

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

December 12, 2016

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 12th day of December 2016 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Albert W. Oller, 1st District Commissioner

Kermit Rush, 2nd District Commissioner

Terry L. Kueser, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Kueser moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Oller seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Oller moved to approve the Minutes of November 28, 2016. Commissioner Kueser seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Pastor Billy Kryger was in attendance but did not wish to address the Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

Jamie Rathbun, Michelle Beran and Kashly Schweer, Midway Extension District, updated the Commissioners for the fall season. Ms. Rathbun stated she has been busy at the grade school and daycare trying to keep them healthier by teaching them to speed hand wash before they eat. She has helped 173 individuals with their Medicare decisions this year. Ms. Beran informed the Commissioners that the Ellsworth and Russell fair will be on during the same week this year, but luckily they are fully staffed with four agents this year. Ms. Schweer has been focusing on the struggling agriculture economy. Soon they will be conducting a beef county workshop, where producers can ask all the questions they need answers to.

Teresa Shute, Noxious Weed & Landfill Supervisor, briefed the Commissioners on the drone that will be taking pictures and spray painting the landfill for free. Kirkham & Michael wants practice for Jerry Froese who is certified to use the drone. Ms. Shute has one bad well out of three at the landfill. The well has volatile organic chemicals in it. State will be monitoring the well every 3 months. At the request of Teresa Shute, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes. Commissioner Oller

seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 9:55 a.m., Commissioners returned to open session with no action taken.

Cameron Epard, Airstream Energy, and Mark Brady, Polsinelli Attorney, wanted to discuss the Cross County Wind Project with Commissioners. Also in attendance for the meeting were Kenton Janzen, PJ Kasper, Carl Miller, Joe Shepack, Peggy Svaty and Janice Sneath. Mr. Epard explained that he wants the Commissioners to pass a resolution before the end of the year, so the company that constructs the wind towers can still receive 100 percent of the Federal production tax credits. The Commissioners were assured that they still had the power to negotiate a reasonable contribution or in lieu of taxes or the contract would be terminated. The Commissioners feel they are at a disadvantage because new legislation leaves the Kansas Board of Tax appeals in control of the tax credits. Commissioners agreed to have the Public Hearing for Cross-County Wind Power Project next Monday, December 19th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to appoint Doug Stefek as Ellsworth County's Central Kansas Mental Health Representative. Commissioner Oller seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Oller moved to approve the following resolutions:

16R13 A Resolution Transferring from the Road & Bridge Fund to the Special Machinery Fund.

16R14 A Resolution Transferring from the Health Fund to the Health Capital Outlay Fund

16R15 A Resolution Transferring From the General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund
Commissioner Kueser seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Rush adjourned the meeting at 12 Noon.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk