

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 13, 2020

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 13th day of April 2020 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse. Commissioner Dlabal was absent from the meeting until 10:25 a.m.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Kermit Rush, 2nd District Commissioner

Stephen S. Dlabal, Jr, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

Vice Chairman Rolfs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Rush moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Rush moved to approve the Minutes for April 6 & 7, 2020. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

No one was present for the open forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed, Landfill & Recycling Supervisor, asked when Harold Griffith can start on the excavation of the landfill pit. She was told to ask Kirkham Michael since they were overseeing the project. Ms. Shute wanted to know what to tell an upset patron wanting to know why the landfill lease was not put up for bid in the newspaper. She was told there are no statues on leasing County land. Commissioner Rush said they were very happy when Jake Svaty cleaned up the land. Commissioner Rolfs said, "Whenever you have a good renter, you hate to lose them".

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Supervisor, informed the Commissioners that she received a grant for \$13,156 for COVID-19 relief. Commissioner Rolfs asked what the situation is on getting more testing for COVID-19? Ms. Ehrlich said Ellsworth County has not received any more testing and has not been given any indication of when the County may receive more. Ms. Ehrlich conveyed that she had ordered sanitizer from the Boot Hill Distillery in Dodge City. They are only doing this by donation so she asked if the County would donate \$30. Commissioner Rush made a motion to donate \$30 to the Boot Hill Distillery, LLC for hand sanitizer.

Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Rush made a motion to approve the agreement with Eugene Ranker to mow the grass and maintain the landscape at the Health Department for \$60 each time as needed. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Keith Haberer, Emergency Management Director, commented that the Governor's Order ends on April 19, 2020. If it is not extended, the Ellsworth County Safer at Home Order will go into effect.

Stephen S. Dlabal, Jr. took over as Chairman for the remainder of meeting.

Andrew Bair, Ellsworth County Medical Center (ECMC) Administrator, requested the Commissioners to support ECMC if contacted about the CARES Act. Mr. Bair was told he was granted the loan for \$1.9 million April 7, 2020 and if he kept all the current employees it would turn into a grant. On April 10, 2020 they called him back and said that ECMC did not qualify for the loan. Even though their volume is down 50 percent, he knows when COVID-19 blows over they are going to be really busy so he cannot afford to lose his staff. Mr. Bair's number one responsibility is to keep the hospital open and they are currently at high risk.

Commissioner Rush moved to go into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss benefits with Keith Haberer and Kerianne Ehrlich from 10:35 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:50 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Rush moved to go into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss benefits with Keith Haberer and Kerianne Ehrlich from 10:52 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 11:05 a.m. Commissioners returned to open session. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to give the Health Department Administrator a \$1.00 raise. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rush moved to approve the Lease with Jake Svaty for farmland and grassland by the landfill and hospital. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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