

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, May 20, 2020 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members physically present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel and Bendig. Supervisor Saalfeld joined the meeting via cell phone. 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 various county officials' reports, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding two changes in channel lineup, Notification of Dodge County River Gauge Prioritized HMPG Project, Notification of Drainage Study Prioritized HMPG Project, Notice of Public Hearings from the City of Fremont for Conditional Use Permit for a Church (Lifegate Church) in a LI, Light Industrial zoning district and a Conditional Use Permit to expand a non-standard use into a required yard requested by Jerry Nelson on behalf of Ludvigsen Mortuary. All public hearings were held May 12, 2020 at 7:00 P.M., Notice of Public Hearing from the City of Fremont Planning Commission for an amendment to Redevelopment District #3 for the DPA Auctions Redevelopment Project by Heather Carver on behalf of Del Peterson Auctions located at the southeast corner of Morningside Road and Bud Boulevard; Request for a Conditional Use Permit to expand a cemetery by Richard Wegner on behalf of Memorial Cemetery Association; Request for a Sign Plan by Jay Mullen on behalf of Fremont National Bank & Trust located at 801 E. 23rd Street and Request for a Sign Plan by Jay Mullen on behalf of Fremont National Bank & Trust on property located at 626 N. Main Street. All public hearings were held May 18, 2020 at 5:00 P.M., a Moving Permit for Barnhart Crane to move a crane over Highway 275 to Old Highway 275 to Wholystone Plant and return, a Moving Permit for Charlie Lange House Movers to move a garage 30' x 40' x 14' high over County Roads 20 and P to Nickerson, NE, and a Moving Permit for Charlie Lange House Movers to move a house along County Road 25 to County Road P to Road 13.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting as printed.

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 stated that the county currently has 35 inmates in custody.

At 9:05 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, June 3, 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 \$252,479.54.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$731,929.54.

The Board unanimously received a letter from County Treasurer Bargstadt on the request for a refund of Inheritance Tax and authorized the refund in the amount of \$35.49 due the Estate of Betty Lou Klein Gutekunst.

The Board unanimously received and approved an Application for a Class Z Micro Distillery Liquor License for a Distilled Spirit Plant for Huffman Prairie Ventures LLC, dba Flyover Whiskey, located at 1614 County Road 4, North Bend, Nebraska. Supervisor Strand said that he had discussed this application with Jean Andrews, Zoning Administrator, and she said all requirements have been met by Flyover Whiskey and she recommended the Board approve the application. County Clerk Fred Mytty informed the Board that the Liquor Control Commission was contacted and they had no issues with accepting the application. The owner of Flyover Whiskey, Andrew Minarick, was present and stated that he has been in contact with the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission and Jean Andrews. All of the necessary paperwork is in order and he was at the meeting to answer any questions the Board might have. Supervisor Strand asked when the ribbon cutting would be and Mr. Minarick stated that this will be a direct to consumer venture; there will be no tasting room or retail space.

Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith gave a status update on the Dodge County HMPG Property Acquisition/Construction Project as well as the projects that had been received and filed with the agenda. The Dodge County River Gauge HMPG Project has been prioritized and the application is due June 30, 2020. The notice of intent for this project was sent in July, 2019 with sites for the gauges and cameras to be located in Schuyler, North Bend and Fremont. The project cost was estimated at \$18,200.00 (75% being paid by FEMA). The gauges will provide better situational awareness that they did not have during the 2019 flooding event. The Drainage Study HMPG Project has also been prioritized and 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. For the Property Acquisition/Construction Project, the acquisition piece is the process of buying or acquiring property that becomes green space and is owned by the purchasing jurisdiction. There are no property owners in the Winslow area interested in the property buy-outs at this time. The construction piece of the project involves elevating or filling the property to make the property safer during any future flood event. Right now there are eleven property owners interested in construction assistance. The homeowners will have to pay all of the costs up front and then will be reimbursed 75% of those costs by FEMA. Rebuilding the Heartland is a long term recovery group that has funds that property owners can use to help pay their 25% share. Supervisor Strand asked if the value of the home plays any role in this, stating that some of the homes might cost more to fix than they are actually worth. Mary Baker with JEO Consulting was present to clarify that a home's value is considered if the property is in the flood way. For substantial improvements the property owner cannot exceed 50% of the home's value to make those improvements. There are only a couple of properties on the list to which this would apply.

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 requests for Project Costs of \$116,939.00 (to Ames Diking District) and General Grant Administration Costs of \$810.00 (to NENEDD) reimbursed by the grant funds.

Committee Report – Chairman Missel mentioned the Joint Water Management Advisory Board Meeting that was held on May 19, 2020. Emergency Manager Tom Smith updated that group on the projects that he recapped earlier in the Dodge County Board of Supervisor meeting. The FOP negotiations with the Dodge County Sheriff's Deputies is moving forward and they are making good progress towards a new contract.

The Board unanimously received bids opened May 18, 2020 for the Dodge County Channel Repair Project and awarded the contract to KRW. Originally there were 9 NRCS projects, one was completed by the Dodge County Highway Department and the project on County Road 19 between the Rod & Gun Club and the State Lakes is not part of this bid. For the seven remaining projects on this bid, KRW came in at \$440,000.00 (an original estimate for all 9 projects was \$800,000.00). The county share of this is 20% or approximately \$88,000.00.

County Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on current highway department projects. He's getting a lot of requests for moving permits and he has told the requesters that he needs their routes, widths, axle spacing and weight or he will deny the moving permit. Tower anchors are in Superintendent Huppert's yard, so there are workers coming in and out to get those to take to the tower sites. On west Military Avenue they are working on cleaning under the guard rails and sloping off the shoulders so the water won't run onto the road. There have been some complaints about the approaches onto state highways from county roads. The county is supposed to maintain the approach all the way out to the state road, but the county is not responsible for the structures underneath the roadway. Superintendent Huppert's crews have been working on county roads coming onto Highway 275 and observers have complained that they are working on the state highway, which they are not. There will be more money coming in for FHWA projects on Road 20 and L and 19 Boulevard and 20; Superintendent Huppert has crews working at these locations to finish these projects. There is also a FHWA project at Hooper North/Maple Creek (Herman/Scribner Road). This is a state led project; the Dodge County share of this is 20%. The project estimates were \$600,000.00 and he is hoping the bids come in a lot lower than that. There are still completed FEMA projects that there will be reimbursement money coming in for soon. The only FEMA projects left to complete are the Big Island Road and Ridge Road projects. Superintendent Huppert will be meeting with the contractors, Sawyer and OMNI, in the next week or two to determine a timeline for completion. Superintendent Huppert has been working with the townships to let him get into their grant portals so he can straighten out paperwork that has been entered in error. There is still approximately \$3 million dollars in reimbursements still hanging out there for the townships. The Ames Dike road project is still in progress; the levee is done and the fence is up, but the levee was put down over the county road. A temporary road needs to be constructed because there have been numerous complaints from people needing access to their property. The county may need to acquire some land in order to get the right-of-ways straightened out.

At 9:47 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

A recess was taken at this time.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members physically present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel and Bendig. Supervisor Saalfeld joined the meeting via cell phone. Absent: None.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5151, #5152 and #5153.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from Brickyard Hill, LLC requesting a hearing before the Dodge County Board of Equalization to ask for reimbursement for the full amount (\$2,891.70) of taxes paid on property (Parcel ID 270138734) they did not own and authorized a refund for the full amount requested.

The Board unanimously received Findings and Order Adjusting Value in the Matter of Equalization of Value of Real Property Within Dodge County for Tax Year 2020 Before the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission. Chairman Missel pointed out that the Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) voted 2 to 1 to increase the taxes on the improvement values of all commercial property in Dodge County by 37%. County Assessor Debbie Churchill confirmed that her office will be sending out notices of change in valuation to all tax payers who have a change in their valuations (up or down). The Assessor's Office will be handing out the protest paperwork if a property owner wants to challenge the valuation. The Clerk's Office will receive the protests and schedule any hearings that are requested.

At 10:14 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk