

To be published in the Rustler Sentinel

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, November 3, 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 officials' reports, correspondence from JEO Consulting Group regarding coordination in the development of the Rawhide Creek Watershed Work Plan – Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) and invitation to an agency scoping meeting on November 18, 2021, Notification from the Federal Audit Clearinghouse that the Single Audit report for Dodge County has been submitted and will be processed, Financial Statements with Supplemental Information and Accompanying Independent Auditors' Reports for Dodge County for FY ending June 30, 2020 prepared by Bland & Associates, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding changes in channel lineup and Utility Installation Agreement with OPPD to install an underground primary cable located in the Public Right-of-Way between SE ¼ Section 13, T19N, R7E. The approval of the agenda also included an emergency agenda item regarding pending litigation against Dodge County. County Attorney Paul Vaughan said he needs an answer on this issue before Friday, November 5, 2021, so the timeliness makes it an emergency.

The Board, with Supervisor Beam abstaining since he was not present at the October 20 meeting, approved the minutes of the October 20, 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 90 inmates in custody with 65 being held in Saunders County, 21 in Washington County (female only), 1 in Butler County, 2 under house arrest and 1 with the state. He added that the numbers of females incarcerated has increased over the past few years and this increases the need for female corrections officers. County Attorney Vaughan said they are struggling with housing high needs prisoners. The state has more requirements to house these prisoners, which adds to the challenge. Supervisor Beam asked about the use of house arrest and County Attorney Vaughan said they are using it when they can, but many of the inmates are not eligible for house arrest due to safety and flight risks. He added that under the circumstances, the Sheriff is doing a good job of getting the prisoners where they need to be, but transportation is a rising concern that is being exacerbated by the need for corrections employees.

At 9:07 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 9:05 A.M.

hoping to close on the purchase by the end of the year, but that most likely will not happen. ALLO is already leasing this property and that lease agreement is in effect through the end of 2021. The next agenda item is an amendment to that lease agreement, which would extend it into next year and give ALLO time to close on the purchase.

The Board unanimously approved Amendment No. 1 to the Lease Agreement between City of Fremont, Dodge County and Allo Communications, LLC regarding the term of the lease and authorized the necessary signatures on the amendment.

The Board unanimously approved an Interlocal Agreement with Douglas County for Dodge County to replace a broadcast tower located at the 911 Technical Building, 3603 N. 156th St., Omaha, NE 68116 for the purpose of utilizing said tower to increase the performance of radio coverage for the existing Dodge County Sheriff's Judicial Center and County Courthouse Building and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the agreement. The original pole that was to accommodate Dodge County's radio system needs is full. This single pole will only have Dodge County equipment and will provide the redundancy and back-up capabilities that Dodge County needs.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution establishing supervisor districts in Dodge County after the 2020 Census and authorized the necessary signatures on the document. County Clerk Mytty explained that he worked with the City of Fremont on this so the County Board and City Council wouldn't split up precincts. He also said there is less than a 5% difference between the amount needed and the target amount in each district, so the end result falls within the guidelines of redistricting.

The Board unanimously approved a letter to Congressman Fortenberry regarding passage of the bipartisan State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act (S. 3011) and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the letter. Chairman Missel said the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) asked for support of this Act. Under this Act, counties could allocate up to \$10 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the provision of government services and \$10 million for infrastructure related activities. The flexibilities of this Act will give local entities more control over the Recovery Funds and will allow them to make decisions that will benefit local communities.

The Board considered a letter received from Wetlands America Trust, Inc. regarding a Wetland Reserve Easement on land located in Section 2, Township 20N, Range 6E, Dodge County, NE, parcel ID 270098098. Supervisor Strand pointed out that Executive Order No. 21-08, "Stop 30 x 30 – Protect our Land & Water" is mentioned in the first paragraph of this letter. The Board found this ironic since they passed a resolution of support for the Stop 30 x 30 effort at the last board meeting. According to Statute No. 76-2, 112, the approval of this Wetland Reserve Easement shall be made by the county board and if not approved, sent to the planning commission for review. If no decision is rendered within 60 days, the easement is automatically approved. Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert said he has been to see the land in question and said he is okay with the State draining more water into this wetland. He said it is currently a pasture. Supervisor Strand asked if this is part of the state's trade wetlands for wetlands program and Superintendent Huppert said it is not. He said this is being requested by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. Supervisor Strand asked why

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of Dodge County Treasurer Gail Bargstadt and approved the 2021 Application for Exemption (Form 457) for Dodge County Head Start, 1024 W. 23rd St., Fremont, Nebraska on a 2010 Micro Bird Plate 0537 Bus and a 2005 Blue Bird Plate 0520 Bus and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the form.

At 10:05 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

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

At 10:06 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss litigation against Dodge County.

At 10:24 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the discussion on litigation against Dodge County. No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

Committee Reports – Chairman Missel talked about the forthcoming meetings regarding the Rawhide Creek Watershed. Supervisor Tawney reported on the meeting the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) hosted in North Bend on November 2 regarding the Restricted Crossing U turn they plan to build at Highway 79 and the new Highway 30 By-Pass. He said the meeting was well attended and included about 20 people from the NDOT. The NDOT committed to three improvements on this project that came as a result of community input. The first improvement is to widen the road for trucks from the loop back to Highway 79. The second improvement is lighting at the loop and at the intersection. The third improvement is lowering the speed limit to 60 mph in this section. The jail committee reported on discussions with Saunders County Corrections director Brian Styskal in response to a letter from Judge Geoffrey C. Hall regarding issues with lawyer access to inmates and other issues with inmate rights. Supervisor Beam said, in his opinion, Director Styskal had satisfactory answers to all of the issues mentioned. Supervisor Tawney said wages are a real problem in keeping personnel. Saunders County called a special board meeting to discuss increasing corrections employees' hourly rate by \$2.50 across the board. Transportation issues are another strain on them that is affected by the shortage of workers.

At 10:38 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims for the month of October 2021.

At 10:42 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.

Immediately thereafter, Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk