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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 9:02 A.M. on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Missel and Bendig. Absent: Backens 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 a letter from Ed Faltin resigning from his position on the Dodge County Veterans Service Committee at the end of his current term on June 30, 2022, Certificates of Insurance for Cotterell, Hooper and Union Townships and City of Fremont Department of Utilities and a Moving Permit for Square B LLC to move a CZM Pressure Auger over County Road L to County Road 14 and then to Eveland Supply in Scribner.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting as printed.

At 9:06 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 Supervisors Backens and Tawney.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there is a daily average of 71 inmates being held. Currently there are 68 inmates in custody with 61 being held in Saunders County, 3 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, 3 on house arrest and 1 in Butler County. The inmate in Butler County is a relative of a Saunders County Corrections employee.

At 9:07 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, March 9, 2022 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 Supervisors Backens and Tawney.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$230,919.28.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$378,890.88.

The Board unanimously received a certification from County Clerk Mytty stating no written protests were received regarding the renewal of the Class D liquor license for Fuel Express and passed a motion recommending approval of the renewal to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

The Board unanimously appointed Sara Sopinski (current Chief Deputy Dodge County Attorney), to fulfill the remaining term of acting Dodge County Attorney Paul Vaughan and authorized Ms. Sopinski to receive wages consistent with that of the position of county attorney while serving in that office beginning March 5, 2022 through January 4, 2023. Chairman Missel said he has confidence in Ms. Sopinski's abilities and is pleased that she's willing to serve in this role. County Attorney Vaughan said he spoke with Ms. Sopinski when he was considering retirement and she was willing to serve for the remainder of his term. He also said he consulted with the Nebraska Association of County Officials to determine if this open position needed to be advertised; there is nothing in the state laws that mandates advertising for such position. He went on to say he thinks, due to the timing, this appointment is the right thing to do to maintain some continuity in the office. County Clerk Mytty pointed out that Dodge County can legally appoint someone that does not live in the county, but individuals running for office must reside in Dodge County by the time they take office.

The Board unanimously approved a Conservation Easement Application for the United States of America c/o Bryan Euse, United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on two tracts of property owned by Wetlands America Trust, Inc. located in the North ½ of Section 2, Township 20N, Range 6E in Dodge County, NE, parcel ID number 270098098 and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the application.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Strand reported that the permits for the former ENCOR building have been obtained. Remodeling work can begin to create a polling place, meeting room, storage areas and bathrooms in this building. County Clerk Mytty told the Board that he had considered adding an agenda item for today regarding ARPA funds and how the county could use them for general services but decided it would be better to discuss this with the entire board. Chairman Missel said the ARPA Committee will be meeting again and will present their recommendations to the Board at a later date. Expenses for roads and bridges will now qualify for ARPA funds. Estimates of dollars sought by county departments need to be finalized by the Finance Committee and taken into consideration with the other requests for ARPA funds. Chairman Missel said there is no reason to rush into deciding how these dollars will be allocated. Supervisor Bendig reported that the IT Committee is still meeting with managed service providers; they will report back to the Board once a decision is made on a provider. Chairman Missel reported that the ground work for the radio tower project in Douglas County has started.

At 9:26 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

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

The Board unanimously approved tax roll correction #5422.

At 10:01 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

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

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert gave an update on projects going on in the roads department. Employees have been using a new crack repair material called Mastic that is made of plastic, rubber and aggregate. This material has 3x the stretch as normal asphalt and will last 3x longer. They have used the Mastic on Somers Ave. and around Hooper. The new dump truck has the box, fixtures and snow plow attachments on it. It still needs the undercoat and should be ready the first part of March. Superintendent Huppert has met with the contractors for the 275 By-Pass project about making County Road 14 a haul road. There will be an estimated 5,000 trucks per day on this road, which is currently a minimum maintenance road. If it did become a haul road, the state would take over responsibility for it and it would be paved which would cut down on the dust and ruts. Depending on the condition of the road at the end of the project, it could remain a hard surface road. Superintendent Huppert meets with the state and Valley Corp (the contractor) every week regarding the Highway 30 By-Pass project. There are a lot of road closures for this project; Superintendent Huppert would like to see County Road 18 from County Road S to County Road R reopened. Valley Corp is reluctant to open it because they will have to repair any damage done to it. The state will also be closing roads starting in March to work on their approaches to the by-pass. Bids for the Yager Road Project will be opened on February 28, 2022. There will be two (2) 12' lanes paved as well as the driveways for residents and businesses. All of the land owners will be contacted as to how to get in and out of their property while the work is being done. Alan Doll will be coming in to help gather the grant figures Erickson & Brooks need to complete the single audit. Platte Township will be writing Dodge County checks totaling \$1.1 million from flood reimbursement money received. Supervisor Bendig asked if all the expenditures for flood repair have been made. Superintendent Huppert said all of the expenditures have been made. Elkhorn Township will have \$4 million in flood reimbursement money coming within the next 2-3 weeks. It was agreed that a meeting with the bank to discuss paying down some of the bonds issued for flood repairs will be in order after these larger dollar amounts are received. Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith is working on securing a grant that would help pay some of the interest accrued on the bonds.

At 10:15 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider the Dodge County One & Six Year Road Plan. Highway Superintendent Huppert pointed out on a map and summarized the thirteen projects on the one year plan. Hearing no testimony for or against the Dodge County 2022 One & Six Year Road Improvement Plan, the Board unanimously adopted and authorized the necessary signatures on a resolution approving the plan as presented. Chairman Missel read the resolution for the record.

At 10:42 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk

