

To be officially published by 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, March 25, 2020 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Strand, Bendig, Weddle, Saalfeld, Backens and Missel. Absent: None. Prior to roll call, Chairman Missel announced the meeting to be an open public meeting and that the current open meeting laws were 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 Certification from County Treasurer Bargstadt of Return of Tax Sale Proceedings, correspondence from Pappio-Missouri River Natural Resources District regarding updating the 2016 Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) (required to be updated every 5 years) with assistance from JEO Consulting Group, Inc., withdrawal of tort claim filed by Patrick Cullan, M.D., J.D. of Cullan & Cullan, LLC on behalf of his clients Katie M. & Austin J. Owen against Dodge County, Fremont Community Health Resources formerly known as Fremont Health, Title Insurance Policy, Warranty Deed and other documents regarding the purchase of property from Kurt M. Dunker and Melissa M. Dunker, to be used for a radio tower site, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, Certificate of Insurance for Metropolitan Community College, and Certificates of Insurance for Pleasant Valley, Logan, Union, and Cuming Townships.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting as printed.

Chairman Missel commented that NACO is reminding county officials to observe the guidance on limiting social and public gatherings to 10 people or less. After further interpretation, this guidance does not apply to staff. A typical board meeting will not present any issues with this guidance, but if there is an item on the agenda that attracts a larger public presence, that would have to be monitored. Written guidance for the public should be made available on the door coming into the boardroom.

At 9:04 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 announced that the county currently has 55 inmates in custody. Weekly numbers of bookings has declined steadily over the last two months, due to law enforcement issuing more citations instead of making arrests. All inmates are screened for COVID-19 when they are booked into the jail and there are protocols in place if someone is symptomatic. As of today, there have been no COVID-19 illnesses reported in the jail.

At 9:07 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, April 8, 2020 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 \$237,033.22

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$2,075,856.01. Chairman Missel pointed out that the large claim of \$1.3 million was used to pay down one of the loans (line of credit) to save on interest payments. Federal highway dollars received in the amount of \$1.5 million made this loan pay down possible.

The Board unanimously received and approved the directive from Dodge County Board of Supervisors to all Dodge County Elected Officials and Department Heads regarding contingency plans to conduct day-to-day work in an effort to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

The Board unanimously approved and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the resolution from County Treasurer Bargstadt to foreclose and sell real estate on tax sale certificates on Numbers 170156, 170160 and 170161.

County Treasurer Bargstadt said her office is getting into a routine now that they are serving customers by appointment only. They are learning as they go and this has given them some control for the chaos. Ms. Bargstadt also took the opportunity to thank the Board for moving quickly on the contingency plan to add a glass barrier to the service counter in her office. They have seen an increase in the number of online payments and business being handled by customers using the drop box in the lobby of the courthouse.

Committee Report – Supervisor Strand said he met with the Buildings and Grounds department and they went office to office assessing what other contingencies could be implemented in response to COVID-19. The Register of Deeds office and the Assessor's office are considering the installation of a pass through window to limit the foot traffic in their offices.

By consensus, the Board tabled any action on the proposed Interlocal Agreement between Dodge County and North Bend Drainage District for the reimbursement of a 2019 Flood Disaster project

At 9:18 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 9:35 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.

Chairman Missel revisited the agenda item regarding the update of the 2016 Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. He asked Supervisor Saalfeld if he would be the point of contact from the Dodge County Board since he is on the board of the Lower Platte North NRD. Supervisor Saalfeld said he would discuss this with the Manager of the Lower Platte North NRD, Eric Gottschalk.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews commented that regional meetings have been cancelled or possibly postponed due to COVID-19. Ms. Andrews also said that her

office has received \$1,585,000.00 in FEMA and FHWA disaster relief. These dollars are above and beyond highway money received.

The Board unanimously approved the request of Highway Superintendent Huppert to advertise for bids for 2020 Applied Traffic Paint Striping and to have the bids opened on April 13, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.

The Board unanimously received and authorized Chairman Missel to sign an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Lower Elkhorn NRD, the City of Scribner and Dodge County for improvements and modifications of the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project as a result of the March 2019 Flood. Curt Becker from the Lower Elkhorn NRD was present at the meeting to answer any questions the Board might have about the interlocal agreement for the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project. The cost share on this is 75% FEMA with the three partners equally funding the remaining 25%. The total cost of this project has not been stated and the estimates have been extremely varied.

County Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on current highway department projects. A bid for the Big Island road project was awarded to Omni to do the blacktop work. A bid for the Ridge Road project was awarded to Sawyer to do the concrete work. The optimal completion of these projects is prior to October, 2020. Superintendent Huppert is still working with FEMA to get paid for emergency work completed on County Road 19 in the amount of \$1.2 million. Program Delivery Managers (PDMG) for FEMA are finishing current applications and are not coming back. The PDMG that Superintendent Huppert has been working with is staying until May, so he's trying to get applications that are pending completed. PDMG's that are working with the townships are leaving. Highway workers are working on crack sealing when they can. The new truck has come in and he is pleased with it. Superintendent Huppert also said he has updated his employees on COVID-19 protocols. He told them they are to quarantine for 14 days if they are sick unless they provide a doctor's note stating they don't have COVID-19. He also told the employees that if they feel unsafe with a particular job, they can be reassigned another job.

Chairman Missel revisited committee reports to discuss holding virtual meetings. There will have to be some ground rules established for this. The agenda posted on the county website will have to include how the public can access a county board meeting.

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

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5110 thru #5113.

County Assessor Debbie Churchill informed the board that they have completed the Abstract which is a precertification of values for 2020. The numbers from 2019 to 2020 are up about \$139 million. These numbers do take flood damage into account. The state mandated adjustments to values on property. Supervisor Strand asked if there were any adjustments to agricultural land. Assessor Churchill said the assessor's office didn't make any adjustments, but the legislature ordered them to do a soil conversion, so they applied the conversions and some agricultural land did go up.

At 10:05 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.

A recess was taken at this time.

At 10:12 A.M., Chairman Missel reconvened the Board as a Board of Supervisors, with all members being present.

Emergency Manager Tom Smith provided the Board with information about an application called Zoom that can be used to do teleconferencing (via cell phone) and video conferencing (via computer). During the flooding event of 2019, EM Smith purchased Zoom to have the ability to conduct remote meetings with flood affected jurisdictions. This same application could be used to hold remote county board meetings. One person would be designated to navigate for the video portion, making the agenda and supporting documents visually available for those who are connecting by computer. The ability to record the meeting is available with Zoom. There is also a free Zoom application, but it has limited capabilities.

At 10:31 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk