

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, February 10, 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 various county officials' reports, the December 7, 2020 Board of Trustees Minutes and Statement of Revenues and Expenses YTD Comparison for the six months ending December 31, 2020 and 2019 from Fremont Community Health Resources, correspondence from Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation regarding legislation (LB102) being pursued that would provide county boards with the option of eliminating the office of Clerk of the District Court if said office becomes vacant or an incumbent does not file for reelection, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding changes in channel lineup, continuation certificate bonds for Platte Township Officials – Adam Taylor & Zachary C. Taylor, Summons filed in District Court of Dodge County, Nebraska by Rocky Yazzie v. The County of Saunders, Nebraska and the County of Dodge, Nebraska (referred to the Dodge County Attorney's office), local Extension Programming and Financial Summaries for 2020 from University of Nebraska Extension Service in Dodge County, and Certificate of Insurance from NIRMA with Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation being the holder for a 2017 Cat 323FL Hydraulic Excavator.

The Board unanimously approved adding an emergency item to the agenda regarding the 2021 One & Six Year Road Improvement Program. Chairman Missel stated that the emergency existed because, per state statute, the hearing must be held before March 1, 2021. The Board unanimously passed a motion to receive the Public Notice and set the hearing date and time for the 2021 One & Six Year Road Improvement Program for 10:15 A.M. on February 24, 2021.

The Board unanimously approved adding a second emergency item to the agenda regarding the receipt of a resignation letter from Dodge County Attorney Oliver Glass. Chairman Missel stated that the emergency existed because of the timeliness of the issue, the future action that the Board will have to take to appoint a new county attorney and the level of public interest in this matter. The Board, by a 6 to 1 vote, with Supervisor Beam dissenting, passed a motion to receive the resignation letter.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting as printed.

At 9:10 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 73 inmates in custody with 2 being held in Dodge County, 3 under House Arrest, 1 in Lancaster County, 2 with the State of Nebraska and 65 in Saunders County. In the first

week of February, there were 34 bookings; for the month of January 2021 there were 113 bookings.

At 9:11 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, February 24, 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 & hour claims submitted in the amount of \$250,068.93.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$1,431,248.88.

The Board unanimously received Status Update on the Dodge County Nebraska Public Safety radio system project from Rey Freeman Communications Consulting (RFCC). Chairman Missel asked the Board to spend some time reviewing this update. He said this report is a good outline of the future of this project which is nearing completion.

The Board unanimously received Consideration of Confirmation and Commitment Letter regarding Compound Holdings, LLC's intent to construct a Warehouse/Distribution and Manufacturing Facility, on the site located northwest of the intersection of North Yager Road and County Road T, identified as Parcel #270139122, Tax Lot 35 & 37 (52.04 acres) and proposed responsibility for road improvement costs. Included in the motion is a proposal to move forward with the development of an agreement to pave the road on a 50/50 cost share basis, engage an engineer to take the work that has already been done and develop a plan of action that would depend on collaboration between the Dodge County Attorney's office and the Dodge County Highway Department to draft the final agreement. All final decisions will be pending the engineer's estimate. Chairman Missel stated that he thinks adding this business is a good deal for Dodge County and the City of Fremont, but it does bring up some infrastructure issues that need to be addressed. Dodge County Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert said the original estimate for the road work to be done was \$600,000.00, but he said that may be a little low depending on what needs to be done to make this road viable for the future of this area. There are still a lot of unknowns at this time. Alan Doll (former Dodge County Highway Superintendent) spoke to the need for engineering work to determine what needs to be done now and for the future. County Road T needs improvements made to it and it may be justified to consider doing all of this work at the same time based on what an engineer may propose.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Tawney will be attending his first ENHSA Board meeting this afternoon.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that there will be a NIRMA webinar on Thursday, February 18, 2021 from 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. The topic is Nebraska Worker's Compensation & the COVID-19 Pandemic and will be presented by attorney, David Dudley. Registration is required by February 16, 2021. Ms. Andrews also provided the Board with a copy of NIRMA's Safety Shorts for February 2021.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on current projects and issues. Snow removal has been hard on the department. In some cases they are working seven days a week to keep up and they are down one truck. There was also an incident involving a snow plow that damaged a vehicle, which was the fault of the citizen. All but four of the highway department employees have been vaccinated for COVID-19; two employees have refused the vaccine. There are still barricades up on Ridge Road and Big Island Road due to the flood waters. Superintendent Huppert said there is still water running under the ice so the situation is not safe. The FEMA representative that they are working with on the Dodge County FEMA project is not using the information provided in the portal so they have spent some time getting the rep up to speed on the forms being scrutinized. As for the FEMA township projects, Nickerson & Platte Townships should be receiving some money soon and Elkhorn Township has been obligated \$4.5 million for roads Category C. FEMA is still debating with Superintendent Huppert on some debris and culvert issues on this project. FEMA needs details regarding work vendors performed and were paid for; this is something the Elkhorn Township Board can help him with by tracking down some of the details.

Emergency Manager Tom Smith was present and updated the Board on the ice jam flooding. There is more ice jam flooding expected with the cold temperatures, precipitation expected and existing ice and snow cover. Emergency Manager Smith and Highway Superintendent Huppert are working on a gauge to put on Ridgeland Avenue to show the water levels. Mr. Smith said it would be a point of reference for everyone to see and understand.

At 9:46 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims for the month of January 2021.

At 9:57 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the discussion of the claims. No action was needed or taken on any of the claims as a result of the closed session.

Immediately thereafter, the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5292 - #5301. A spreadsheet summary of the tax roll corrections was provided by the Dodge County Assessor's office for each board member. For that reason, each tax roll correction was not read into the record. This is the way the tax roll corrections will be presented from here forward.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Assessor Debbie Churchill and approved rescinding an action taken at the January 13, 2021 meeting on tax roll correction #5247. Tax roll correction #5247 will be voided.

The Board unanimously approved the request from Laura Peters, Treasurer for the Jefferson House Advisory Board, to be reinstated as tax exempt and to have any penalties waived for not filing a Statement of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption (Form 451A) in 2020. County Assessor Churchill said this is the first time this entity has been late filing their Form 451A. Per state statute, Assessor Churchill had to add the

penalties. Supervisor Bendig questioned whether the Jefferson House was still an active tax exempt entity. No one presented any information to the contrary.

The Board unanimously received a letter and attached list of New Permissive Exemption Applications (Form 451) for 2021 (received in the Dodge County Clerk's Office on January 22, 2021) from County Assessor Churchill.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of Dodge County Treasurer Gail Bargstadt and approved the 2021 Application for Exemption (form 457) from Care Corps, 723 N Broad St., Fremont, Nebraska on a 2016 Isuzu box truck.

The Board unanimously received a letter from County Treasurer Bargstadt and accepted her recommendation to approve 2019 tax roll corrections for Mickey Rhoades resulting in a tax refund of \$289.67.

The Board unanimously received a letter from County Treasurer Bargstadt and accepted her recommendation to approve 2018 & 2019 tax roll corrections for Barbara & John Harrington resulting in a tax refund of \$1,329.75.

County Assessor Churchill told the Board that she will be advertising for a position in her office; she had to let one employee go. Supervisor Beam asked Assessor Churchill if the prior year's total levy could be made available on the Dodge County GIS website on the Assessor's page of the Dodge County website. Assessor Churchill said she would check into that.

Supervisor Tawney told the Board that he had just received a text message from Tom Christensen apologizing for not making the meeting this morning. He had intended to attend to answer any questions the Board might have about the radio system. If the Board does have any questions, he would be available to attend the February 24, 2021 meeting to answer those questions.

At 10:10 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to receive public input as whether to allow or deny the New Permissive Exemption Applications for 2021 that were received earlier in this meeting. Hearing no testimony for or against any of the exemptions, the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of Assessor Churchill and approved the New Permissive Exemption Applications for 2021.

Assessor Churchill asked the Board to revisit agenda item #29. She spoke with one of her staff members and the staff member didn't think the Jefferson House was still an active tax exempt entity in 2020. Assessor Churchill asked the Board if she could gather more information as to the Jefferson House's tax status before the Board makes a decision on reinstating them as tax exempt for 2020. The Board unanimously passed a motion rescinding action taken today on agenda item #29 which was regarding the request of the Jefferson House Advisory Board to be reinstated as tax exempt and to have any penalties waived for not filing a Statement of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption (Form 451A) in 2020.

At 10:13 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk