

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 4, 2020 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel, Saalfeld 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 Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, correspondence from Keep Fremont Beautiful thanking Dodge County for their annual contribution that helps support the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, correspondence from Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare providing follow-up demographic information to questions that were asked during Patti Jurjevich's presentation of FY2019 data at the October 7, 2020 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, correspondence from Senator Ben Sasse congratulating the Dodge County Citizens Corp Council for receiving the State of Nebraska's Citizen Corp Council of the Year award, correspondence from Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) regarding Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Desk Monitoring Review, correspondence from Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) regarding NIRMA Dividend and Membership Recommitment (same information that was approved at the October 21, 2020 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors), Dodge County Moving Permit for Charles Lange Bin Movers to move 2 grain bins from County Road 11 Blvd. on County Road N Blvd. approximately 1 mile on Monday, October 19, 2020, and a Certificate of Insurance for Great Plains Communications LLC.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting as printed.

At 9:03 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 53 inmates in custody with 47 being held in Saunders County, 3 with Dodge County, 1 under House Arrest and 2 being held with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS).

At 9:04 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, November 18, 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 \$253,212.34.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims in the amount of \$554,625.82.

Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith, was present to explain the change in the wording of the Breach Lake Payment, Operations and Maintenance Agreement with City of Fremont, Lower Platte North Natural Resources District, and Fremont Rod and Gun Club. The original wording stated that the Fremont Rod & Gun Club would be the entity to enter into the contract with the engineering firm (JEO Consulting Group). The Rod & Gun Club did not like that wording since they are not a government entity or non-profit organization and would prefer to have Dodge County be the entity entering into the agreement with JEO. Chairman Missel asked about the status of the levy and EM Tom Smith stated that the City of Fremont will secure the easement, which will establish ownership. A public entity cannot receive Federal assistance if a private entity owns a critical part of the infrastructure for flood protection. Chairman Missel said he thinks it's important to have these details in place before an emergency. The funding for this project will go through Dodge County similar to how the funding for the Ames Dike Project was received. The Board unanimously approved to accept the agreement with the amended wording and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreement.

Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith expounded on the Citizen Corp Program. The Citizen Corp is comprised of different volunteer organizations that help out during disasters in Dodge County including Dodge County REACT, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Pioneer Amateur Radio Club, Civil Air Patrol and the First Lutheran Shelter Team. Volunteer hours can be submitted to FEMA and be reimbursed to help off-set some of the cost share expenses during a disaster.

Tom Smith also updated the Board on the mitigation projects that are in progress. The Drainage District Project Study for Elkhorn Township is an \$800,000.00 project that will utilize Advanced Assistance Funds which are new to the State of Nebraska. These funds will be used for the study itself and will help narrow the scope of the study. This project has been submitted to FEMA and it is still sitting with FEMA Region VII because they are trying to determine sub-recipient management costs and how those will be paid. The Platte River Monitoring Project which will provide river gauges and cameras at four locations on the Platte River from Platte County to Leshara is also at FEMA Region VII awaiting approval. The project was submitted to FEMA in late September and it typically takes 60-90 days to receive a determination. The monitoring piece of this project is a web based system (different from that which NOAA provides) that will be accessible by local responders and law enforcement. The Lower Platte Natural Resources District is ready to finish this project once the approval is received from FEMA. The Voluntary Acquisition, Demolition, and Construction Program for Flood-prone Property mitigation project will soon be to the point where they will ask for Request for Proposals (RFP's). A pool of contractors will be established so home owners can start the construction process. The North Bend Drainage Ditch Project was submitted to NEMA who then submitted it to FEMA. FEMA determined it to be a complex project and requested that the application be rewritten as a phase project. The first phase would be completion of a hydrology analysis and an environmental assessment. The Joint Water Management Advisory Board has been approved for a project which is focused on "building resilient infrastructure". The first step in this project is scoping to determine how to best manage the water on the east side of Fremont, including the Fremont cut-off ditch.

The Board unanimously authorized the appropriate signatures on an agreement to transfer, to Burt County, Dodge County's ownership share of a radio tower located in Burt County that was acquired prior to the dissolution of Region 5/6 Emergency Management.

The Board unanimously approved the recommendation of Supervisor Strand and Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews and appointed Tom Weitzenkamp of Uehling to the Dodge County Planning Commission beginning immediately through 5/31/2023.

Tim Weander, District 2 Engineer with NE Department of Transportation, was present to provide clarification on two (2) Original Agreements for US-77 Relinquishment S-77-6(1036) CN 22722 Fremont Southeast Beltway & S-77-3(1039) CN 22691A Fremont - US-30, Dodge County. When the Board originally considered these agreements, the wording in the agreements stated that the State would relinquish specific portions of the roadway "in good condition". This wording was too vague for the Board to authorize the appropriate signatures for approval of the agreements. The information provided to the Board by Mr. Weander, which was outlined in a handout entitled DR-73 Planning Document, states precisely what the state will do prior to the roadway relinquishment to Dodge County. Supervisor Strand said that he thinks this information clears up the questions that the Board had. The Board unanimously approved and authorized Chairman Missel and County Clerk Mytty to sign the agreements.

Chairman Missel asked Mr. Weander to update the Board on the Highway 30 project between Fremont and North Bend. Mr. Weander said that between the flooding of 2019 and COVID-19 in 2020 the Nebraska Department of Transportation took a \$60 million hit to their budget, which greatly affected the timeline of this project. He estimated that grading and culvert installation would begin in 2021-2022, bridges and paving would begin late 2022 and traffic would be on the new sections by 2025.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on current highway department projects. The Big Island Road and Ridge Road projects are complete with the exception of seeding and final paperwork. They finished a 1 in 6 year project on County Road T between Luther Road and Yager Road, which was to build up the roadway. Superintendent Huppert said he wanted to stay ahead of the Bluestem Commons (housing subdivision) construction schedule. The highway department workers are ditch cleaning, pot hole patching when possible and installing snow fence. The Dodge County FEMA projects are complete and the highway department administration is still working to get reimbursed. Superintendent Huppert commented that more and more information is required to receive reimbursement. Supervisor Bendig asked if the Board needs to get Senator Walz involved in this issue. Chairman Missel said she has already been involved in these discussions, but he believes a letter from the County Board delivered to NEMA may be in order. Superintendent Huppert thinks that such letter should be delivered by Senator Walz so that it has more impact. Supervisor Saalfeld asked what the status of the Elkhorn Township Board is at this time. Superintendent Huppert said that the Elkhorn Township Board has met three times and he was present at each meeting. They have hired a grader operator who is training now and will be working with Superintendent Huppert as to how to maintain the roads in Elkhorn Township.

Discussion then turned back to Committee Reports. Supervisor Backens wanted to thank the committee that worked to promote the Joint Law Enforcement Center, including the Sheriff and deputies, County Attorney Glass, County Clerk Mytty and countless others. Chairman Missel said that it was disappointing that the bond issue did not pass; this sends them back to the drawing board to determine a path forward.

At 9:59 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

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

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5219 & 5220

The Board unanimously received, from County Assessor Debbie Churchill, the Three-Year Plan of Assessment (2021, 2022, and 2023) for Dodge County as submitted to the State of Nebraska, Property Assessment Division.

At 10:02 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk