

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

8:30 a.m.

County Board Room - 3rd Floor - Courthouse

MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with all Commissioners present: Campbell, Evert, Gross, Ingersoll and Weyland. County Administrator Brian C. Berg, Assistant County Attorney Jenny Samarzja, and Senior Administrative Assistant Vicki Reek were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Evert, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved with the removal from Consent Agenda for discussion of the Reintegration Advance Planning (RAP) Program.

APPROVAL TO REAPPOINT PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

By consent agenda, and as recommended by the Planning Commission, the Board reappointed Mr. Dan Langseth and Mr. David Heng to their third three-year terms on the Clay County Planning Commission representing rural Clay County.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present who wished to address the Board.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Ms. Delaine Vogel, Sheriff's Office Associate and Central Postage Administrative Clerk, was recognized for her 15 years of service to Clay County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Gross, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the June 18 & 25, 2013 County Board meetings were approved as presented.

UPDATE: REINTEGRATION ADVANCE PLANNING (RAP) PROGRAM

Reintegration Advance Planning (RAP) program Officer Luke Myklebust updated the Board regarding the RAP program, which addresses post incarceration needs for inmates, reduces recidivism, and provides cost savings to the County by reducing jail overcrowding. Also reduced are costs for public defenders, prosecutors, court, transportation, medical expenses, police officers, etc. Other benefits include enhancement of public safety through reduction of the offender's risk to the community upon release, and better quality of life for individuals going through the RAP program. The RAP team members include jail administration, jail nurse, probation, Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Social Services, Lakeland Mental Health, Veterans Services, Child Support, and Financial Services.

DISCUSSION RE: TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS

Planning and Environmental Programs Director Tim Magnusson informed the Board that in 2012 Clay County received two applications from companies seeking to participate in the Tax Abatement program. At the time the applications were received, the County was in the process of revising its Business Subsidy Policy and no immediate action was taken except to determine whether or not there was a 'gap' in the applicant's available financing that could be filled by a financial subsidy. No funding gap was found in either application.

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board denied the tax abatement applications from Silverland Properties (Lee Veterinary Clinic) and Alderon Holdings, LLC (Alderson Industries), due to the fact that there was not a gap in either applicant's available financing, and that the Business Subsidy Policy did not address tax abatements.

Mr. Magnusson informed the Board that tax abatements can sometimes be used to increase the early return-on-investment (ROI) for a project. This type of assistance can help a new company increase the ROI by reducing its tax liability and therefore its expenses for a set number of years. It may provide some new or expanding businesses the financial boost necessary to firmly establish themselves in the market and ensure their viability well beyond the term of the subsidy. The Clay County Business Subsidy Policy does not address using a business subsidy to improve an applicant's ROI for either a new project or an expansion. Commissioner Campbell felt this option should be discussed by staff and/or the Economic Development Authority for possible inclusion in the Clay County Business Subsidy Policy.

CLAY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Planning & Environmental Programs Director Tim Magnusson informed the Board that the City of Comstock has determined that they will not participate in the Clay County Economic Development Authority (EDA). In June, the County Board received a resolution from Highland Grove Township as to their intent to participate in the EDA.

INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT RECEPTION AREA RECONFIGURATION

Social Service Director Rhonda Porter requested the Board's approval to reconfigure the reception area in the Income Maintenance Unit, citing the need for better flow in the lobby area and improved confidentiality for clients. Ms. Porter estimated \$13,650 for the project, which would involve minor construction, patching carpet/tile, and adjustment of modular furniture. 50% of the project is eligible for reimbursement via the Federal Financial Participation, and the remaining 50% would be paid for from the 2013 dollars budgeted under Professional Services in the Income Maintenance Unit.

On motion by Weyland, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved reconfiguration of the reception area as requested and described by Ms. Porter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Commissioner Evert attended a Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership meeting.

Commissioner Gross attended an information session concerning prevention of Elderly Abuse, and a public hearing in the City of Hawley regarding RDO's planned expansion.

Commissioner Ingersoll attended the Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership meeting.

County Administrator Brian Berg reported on a conference call with bond counsel concerning the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District's \$2 million bond sale July 9, 2013, personnel evaluations, 2014 budget, remodeling at the Department of Motor Vehicles, concerns regarding the Buffalo River Race Park, and an upcoming special wedding ceremony on August 1st.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS AND VOUCHERS

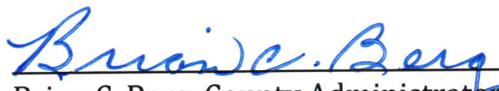
On motion by Weyland seconded by Gross, and unanimously carried, the bills and vouchers were approved for payment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.



Wayne Ingersoll, Chair
Clay County Board of Commissioners



Brian C. Berg, County Administrator