

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, August 25, 2021 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 official's report, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, the July 12, 2021 Board of Trustees Minutes & Financial Report from Fremont Community Health Resources for the one month ending July 31, 2021 and 2020, Minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting of the Dodge County Planning Commission, Notice of Public Hearing for the City of Fremont City Planning Commission to be held on August 16th, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. to hear the following requests: Conditional Use request for a drive-thru restaurant to be located at Northeast corner of E. 23rd Ave. and N. Luther Road and a request for Change of Zoning requested by Rodger and Debra Menn from GC, General Commercial to LI Light Industrial located at 325 W. County Road T, Moving Permits for Barnhart Crane to move self-propelled cranes over county roads on August 13-20, 2021 and correspondence from Platte Township Board Member Zach Taylor regarding the vacancy of a board member position that has been filled by Marlin Brabec for the remainder of the term.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 11, 2021 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 96 in custody and there have been 195 bookings for the month of August.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, September 8, 2021 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 and hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$237,518.70.

The Board unanimously approved a transfer of \$10,000 from Inheritance Tax Fund to the Flood Control Fund.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$310,409.96.

At 9:10 A.M., a Public Hearing was held on a proposal for Dodge County to issue educational facilities revenue bonds for the benefit of Midland University. Chairman Missel opened the public hearing for testimony. Jodi Benjamin, Vice President of Finance & Administration at Midland University was present to provide information and answer questions about the proposal. Ms. Benjamin explained that Midland is a tax exempt organization and they came before the Dodge County Board of Supervisors in 2016 and 2019 to request the county use their taxing authority to issue tax exempt bonds for the benefit of Midland University. She went on to say that this 2021 bond would be a refinancing of the two previously mentioned bonds. The reason they are wanting to do this now is to take advantage of the current low interest rates. The 2016 bond also has a balloon payment due in 2 years and this refinance would give them more time to repay and a lower interest rate. Chairman Missel told the Board that there would be no cost to the county to issue the bonds, but it would exhaust how much the county could issue in bank qualified bonds in this fiscal year. The county could still go out for a bond, it just would not be bank qualified. Robert Mulliken, Dodge County citizen, was present and asked why this is a county bond and not a city bond. Steve Likes of Kutak Rock explained that either the city or the county can issue these bonds; historically the county has been approached. Neither entity would be responsible for repayment of the bonds under this arrangement. County Attorney Paul Vaughan reiterated that this 2021 bond will retire the two older bonds from 2016 and 2019. He also said he had reviewed the resolution and is comfortable with it. Hearing no further testimony, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of a Resolution issuing bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$18,000,000 for the benefit of Midland University and authorized the necessary signatures on the resolution.

The Board unanimously finalized the 2021/2022 County Budget for a public hearing on September 8, 2021 at 10:15 A.M. County Clerk Mytty said the budget went from \$38 million last year to \$54 million this year. The reason for the increase is because of the \$7 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding and repayment of bank loans associated with the 2019 flooding. He also said the county valuation dropped. Supervisor Strand asked what the valuation decrease can be attributed to. Chairman Missel said the main factors for the decrease are the exemption on personal property for Lincoln Premium Poultry (approximately \$150 million), the drop in ag land values and the adjustment of valuations on commercial properties that were pushed higher than they should have been in 2020. He also said he is glad to see the tax levy remain the same as last year. Supervisor Bendig said he thinks this is a good budget and it is remarkable that they were able to hold the line considering all of the financial issues related to the 2019 flooding.

The Board unanimously received the 2021/2022 preliminary levy request from the Dodge County Historical Society.

The Board unanimously received the Certification of Taxable Value & Value Attributable to Growth for Tax Year 2021 for Dodge County.

The Board unanimously approved the request for and authorized Chairman Missel to sign a Special Designated License Local Recommendation (Form 200) for MAMAT AND PAPAD to serve beer, wine and distilled spirits at a wedding to be held at the Fremont SRA Group Lodge, 5350 W. State Lake Road, Fremont, Nebraska on September 18, 2021 from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 A.M. (9/19/21).

The Board unanimously received a list from County Treasurer Bargstadt of delinquent personal taxes for years 2012 to 2018 and accepted her recommendation to strike them from the tax rolls. County Treasurer Bargstadt said even though the

delinquent personal taxes are stricken from the tax rolls, they can still collect the taxes in the future if they make contact with the business or individual.

The Board unanimously received a list from County Treasurer Bargstadt of distress warrants issued on personal property but not collected.

The Board unanimously approved an Addendum to Contract to Provide Law Enforcement Services between the City of North Bend and Dodge County and authorized the necessary signatures on the document. Chairman Missel pointed out that a CPI adjustment is the only change being made; it does not change any of the services that Dodge County will provide. Supervisors Bendig and Backens asked if the dollar amount will change every year. Chairman Missel said the way the contract is written it sets the dollar amount for the next three years. County Attorney Vaughan said this does not prohibit the City of North Bend from coming back next year and asking for an adjustment.

The Board unanimously received proposals for the Rawhide Creek Watershed Work Plan – Environmental Assessment (NR216526XXXXC010) Project that were opened on August 17, 2021, accepted the recommendation of the Joint Water Management Advisory Board and awarded a bid contract to the low bidder, JEO Consulting Group. On June 2, 2021, the bid contract was awarded to Burns & McDonnell who has since dropped out.

Under any business brought by the public, Michaela Valentin, Government & Community Relations Manager – Public Affairs for Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Valentin said she has recently been assigned to our area and wanted to introduce herself to the Board. She handed out business cards to all members of the Board and told them to contact her if they have any issues or their constituents have any issues relating to OPPD.

At 9:30 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Mark J. Ortmeier of 6741 Ridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68512 to subdivide a 6.0 acre tract and obtain a Conditional Use Permit for an existing dwelling as per Article 12, Section 4.2. Exemptions, B located in the SW ¼ Section 6, Township 20 North, Range 6 East in Pebble Township, Zoning District A-1, Intensive Ag. No one spoke against the lot split or Conditional Use Permit. The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approved the request based on the conditional use conforms to the intent and purpose of the regulations and the use conforms to regulations of the district in which it is located.

The Board unanimously approved the reappointment of Becky Von Seggern to the Dodge County Board of Adjustment for another 3 year term ending August 31, 2024.

The Board unanimously approved the reappointment of Russell Rabeler to the Dodge County Board of Adjustment for another 3 year term ending August 31, 2024.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that she had attended the NIRMA board meeting last week and learned that if the Department of Insurance approves it, Dodge County will be receiving a dividend around December 2021. Ms. Andrews also reported that Marshall Tofte, Communications and Events Manager for NIRMA, is leaving and will be replaced by Brandy Johnson. Ms. Johnson has been a litigator for Dodge County and does many of the webinars on various topics for NIRMA.

The Board unanimously approved an Interlocal Agreement for Limited Road Maintenance between the City of Fremont and Dodge County and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreement. There was a road agreement in place, but the contractors don't want to sign it so another agreement was drawn up. These are for projects with the City of Fremont only. Chairman Missel said this agreement should help keep contractors accountable for maintaining the roads they are using for construction projects.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on current road projects. The bridge project on County Road 24 between County Roads G & H should be complete within the next two weeks. Workers have been cleaning the ditches out at East Gate. Superintendent Huppert said he spoke with the township and the residents at East Gate and told them the county will not be cleaning out culverts. If the residents want culverts cleaned out, they will have to do it themselves or replace the culvert at their expense. Next week he is meeting with Sawyer Construction regarding the Hooper North Logan Creek project and with J & R Concrete & Construction regarding the Ridgeland Road repaving project. Northern Natural Gas contacted Superintendent Huppert to let them know they would like to dig up their piling on the river. He told them they would have to wait until the repaving project is complete (mid-September) and has time to cure before he will let them bring their construction equipment onto Ridgeland Road. He continues inspections on the NEMA projects that will be sent back to FEMA after the inspections are complete. Chairman Missel said he met with Vertical Cold Storage representatives and reiterated to them that the paving project on County Road T will not be complete until next spring. Superintendent Huppert said they are still working through right-of-way issues and shoulder work should be done yet this year. He also told the Board he thinks the work on County Road T should progress east before going west.

Committee Reports – Chairman Missel reported that the subcommittee for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has a meeting scheduled for this afternoon.

At 10:02 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

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

At 10:03 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) cases.

At 10:16 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the discussion of the cases. No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

At 10:17 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk