

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, March 9, 2022 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. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Missel called for a moment of silence in observance of the events unfolding in Ukraine.

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, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding channel lineup changes and pricing adjustments, the January 17, 2022 Board of Trustees Minutes and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the seven months ending January 31, 2022 and 2021 for Fremont Community Health Resources, correspondence from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region VII recognizing the successful resolution of Floodplain Management Ordinance Violations, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare 2022-2023 budget request in the amount of \$97,249, Certificates of Insurance for Nickerson and Ridgeley Townships and Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, NIRMA Safety Shorts for March 2022, NIRMA Coverage Corner – *Understanding Your Reporting Obligations*, Moving Permit for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane over county roads and return February 28 and March 7, 2022 and Oath of Office for Sara Sopinski who has been appointed to fulfill the remaining term of Dodge County Attorney due to the retirement of Paul Vaughan.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting as printed. Supervisors Backens and Tawney abstained from this vote because they were not present at the February 23, 2022 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

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 Supervisor Strand.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam said that he had not received a report from the Corrections Department. Chairman Missel and Dodge County Attorney Sara Sopinski also said they had nothing to report.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, March 23, 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 Supervisor Strand.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$236,874.85.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$139,276.38.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution proclaiming April 2nd – 8th, 2022 as the “Week of the Young Child” on the 50th Anniversary of the Week of the Young Child. Supervisor Tawney read the Resolution for the record.

The Board unanimously accepted the IT Committee’s recommendation to hire Applied Connective Technologies of Albion, Nebraska as the Managed Service Provider for Dodge County and authorized Chairman Missel’s signature on the quote. Supervisor Bendig, a member of the IT Committee, said that the reasons they selected Applied Connective Technologies are their experience working with county issues (they currently serve 15 Nebraska counties), their expertise presenting topics such as Cyber Security for NIRMA seminars and that they are Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) certified. He also thanked Jeremy Barton of Nye Technology for his support and input during this process and the IT Committee for their time selecting a vendor. Chairman Missel also thanked the IT Committee and said it is important to mention that all county departments were included in the process of determining the county’s IT needs. A unified approach to IT services is needed and that need has been recognized by the Board for some time. Supervisor Bendig said the dollar amounts on the quote will not be finalized until Applied Connective Technologies determines the number of users, servers and firewalls and the specific needs of individual departments.

The Board unanimously received and approved the list of bank depositories for Dodge County funds for 2022 as requested by Dodge County Treasurer Bargstadt.

The Board unanimously approved the application for FY2023 Juvenile Services Commission Grant Program and authorized Chairman Missel’s signature on the document before submittal to the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Beam received a report from the Corrections Department during the meeting. In the month of February there were 113 bookings and so far for the month of March there have been 35 bookings. The daily average inmate count is 66. Currently there are 60 in custody with 52 being held in Saunders County, 4 under house arrest, 3 with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and 1 in Butler County. Supervisor Backens recognized three deputies from the Dodge County Sheriff’s Department who were recently promoted to Sergeant: Bruce Mastin, Brie Frank and Christian Frerichs. County Clerk Mytty reported that nearly \$5 million was received from Elkhorn Township for flood reimbursements and the flood relief fund has \$3,766,000. The finance committee will be meeting with the bank next week to formulate a plan to pay off some of the notes that were taken out to pay for flood expenses. Supervisor Backens reported that work continues on the tower in Omaha for the radio system. The Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) Committee is in the process of creating a position for an administrator to maintain the radio system. He also reported that Dodge County is considering taking overnight dispatch calls for Burt County since they are having staffing issues. Supervisor Bendig reported that Erickson & Brooks is still working on the audit. The Roads Department is gathering the information needed to complete the single audit portion, which is necessary due to the expenses incurred as a result of the flooding in 2019. Chairman Missel welcomed Sara

Sopinski back into the role of County Attorney and thanked her for her willingness to serve in this role. County Attorney Sopinski introduced Thomas Gross as the Chief Deputy County Attorney for Dodge County. Chairman Missel recognized Jacki Trujillo, Fremont United Way, who was in attendance at this meeting as a member of the current Leadership Fremont class.

The Board unanimously approved the reappointment of Kenneth Molacek to another 3 year term on the Board of Adjustments expiring 3/31/2025.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that there will be Regional Cyber Security Seminars at various locations in the month of April; interested individuals can register at NIRMA.info.

The Board unanimously received bids opened for County Road T West Paving Project from M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc. (\$1,421,785.38), Graham Construction, Inc. (\$968,500.35), Sawyer Construction Co. (\$897,230.34), Koss Construction Co. (\$1,173,196.40), K2 Construction (\$1,290,879.00), Cedar Valley Paving, LLC (\$894,332.90) and J & R Concrete & Construction, LLC (\$947,249.39) and approved the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Huppert to award the contract to the low bidder, Cedar Valley Paving, LLC. Superintendent Huppert said the bids came in a lot higher than he and the engineers anticipated, mostly from increases in the costs for concrete and steel. He also said Cedar Valley will begin the project in June and will coordinate with Graham Construction as they work on Yager Road (Project 636). During construction, all land owners will have access to their land.

The Board unanimously approved the request of Highway Superintendent Huppert to advertise for bids for 2022 Applied Traffic Paint Striping and to have the bids opened on March 28, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. in the Dodge County Highway Department office.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that his employees are working on cleaning out ditches, installing culverts and maintaining equipment. Northern Natural Gas has completed the job of removing their pilings from the Platte River. For the Bypass 30 project, the State will be starting the work across county roads as long as it stays dry; they will close every other county road and will be starting with County Road 15 or 16. The Scribner Elkhorn River bank stabilization project is getting close to go out for bids. Elkhorn Township received two flood reimbursement checks, one for \$940,000.00 and the other for approximately \$4 million (also mentioned by County Clerk Mytty earlier in the meeting) and Platte Township should be receiving reimbursements soon. On March 16, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will be sending a representative to Dodge County to inspect 34 flood related projects. After the inspections are completed, it will be approximately 3 weeks to receive the remainder of the reimbursement money due to Dodge County.

At 9:43 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims for February 2022.

At 9:58 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the 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., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until March 23, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present except Supervisor Strand.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5423 & #5424.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Assessor Churchill to deny tax exempt status for Lifegate Church for the 2022 tax year due to filing the application late and authorized County Clerk Mytty to send a letter to the organization denying the application for tax exempt status for tax year 2022.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Assessor Churchill to deny tax exempt status for Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses for the 2022 tax year due to filing the application late and authorized County Clerk Mytty to send a letter to the organization denying the application for tax exempt status for tax year 2022.

County Assessor Churchill wanted to give the Board a heads up on what she foresees to be a challenging protest season. Valuation amounts have gone up all over because of property sales. She anticipates sending out 19,000+ valuation change notices. She is also contacting referees now to help during the protest season.

At 10:10 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk