

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, March 6, 2024 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens and Missel. Absent: Bendig and Tawney. 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, Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) 2023 Annual Report, letter from County Treasurer Bargstadt regarding Robert & Sophia Schmidt 2021 Tax Roll Correction #5670 resulting in a tax refund of \$321.17, Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Cooperative Agreement #NR216526XXXXC010 Rawhide Creek Watershed Improvement Project Work Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) Dodge County, NE End Date Extension Approval; New period of performance end date is 2/28/2025, Certificates of Insurance for Nickerson and Ridgeley Townships, Utility Installation Agreement for Lumen and Certificate of Insurance for Telcom Construction LLC to install Fiber Optic Cable in roads in Nickerson Township.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 21, 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 except for Supervisors Bendig and Tawney.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 50 inmates in custody with 43 being held in Saunders County and 7 in Washington County. In the month of February there were 114 inmates booked into custody.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, March 20, 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 except for Supervisors Bendig and Tawney.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$281,685.13.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$559,130.54

During discussion about the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement – III CORPS, Chairman Missel said this appears to be the same agreement used in past years. He asked County Attorney Hopkins if she had reviewed the agreement and she stated that

she had not reviewed it. This agenda item was tabled until County Attorney Hopkins could confer with Sheriff Weitzel on the agreement.

Douglas Elting, Independent Technical Consultant with Berggren Architects (1201 O Street, Lincoln, NE) was present and gave the Board information about the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit (NHTC). The program provides millions in NHTCs to be allocated annually and the credit is equal to 30% of eligible expenditures for improvements to historically significant real property with a reimbursement maximum of \$2 million for qualifying applicants. The Dodge County Courthouse is on the National Historic Register and would be considered a qualifying applicant. Mr. Elting said Berggren Architects has a team that can help clients make the application and help them through the rest of the application process. He said if there are multiple projects to fund over 4 years or so, it would be wise to list all of them; there is no penalty for overstating what may be spent. Part 3 of the application process is completion of the project and determination of expenses. After the project is completed and paid the reimbursement would be made. Supervisor Strand said there are projects that need to be done on the outside of the courthouse that would be eligible for this tax credit.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Fremont & Dodge County CVB Advisory Committee to grant \$8000 each year (2025-2027) to the Nebraska Sports Council through the Tourism Sponsorship Program Application for the Cornhusker State Games Swim Meet to be held at the Dillon Family Aquatics Center. Molly Paden, Executive Director Fremont & Dodge County CVB, was present and told the Board that the recommendation from the CVB Advisory Committee to approve this was unanimous. She added that since this event was moved to Fremont in 2022, the attendance numbers have more than doubled.

Committee Reports – Chairman Missel reported that he, Highway Superintendent Huppert and Assistant Highway Superintendent Andrews attended a meeting with JEO about continuing flood mitigation efforts.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that the latest edition of the *Interchange* (NIRMA publication) with the article about Dodge County is available.

The Board unanimously received the study letter from Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert regarding Dodge County taking control of County Road 6 from the intersection of Platte River Road across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to the Riverview Shores gate.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors setting the Public Hearing date of April 3, 2024 at 10:15 A.M. to hear testimony for or against said resumption of control of a 66-foot segment of 160 feet in length of County Road 6 from Riverview Shores gate to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and a 660-foot length segment of County Road 6 from the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to Platte River Road. Supervisor Backens read the Resolution for the record.

The Board tabled any action on their acceptance of the Adjusted Urban Area Boundaries and National Functional Classification (NFC) System following the release of the 2020 United States Census information. After reviewing correspondence from Dana Hartung, Highway Materials & Test Manager with the Nebraska Department of

Transportation, Highway Superintendent Huppert wants to meet with the City of Fremont and Inglewood to discuss the boundaries as presented; he thinks the boundaries are inaccurate. After clarification and agreement with the other interested parties, this will be added to a future agenda for the Board to consider.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees are installing riprap around the Maple Creek bridge on County Road 5 (Project 625). Snow fences are being removed so farmers can get into their fields and brush cutting at intersections is ongoing. Superintendent Huppert got trial phones from FirstNet (built by AT&T) to test with his employees. These phones are enabled with dial and push talk (similar to a Walkie-Talkie). He said not only can he conference in all of his employees, but he can connect the roads employees with the sheriff's office and emergency management. He said these phones are cheaper and more durable than what they all have now. He reported that the State set April 11 for the bid letting to pave Platte River Road and repair the bridges. Chairman Missel added that the State budgeted \$11 million for this project. Superintendent Huppert said employees will start tarring cracks in a week or two.

At 9:34 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 9:50 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, the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 9:56 A.M., the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens and Missel. Absent: Bendig and Tawney.

The Board unanimously received the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement – III CORPS, accepted County Attorney Hopkin's recommendation to approve the agreement and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreement. County Attorney Hopkins said the questions she had after reviewing the agreement were answered to her satisfaction by Sheriff Weitzel. Supervisor Backens asked if this is our continued agreement with III CORPS and if we have any personnel involved in the group. Sheriff Weitzel said this is the continuing agreement and the Sheriff's Department does not have an employee working on the III CORPS Drug Task Force at this time.

At 9:58 Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, March 20, 2024 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 except for Supervisors Bendig and Tawney.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5671 through #5673.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Bargstadt on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2024, on four (4) 2016 cargo trailers from Fremont Avenue of Flags, Fremont, NE, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

At 10:02 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk