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PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was held virtually using the Application Zoom (MEETING ID NUMBER: 772 629 7548) and was called to order by Chairman Missel at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 with the following members physically present in the Dodge County Board Room: Backens and Missel and the following members connected virtually: Beam, Strand, Bendig, Weddle, and Saalfeld. 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 various county officials' reports, Notice of Public Hearings from the City of Fremont by Hoppe & Son for the Bluestem Commons Preliminary Plat consisting of 69 attached duplex/triplex lots, 65 row house lots, 8 apartment buildings located at Luther Road and County Road T; and the Bluestem Commons Final Plat consisting of two out lots, a mixed use lot for a clubhouse and commercial uses located at Luther Road and County Road T; receipt of a Conditional Use Permit for Seasonal Campgrounds for Jason Griffis on three lots at the Emerson Estates Subdivision Lots 18, 23 and 42 at 720 Boulevard St.; a request for amendment to South Fremont Redevelopment Plan for WholeStone Foods Redevelopment Project. All public hearings were held on March 31, 2020 at 7:00 P.M., correspondence from NDEE regarding a letter of warning to Mullally Plumbing & Heating regarding the failure to meet requirements to demonstrate compliance with NAC Title 124 to bring an existing wastewater treatment system into compliance for a residence at 1580 County Road 11, North Bend, NE, correspondence from NDEE regarding a request for an NPDES General Permit for Operations Confining Cattle, Permit Coverage Application No. NEG020026 for Blaha Feedlot Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation located in the SE ¼, SW ¼, Section 16, Township 20N, Range 05E, Dodge County to become effective April 1, 2020 and expire on March 31, 2025, correspondence from NDEE regarding the withdrawal of construction and operating permit application for Ethan Muller Livestock Animal Feeding Operation located in Pt. E ½, NW ¼, Section 28, Township 20N, Range 07E Dodge, Dodge County Courthouse Safety Committee Meeting Minutes for 1st Quarter of 2020, Certificate of Insurance for Eriksen Construction Co., Inc., NIRMA Safety Shorts for April, 2020 and Title Insurance Policy, Warranty Deed and other documents regarding an undivided one-half interest in Outlot A, Fremont Technology Park Replat of Outlot "A" containing 12.2 acres, more or less which is property originally to be used for a joint law enforcement center (between Dodge County and the City of Fremont).

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 25, 2020 meeting as printed.

At 9:08 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 37 inmates in custody in Saunders County. The number of bookings for March declined steadily each week in an ongoing effort (because of COVID-19) to reduce the number of inmates in the jail. Paul Vaughan from the Dodge County Attorney's office said they have been working with officials from the jail on a house arrest program to help reduce the number of inmates in the jail. They have also adjusted how they handle cases in court to reduce the amount of time inmates are being held in the jail.

At 9:12 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, April 22, 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 \$231,652.35.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$292,212.09.

A Public Hearing was held to consider amending the 2019-2020 County Budget to create a new fund, COVID-19 Contingency Fund, in the amount of \$100,000.00 with revenue of \$100,000.00 to deal with costs associated with the virus and possible reimbursement revenues. This will increase the grand total budget of expenses and revenues by the same amount. Chairman Missel told the Board that this is similar to the flood of 2019 in that a Disaster Declaration has been made for COVID-19 and there needs to be a fund assigned for costs related to it. The \$100,000.00 amount is an arbitrary amount because we don't know what costs related to this will be. It was discussed to use \$50,000.00 out of the Inheritance Fund to seed this fund, but go ahead and authorize the \$100,000.00 today. County Clerk Mytty said this means the \$50,000.00 cannot be exceeded until there is another \$50,000.00, but the appropriation would still be \$100,000.00. With no testimony for or against the amendment, the Board unanimously authorized amending the budget to increase it by \$100,000.00 with revenues of \$100,000.00 and transferring \$50,000.00 from the Inheritance Fund to the COVID-19 Contingency Fund as seed money.

A Public Hearing was held to consider amending the General Assistance Program Guidelines specifically increasing the amount of rent paid to landlords by \$100.00. This amount has not been increased since 2002 and would still not be what average rent goes for in the county, but it is a help to the families in need. With no testimony for or against the amendment, the Board unanimously approved amending the General Assistance Program Guidelines increasing the amount of rent paid to landlords by \$100.00.

The Board unanimously approved the request for CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Funds on Project 19-EM-001 of Ames Dike Repairs and authorized Chairman Missel and County Clerk Mytty to sign the request for project costs of \$22,090.91 and general grant administration costs of \$1,020.00 reimbursed by the grant funds.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from Shelly Holzerland regarding NRIN (Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network) and approved nominating Shelly to the NRIN governing board

The Board unanimously approved an agreement with Vigilnet to supply monitoring equipment for individuals under house arrest and authorized Dodge County Sheriff Steve Hespen to sign the agreement.

Committee Reports – With protest season approaching, suggestions for referees are needed. Chairman Missel said he talked with Rob George because of his real estate background and Alan Brewer was suggested. County Assessor Debbie Churchill said she would contact Shawn Abbott and she will also see if there is a state database of appraisers that could be used as a resource.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews received an e-mail from Rachel Jensen located at 945 W. Somers Point, Fremont, NE regarding dead and dying trees north of the Fremont Golf Club and across from Somers Point that are not only an eyesore, but also a fire hazard for the area. This was the second contact made from Rachel Jensen about this issue. The land owner is aware of the issue, but has not taken steps to clean up the area. The board gave Ms. Andrews the approval to send the land owner a certified letter requesting that the area be cleaned up at the land owner's expense. It was suggested to include in the letter a 30 day period to respond to the letter and 60-90 days to have the work completed.

The Board unanimously approved the On-Call Professional Services Task Order Agreement for Project ER-3490(13) Hooper North, Logan Creek Environmental Services with Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig, Inc. and adopted the resolution authorizing the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and County Clerk to sign the agreement.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on current highway department projects. During a conference call with FEMA, he was updated that most of his projects are in stage 4, which means the next step will be obligating the projects and receiving reimbursement for them. Township bids are in progress and there have been 4 or 5 competitive bids in each one. He would like to see these completed because of the tenuous situation caused by COVID-19. It may take FEMA resources away. A lot of the PDMG's have already quit. Roads employees are working on tower sites; two of the sites should be completed this week. As a precaution for COVID-19, more employees are requesting to be in the county vehicles alone, so there may be more trucks on the road with single occupants. Supervisor Strand asked why there was personal property tax being charged on a leased Caterpillar excavator. When Superintendent Huppert signed the lease agreement, he didn't realize that was in there. Zoning Administrator Andrews said she doesn't understand why the leasing company does it this way because it's not the appropriate way to handle it. Supervisor Strand said the personal property tax should be rolled into the lease amount, not listed as a separate line item. Ms. Andrews said the lease for that piece of equipment is up in the fall and maybe a new lease can be signed with that being amended.

Closed session to discuss general assistance claims was not possible because of the virtual meeting. County Clerk Mytty emailed the report to the Board and they can contact him with any questions they may have.

At 9:46 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

A recess was taken at this time.

At 10:05 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members physically present in the Dodge County Board Room: Backens and Missel and the following members connected virtually: Beam, Strand, Bendig, Weddle, and Saalfeld. Absent: None.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5114 thru #5146.

County Assessor Debbie Churchill told the Board that the 2021 reviews are going on now. There have been advertisements in the newspaper and on the radio. The employees from the Assessor's office are not initiating face-to-face contact with homeowners due to COVID-19, but if a homeowner comes outside and isn't showing any symptoms of the virus, they can talk with the employee doing the review.

At 10:12 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk