

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

June 24, 2019

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 24th day of June 2019 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Kermit Rush, 2nd District Commissioner

Stephen S. Dlabal, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Rush moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for June 17, 2019 as printed. Commissioner Rush seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Keith Haberer, Ellsworth & Russell County Emergency Management Director, was in attendance but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Rush made a motion to go into executive session with **Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Supervisor**, to discuss non-elected personnel wages from 9:05 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioners returned to open session at 9:10 a.m. with no action taken. Ms. Ehrlich requested to open the Health Department at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate individuals needing to have appointments before 8:00 a.m. The Health Department would close at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays so the extra hour would not create overtime. Although no motion was made, Commissioners granted the Health Department to open at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and close at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays effective July 1st.

Murray Marston, Ellsworth County Sheriff, informed the Commissioners that if he loses one more employee, the Sheriff's Office will not be able to house inmates. The State of Kansas just

provided employees with a 15% increase. Ellsworth's hiring pool is low. He would like to increase his jail staff starting wage from \$15.40 to \$18.26.

Theresa Richards, Chris Erichson, Marilyn Huslig and Jodi Chase, representing the Ellsworth Senior Center, presented the Senior Center's 2020 budget for \$31,800, a \$4,800 increase or 17.8%. The large increase was so the Senior Center could give the head cook a raise, because North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging only pays minimum wage. Also, the City of Ellsworth had not expected the Senior Center to pay their water bill until this year.

Joyce Langhofer and Richard Whitmer, representing the Wilson Senior Center, present the Senior Center 2020 budget request for \$29,000 an increase of \$7,000 or 31.8%.

Trudy Berthelson, Sharon Nelson, Terri Parks, Ronny Soukup, Susan Soukup, Marilyn Dumler and Jake Svaty wanted to be heard after learning a housing project planned to build 12 houses in the Canren edition of Ellsworth City. Mr. Svaty farms the field right next to the location of these houses and believes when he sprays the field, he will be the one who receives the calls with complaints. Ms. Nelson felt it was unethical to not contact the current homeowners to inform them of the meetings commencing on this project. The Commissioners signed a letter of support on January 14, 2019 for the grant on this project. At the time, the placement of the houses had not been picked but they supported the houses being built in Ellsworth County. Stacie Schmidt, Smoky Hill Economic Director, thanked everyone for being civil. Ms. Schmidt will contact the contractor for a meeting with the tenants living in the Canren edition.

Stacie Schmidt, Smoky Hill Economic Director, asked the Commissioners to consider revising Resolution 16-R-07, a resolution allowing companies in Ellsworth County to offer an incentive to new employees that helps pay on student loans for 5 years, but the County stated they would allocate \$0.00. Commissioner Rolfs made a motion to approve resolution 19-R-05, a resolution in which Ellsworth County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, Foundations and any other approved entities for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. This would allow the County to contribute if they choose to in the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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