

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD

Regular meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Missel at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 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 county officials' reports, Board of Trustees minutes for March 11, 2024 meeting and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the nine months ending March 31, 2024 and 2023 from Fremont Community Health Resources, 2023 Annual Report from Fremont Housing Agency, correspondence from Nebraska State Probation, Sixth Probation District, Patty Lyon, Chief Probation Officer, regarding Probation – Quarterly County Billings 2023/2024 and reimbursement of expenses to Dodge County for the period January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024, Public Notification of Dodge County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at Fremont Rural Volunteer Fire Department, Certificate of Completion for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Contract #19EM001 – Ames Dike from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District 2024-2025 annual membership request in the amount of \$920.00 (referred to the finance committee), Eastern Nebraska Human Services Agency 2024-2025 budget requests in the amount of \$88,508.00 for Duet & \$90,324.00 for ENOA – total \$178,832.00 (referred to the finance committee), Certificates of Insurance for Everett Township and Ellingson Drainage Inc., Courthouse Safety Committee Minutes for April 3, 2024 meeting, Notice of Public Hearing with the Douglas County Planning Commission at 6:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 17, 2024 for a request of Jennifer Karls to amend a Special Use Permit to add a 2nd screen at the Quasar drive-in movie theater at 13427 N. 300th St., Valley, NE SW ¼ SW ¼ Section 2, T16N, R9E, Notice of Public Hearing to be held before the Community Development Authority and the Fremont City Council at 7:00 P.M. April 9, 2024 to consider an update to the Downtown Fremont Blight and Substandard Study covering an area located between 10th St. on the north; Union Street on the east; the railroad between Union St. and Broad St. and 3rd St. between Broad St. and I St. on the south; 50 feet east of I St. to Military Ave. then H St. between Military Ave. and 10th St. on the west and Moving Permits for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane over county roads on April 1-2, 2024.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 3, 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.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 45 inmates in custody with 37 of them being held in Saunders County and 8 in Washington County. There were 19 inmates booked into custody over the past weekend. County Attorney Hopkins reported that a meeting had been scheduled for this Friday with the Saunders County Sheriff and other stakeholders about issues related to

Saunders County Corrections. That meeting will have to be rescheduled due to a conflict.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, May 1, 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.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$296,787.20.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$387,103.62.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation from the Fremont & Dodge County CVB Advisory Committee to grant \$10,000 of funding to MainStreet of Fremont, Inc. for their 2024 calendar of events. Molly Paden, Executive Director of Fremont & Dodge County CVB, was present and told the Board that the events sponsored by MainStreet of Fremont bring in on the low end 300 participants and 1,000 plus on the high end. In general, there are increasing numbers of visitors to Fremont from outside the immediate Fremont area and visitors for the MainStreet Fremont events as well.

The Board unanimously approved the reappropriation of \$30,000 of the \$77,147.32 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that were approved for Dodge County General Assistance Burial & Attorney Coroner Costs. This reappropriation is for a new security scanner to be installed closer to the east entrance of the courthouse to allow for more hallway space for the Treasurer's Office.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from Fremont Community Health Resources (FCHR) regarding the resignation of Larry Shepard from the FCHR Board of Trustees and approved the appointment of Brad Dahl, Associate Superintendent of Fremont Public Schools, to fulfill his term which expires October 1, 2028. This appointment is effective immediately.

The Board unanimously approved the Amendment and Termination of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Fremont for the purpose of the transfer of an interest in land (for a Joint Law Enforcement Center). This action allows the termination of the original interlocal agreement dated 12/5/2018 and allows the City of Fremont to pay the County \$201,300.00 for their interest in this tract of land. The motion included authorization of the necessary signatures on the amended interlocal agreement and documents to complete the transfer of land. This money will be returned to the Capital Improvement/Economic Development Fund, which is from where it was originally taken. Chairman Missel reminded the Board that the Bond Issue for a new Joint Law Enforcement Center did not pass in the 2020 General Election. The City of Fremont has decided to pursue their own plans for a new law enforcement center.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Cooper Self as ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) Coordinator. Mr. Self is a new employee in the County Attorney's Office and will be the contact person for any ADA matters. There is a

training session in June that he will be attending. He will also join the Courthouse Safety Committee.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Strand reported that they are at a point where they can pull the building permit to start work on the Election Office. Supervisor Bendig reported that ALLO has installed the backup internet for the courthouse. Great Plains Communications is working on the upgrade to 1G internet for the Schneider Building, courthouse and probation. County Attorney Hopkins reported that amendments to the Public Records Act were adopted by the legislature and go into effect immediately. LB 43 adds a new justification to withhold records “relating to the nature, location, or function of cybersecurity” of public entities. She said these amendments also redefine who can ask for public records, changing the verbiage from “citizen” to “resident”. Chairman Missel reported that legislative changes to the County Purchasing Act increase the threshold for competitive bidding from \$50,000 to \$70,000.

The Board unanimously approved the Proposed Fee Schedule for Dodge County Building Permits and adopted a Resolution to confirm the fee schedule and to make it effective May 1, 2024. Chairman Missel read the Resolution for the record. Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews told the Board that the fee schedule has not been updated since 2012. She added that with the rising cost of fuel, supplies and labor, amendments to the schedule are necessary.

In the absence of Highway Superintendent Huppert, Supervisor Strand gave an update on work going on in the Highway Department. Employees are done with crack sealing and have completed the riprap and dirt work for Project 625, Maple Creek bridge on County Road 5. The regrading project (654) on County Road 13 Blvd is ongoing. On County Road S, crews are filling in shoulder drop offs, removing trees and cleaning out ditches. Superintendent Huppert talked to the State construction engineer about the work he wants completed on Platte River Road before the relinquishment. Cedar Valley Paving has County Roads 13, 15, 17 & 19 closed for the next few weeks to pour the crossovers and turning lanes on the new Highway 30 Bypass. The State contacted Superintendent Huppert about the signage going up on the new Highway 77 Bypass and told him what the County will be responsible for and for what the State will be responsible. Graham Construction will be pouring concrete for the next couple of weeks and will be using County Roads 13 and 14. The County will soon be going out for bids for the Old Highway 275 overlay project; the last overlay was in 2005.

At 9:37 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None.

The Board unanimously received *Motion to Withdraw as Counsel and Appearance of Counsel* from the Nebraska Court of Appeals regarding Case No. A 23-268 (The Kroger Company).

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Bargstadt on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2024, on a 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 truck from Spirit of Peace Church, Hooper, NE, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

The Board unanimously received 2024 Certification for Tax Exempt Status - Permissive Exemption Applications (Form 451) from County Assessor Churchill and passed a motion setting the Public Hearing on the exemptions for 10:10 A.M. on May 1, 2024.

The Board unanimously approved the Referee Agreement and letter used to solicit protest referees that will be used for the upcoming property valuation protest season.

The Board unanimously approved the Protest Cover Sheet to be used during the upcoming property valuation protest season.

At 10:05 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk