

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Missel at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None. Prior to roll call Chairman Missel announced the meeting to be an open public meeting and that the current open meeting laws are posted on the wall and available for anyone's review.

The Board unanimously declared the meeting legally convened.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as printed and received and placed on file county officials' reports, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding changes in channel lineup, Certificates of Insurance for Coranco Great Plains, Inc., Eveland Supply Co., Inc. and Norm's Dozer Service Inc., NIRMA Safety Shorts for June 2024, Utility Installation Agreement with Great Plains Communications to install a fiber optic cable in Sections 11, 12 & 7, T17N, R6E & 7E and Moving Permits for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane and equipment over county roads on May 29 & 30 and June 5 & 6 to Wholystone Foods and return.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 29, 2024 meeting as printed.

At 9:05 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors and convened as a Board of Corrections. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 43 inmates in custody with 31 being held in Saunders County, 10 in Washington County, 1 in Platte County and 1 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. In the month of May there were 151 inmates booked into custody.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 9:05 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$303,956.15.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$384,129.32.

The Board unanimously approved giving the City of Fremont \$100,000 towards the maintenance cost needed to repair the Kavich Parking lot located across the street east of the Dodge County Courthouse. This approval is contingent on the City's approval to move forward with the repairs and that it remains a free parking lot. Chairman Missel said Mayor Spellerberg called him and asked if the County would be willing to participate in sharing the cost of repairs to the parking lot. He said the finance committee has considered this and they think it needs to be approved at the Board level.

Supervisor Backens asked if there is a timeframe for completing the repairs. Chairman Missel said the City has not taken formal action on this so there is no estimated completion date, but they have stated their intentions to make the repairs. It was agreed that the County does need parking which makes this a necessary expenditure.

The Board unanimously approved the Agreement with the Lancaster County Youth Services Center for juvenile detention services and authorized the County Board of Supervisors and the County Attorney to sign the Detention Services Agreement. County Attorney Hopkins told the Board that this is a continuation of the existing contract and the daily rate to house juveniles was increased. She said using detention facilities for juveniles is a last resort. The County does use Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services in Madison, Nebraska as well. She said their daily rates are cheaper, but they want \$40,000 a year to allow preferential placements for Dodge County. She added that there is also a facility in Iowa they can use, but transportation costs are higher.

The Board unanimously authorized the Dodge County Clerk's Office to repay loans on interfund loan accounts created by an audit adjusting entry for 6/30/2023. County Clerk Gilfry said this is a bookkeeping cleanup item. It was not approved as a separate item when the audit was approved and she said the auditor would like to see this authorization in the meeting minutes.

Sheriff Weitzel recognized Sergeant Gabrielle Frank for being selected the VFW law enforcement officer of the year in Nebraska. She was nominated by Cheryl Feala from the North Bend VFW Post and was presented with the honor on June 8, 2024 at the annual Nebraska VFW Convention. Sergeant Frank explained that a few years ago Jerry Halladay from the North Bend VFW told her that he was going to nominate her for VFW officer of the year in Nebraska. She said Jerry was a huge supporter of law enforcement and it was his dream for Sergeant Frank to receive this honor. Mr. Halladay passed away 2 years ago, which made the honor even more meaningful for Sergeant Frank.

The Board considered the NIRMA/NIRMA II 2024-2025 Insurance Billing Statement that represents a 3.49 percent increase over the past fiscal year and unanimously authorized the payment of the premium with no changes to the existing deductibles. Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews told the Board that it is her opinion that raising the deductibles will not make a significant difference. The total annual contribution of \$368,874 will be paid on June 26.

The Board unanimously received bids opened on May 31, 2024 for 2024-2025 Road Gravel, accepted all bids and authorized the highway department to use their discretion as to which vendor to use based on the situation. Assistant Highway Superintendent Jean Andrews told the Board that the average cost last year was \$24.77/ton and this year it is \$25.85/ton.

The Board unanimously received a study letter from Dodge County Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert on the request of Elkhorn Township to possibly vacate County Road 29 north and south of the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad tracks. In a separate motion the Board adopted a Resolution of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors setting the Public Hearing for July 10, 2024 at 10:15 A.M. to hear testimony for and/or against the vacation of County Road 29 in this location. Superintendent

Huppert said he has not heard anything back from the UP Railroad in response to this possible closure.

Highway Superintendent Huppert reported that Project 654 (Scribner) is complete. Road graders are moving to Project #593 on County Road 24, north of the Herman-Scribner road on County Road F. Employees are cleaning corn stalks that came from the storms we have had this spring out of ditches. He said they are hauling the corn stalks to the Highway Department yard so they won't plug up the ditches again. The highway department has hired another employee that will be starting next week. Shredding can start again since the shredder is back after issues with the type of bolts used when repairing it. At the Highway Superintendent's Conference, Superintendent Huppert said state representatives were there and they discussed a lot of topics related to saving money. County highway representatives asked about projects to help pay for signage and barricades and more funds for bridge projects (including bridge inspections). Superintendent Huppert said he talked with other county highway officials about whether they charge for permits for various services. He said many counties charge for the permit to install a culvert; the permit covers dirt and the actual work done and the culvert is an additional charge. Dodge County only charges for the culvert and if the county does charge for any permits, it is a small fee. Some counties also charge a fee for utility permits and permits for heavy equipment moving through a county, Dodge County does not. Superintendent Huppert said he gathered this information so Dodge County could consider implementing similar policies. A preconference meeting is scheduled for July 2 to discuss plans for Platte River Road. The State has indicated that the second lane of the Highway 30 Bypass could be open by the end of June 2024.

The Board unanimously received a letter from Ed O'Neil stating he would like to continue serving on the Dodge County Veterans Service Committee for a 5-year term ending June 30, 2029 and approved the appointment of Mr. O'Neil for the 5-year term.

At 9:55 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 10:02 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the discussion of the claims. No action was taken on any of the claims as a result of the closed session.

At 10:02 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Missel, Tawney and Bendig.
Absent: Backens.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following for The Kroger Company: Certification of Final Decision and Order Upon Mandate for Case No. 20C 0124 and Case No. 21C 0385.

The Board unanimously received 2024 Property Valuation Protests #1 through #52.

The Board unanimously received June 12, 2024 Board Notices from County Assessor Churchill of her request for changes to valuations of parcels for 2024 and passed a motion approving and authorizing the County Clerk to mail notices to the owners of the properties.

At 10:10 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk