

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, September 8, 2021 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Strand. 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 a change in channel lineup, a copy of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Revenue Replacement Document, the first ARPA Report due August 31, 2021 and filed with the US Treasury on August 30, 2021, Notice of Public Hearing with Hooper Planning Commission to be held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall, 124 N. Main St., Hooper, NE to amend Zoning Ordinance TA Transitional Ag section 5.05.06 The height and minimum lot requirements from Lot area (acres) 10 to Lot area (acres) 5 and consider Colhouer Farms LLC Subdivision Plat Tract D and Certificates of Insurance for M.E. Collins Contracting Company Inc. and Lyman-Richey Corporation.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 25, 2021 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 except for Supervisor Strand.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that 157 inmates had been booked during the month of August 2021. He said currently there is a shortage of supervising officers for female inmates in Saunders County Corrections. Jail Director Brian Styskal worked with Sheriff Hespen on an arrangement with Washington County to house Dodge County's female inmates. Director Styskal is willing to transport the female inmates to Washington County until the staffing shortages are no longer an issue. County Attorney Paul Vaughan said there has been some miscommunication as to where attorneys are to meet with the inmates. For that reason, he asked that the plans to house the female inmates in Washington County be communicated to the appropriate individuals. Supervisor Beam said he would insure that everybody is notified of the new arrangements. Supervisor Tawney commented that the Jail Standards Committee should have been approached on the subject of housing female inmates solely in Washington County. Chairman Missel said the corrections contract with Saunders County allows for Dodge County to house inmates in other locations. Supervisor Beam said that this idea has been brought up before, but transportation is the key issue. Since Saunders County is willing to transport to Washington County, it fulfills the immediate need.

At 9:10 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, September 22, 2021 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 for Supervisor Strand.

The Board unanimously approved the wage and hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$246,340.05.

The Board unanimously approved a transfer of \$5,000 from Inheritance Tax Fund to the Flood Control Fund.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$351,335.23.

The Board unanimously received a letter from County Clerk Mytty announcing no written protests were filed regarding the renewal of The Tow Line Company's liquor license and passed a motion recommending the approval of the license to the State Liquor Control Commission.

The Board unanimously approved a policy for Dodge County and recipients of any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from Dodge County and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the document. County Clerk Mytty explained to the Board that the County already has to comply to certain rules for other Acts (e.g. Americans with Disabilities Act, Fair Housing Act, Age Discrimination Act to name a few). The federal government has added additional compliance requirements (e.g. protection for whistle blowers, increased seatbelt use, no texting while driving) to ARPA. These added requirements would have to be met if an ARPA fund recipient claims mileage for business related activity. The August 31, 2021 deadline for the first ARPA report from Dodge County was met. Chairman Missel thanked County Clerk Mytty for all of the work he did to complete the report.

At 9:15 A.M., a Public Hearing was held on the proposed setting of Dodge County's tax request for fiscal year July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022. Chairman Missel opened the hearing for any testimony. County Clerk Mytty told the Board that the tax request this year is the same as last year. Technically a public hearing is not necessary since the tax rate did not change. Also, according to new laws, the budget hearing must be the last item on the meeting agenda in which it is being discussed. With no testimony for/or against the proposed tax request and since the tax rate and the county budget approval all go together, the Board unanimously adopted a Resolution setting Dodge County's tax request at \$10,924,813 (Tax Rate (\$'s/\$100 of value) = \$0.229730) for fiscal year July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022 pending the approval of the county budget at the 10:15 A.M. Public Hearing.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews told the Board about the NIRMA Self Defense for County Officials Conference on October 21 & 22, 2021 in Kearney. Those interested in attending can register at NIRMA.info.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution For Emergency Relief Program-Emergency/Permanent Repairs Project No. ER-27(70), Control No. 22784 – DDIR Site L27-13 and authorized the necessary signatures on the resolution.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution – Signing of Construction Engineering Agreement – BK2121 with Speece Lewis Engineers for NDOT Project ER-

3490(13), Control No. 22792, Project Description: Hooper North, Logan Creek and authorized the necessary signatures on the resolution. Chairman Missel read the resolution for the record.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on projects the Highway Department is working on. The elbows for the bridge work on County Road 24 arrived and this project should be done in about a week. One of the One & Six Year road projects on Foothill Road has started; this consists of approximately 3 miles of ditch work and building up the road. Crews are working out at Eastgate cleaning out ditches for improved drainage. This is a slow process because of the number of culverts; this should be completed in about a week. Superintendent Huppert is still getting complaints about the construction and road closures on the By-pass projects (Highways 30, 275 and 77). He meets with the state regularly on these projects. The Union Pacific bridge project is in progress, they are watering a lot more to keep the dust down. One of their trucks was hit by a train yesterday. Meetings with contractors for the Logan Creek project (Sawyer Construction) and the Ridgeland Road (J & R Concrete & Construction) project were postponed until next week. The dirt, riprap and sand have all been approved for the Scribner Elkhorn River bank stabilization project.

The Board unanimously approved the agreement for Rawhide Creek Watershed Work Plan-Environmental Assessment (NR216526XXXXC010) between JEO Consulting Group and Dodge County for professional services and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreement. Chairman Missel reminded the Board that this project had originally been awarded to Burns & McDonnell, but they dropped out after they realized the scope of the project was beyond what they were able to provide. The Joint Water Management Board recommended JEO Consulting Group for this project. Chairman Missel read a portion of the agreement for the record.

At 9:42 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims for the month of August 2021.

At 9:57 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from discussion of the claims. No action was taken on any of the claims as a result of the closed session.

At 9:59 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 for Supervisor Strand.

The Board, with Supervisor Weddle abstaining, unanimously accepted the recommendation of Dodge County Treasurer Gail Bargstadt and approved the 2021 Application for Exemption (form 457) from Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children, 2414 N. Main St., Fremont, Nebraska on a 2003 Chevy Trailblazer.

At 10:01 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 22, 2021

A short recess was taken at this time.

At 10:13 A.M., the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present except Supervisor Strand.

The Board unanimously received the Annual Report from Summit Grove Preservation Group and authorized funding the group \$1,000 for the 2021/2022 budget year.

At 10:15 A.M., the Public Hearing on the proposed 2021/2022 County Budget was held. Following provisions of LB148, County Clerk Mytty gave a power point presentation on key provisions of the proposed county budget. He highlighted that the county is nearing completion of flood disaster repair projects, bank funds/reserve funds have been nearly depleted, but flood reimbursement funds should be coming in this fiscal budget year. The operating budget for 2021/2022 went up 42% because of \$8 million in revenue for the disaster loan fund and \$7 million in revenue from the American Rescue Plan Act. The tax rate only increased by .27%; valuations went down .27%. He went on to say the reserve funds (Inheritance, Interest, Capital Improvement/Economic Development) prior to the 2019 floods had \$8 million and by July of 2020 they were down to \$2 million. Currently the reserve funds have \$4 million and he is hoping to keep building on that. There was also money returned from county department heads from last year's budget. Chairman Missel said he is pleased to keep the tax rate nearly the same as last year. Supervisor Bendig agreed and said there may be a chance to pay off some of the debt the county has accrued for the flooding expenses. With no further testimony given, Chairman Missel closed the public hearing.

Regarding any possible amendments to the proposed 2021/2022 budget, County Clerk Mytty said the flood control fund may need adjustment because the reimbursements are so unpredictable.

The Board unanimously approved adding the allowable 2.5% plus growth in excess of 2.5% of restricted funds for carryover to the 2022/2023 County Budget. Supervisor Bendig asked if this is a normal approval from year to year for Dodge County. County Clerk Mytty said it is and explained that this is only on restricted funds which include property taxes, motor vehicle taxes, motor vehicle pro rate in lieu of taxes and insurance premium taxes.

The Board unanimously approved an additional 1% of restricted funds (\$342,169.71) requiring a super majority vote, which is 75% of the governing body.

The Board unanimously adopted and authorized the appropriate signatures on a Resolution approving the 2021/2022 County Budget. The Resolution was read into the record by County Clerk Mytty.

The Board unanimously adopted and authorized the signatures of Chairman Missel and County Clerk Mytty on a Resolution on transfers as outlined in the 2021/2022 County Budget. Supervisor Backens read the resolution for the record.

At 10:34 A.M. the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk