker Appreciation Day. The Proclamation stated that:

- Whereas, the long hours Clay County election workers spend training and preparing for their 14-hour shifts at the polls on election day are unseen by most members of the public; and

- Whereas, Clay County election workers serve to protect universal suffrage and the fair and open conduct of transparent elections; and
- Whereas, Clay County election workers deserve the public's thanks for their selfless personal commitment to protect the right of every citizen to cast a secret ballot.
- Now, therefore let it known that the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas, does hereby proclaim Monday, November 2, 2020 to be "Election Worker Appreciation Day" throughout Clay County.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to sign the Proclamation claiming November 2, 2020 as Election Worker Appreciation Day. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The 2021 County Holidays Schedule, Payroll Schedule and the Accounts Payable Payment Schedule was presented to the Board. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to approve all schedules as presented. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, joined the meeting by phone. Jimmie Thatcher, Mayor of Clay Center, joined the meeting. Ms. Rickley reported that the County has had a substantial increase in positive cases within the last week. This also causes an additional increase in the contract tracing. Ms. Rickley is concerned that she does not have enough staff to handle this large increase in the tracing and her staff is working an extreme number of hours. The National Guard will be here on Tuesday November 3, to assist with the COVID testing at Apollo Towers and Parkview. The testing is all voluntary for the residents that live in either place. Ms. Kemp stated that on the EM Regional call that was held that morning, all neighboring counties are also seeing an increase in the positive cases and the contact tracing. Mayor Thatcher asked the Board if they were considering making the wearing of a mask mandatory. The Board asked what his opinion was on the masks, and he stated that he was against the mandate. The Board stated that at this time they would not be making it mandatory, but they are asking the public that if you cannot practice the 6-foot social distancing then they should be considerate and wear a mask.

Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Dunn stated that he has an employee that has had surgery and would like to make a request for the donation of 7 hours of sick leave from the Clay County Sick Leave Pool. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to donate 7 hours of sick leave from the Clay County Sick Leave Pool. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Dunn also asked permission to advertise for a full-time jailer position that will become vacant at the end of the year and for a full time Deputy position that will become vacant in January. Permission was granted to place employment ads for both positions.

A request was received from Dalanna Nichols stating that earlier the Board of Commissioners had approved the purchase of audio equipment for the Courtroom from Redi-Systems. Since then Redi-Systems has had issues with getting the equipment. They had informed Ms. Nichols that the unit is still 4-6 weeks out but that there is another unit that they could get sooner,

however it is \$700 more than the first one that was approved. If they Board would want to get the more expensive unit, Redi System would split the cost with the County so that it would be an additional cost of \$350 over the project total. After discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to not approve any additional funds for this project. They will need to wait for the unit that was originally approved. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioner adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
November 9, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas