

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, June 1, 2022 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Weddle. 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 correspondence from Charter Communications regarding changes in channel lineup, Board of Trustees Minutes for April 11, 2022 meeting & Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the ten months ending April 30, 2022 and 2021 for Fremont Community Health Resources, Certificate of Insurance from Webster Township and Metropolitan Community College to use the Fremont Center as a Polling Place for Precinct 3A due to the auditorium being used by the Keene Memorial Library and Minutes of the Dodge County Planning Commission meeting held May 17, 2022.

The Board, with Supervisor Beam abstaining since he was not at the May 18, 2022 meeting, unanimously approved the minutes of the May 18, 2022 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 Weddle.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that the daily average inmate count is 57. During the month of May there were 140 bookings. Currently there are 58 inmates in custody. Dodge County Attorney Sopinski reported that the Saunders County Jail increased their fees, which was part of the original contract with Saunders County.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, June 15, 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 Weddle.

Chairman Missel took a moment to welcome Senator Lynne Walz and Jon Cannon, Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) to the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$248,260.18

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$433,780.04.

The Board unanimously approved the 2022-2023 Budget Calendar as presented. Chairman Missel pointed out that the calendar is the same as last year with updated dates.

Jon Cannon, Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) was present to give the Board an update. He wanted to make it clear that he is Dodge County's employee and he will work with the county on whatever issues arise of which NACO can be of assistance. He pointed out that in the last census, it shows an emptying out of the rural population. One of NACO's goals is to see that all 93 counties in Nebraska prosper, which is becoming more challenging with the loss of the rural population. Mr. Cannon encouraged the Board to collaborate with the eight like size (over 30,000 population) counties regarding legal and economic matters to mention a few. He thinks these eight counties are positioned to be "engines of growth" for the state. The next issue Mr. Cannon addressed is the inheritance tax, which, in Nebraska, is a supplemental source of revenue to property taxes. Nebraska is one of six states that still has an inheritance tax. LB310 passed and it adjusted exempt amounts and percentages; Mr. Cannon estimates that the inheritance tax will suffer a 15% hit because of the passage of this bill. Mr. Cannon suggested that the county board contact their senator to voice their support for keeping the inheritance tax because it helps reduce the amount of property taxes Nebraskans pay. He believes the inheritance tax will continue to be under attack in coming years and encouraged the Board to get the word out to their constituents what inheritance tax dollars support. He also challenged them to consider allocating a certain percentage of the inheritance tax for a specific purpose. Chairman Missel agreed that the inheritance tax reduces the property tax burden and cited the March 2019 flood as an example of what it has been used for in Dodge County. Mr. Cannon then talked about the postcard bill, LB644, which is a bill that supports truth in taxation (tax transparency). This bill says if the property tax request of the county, city, schools and/or community college go over a certain amount (2% + growth), every person that owns a parcel in that area must be notified of the change to their property taxes. There will then be a joint public meeting regarding the matter that must be held before county budgets are approved; the county budget calendar may be affected by this change. The notification to property owners will be sent on a pink postcard that will be produced by the state printer at 52 cents per card. The billing for the postcard will be proportionate based on which political subdivision(s) exceeded their budget. Mr. Cannon summarized some of the bills that have passed that may have an impact on county government. He then gave an overview of the NACO workshops that will be held for county officials this summer; the county board workshop will be in Kearney on June 8 & 9. Cyber security is an important issue that NACO is trying to stay on top of and will be included in these workshops. The National Association of Counties (NACo) conference will be held in Denver, CO on July 21-24. NACO Board President Judy Mutzenberger approved the formation of a 10 & 30 year committee to explore the future of county government. The NACO Board has also requested the formation of a mass appraisal company. The pool of appraisers in the state is dwindling and this company would be available to any counties who need it. Mr. Cannon concluded his update with information on the future opening of a western NACO office near Ogallala, which will begin the expansion of NACO's presence in the state. In regards to the postcard bill, County Clerk Mytty commented that he thinks the county would use any other means to avoid going over their property tax request, but he worries about the other political subdivisions in Dodge County. Mr. Cannon said there are some political subdivisions

across the state (primarily smaller counties) that will have no choice but to exceed their property tax request in some instances.

The Board unanimously approved a \$60,254, 5-year lease with Quadient for a mailing system and folder inserter and authorized the necessary signatures on the lease agreement. County Clerk Mytty said the current 5-year contract for just a mailing system is approximately \$29,000. This new system will fold and insert mailings in addition to adding postage.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the selection committee and approved the appointment of Molly Paden as the new director for the Fremont & Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau effective June 1, 2022.

A Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Chad R. & Cara Rebbe, Etal of 1756 County Road N, Hooper, NE 68031 to subdivide an 11.43 acre tract and obtain a Conditional Use Permit for an existing dwelling as per Article 12, Conditional Uses, Section 4.2 Exemptions located in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2, Township 18 North, Range 7 East in Maple Township, Zoning District A-1, Intensive Ag. Hearing no testimony for or against the request, the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approved the lot split and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) based on the conditional use conforms to the intent and purpose of the regulations and the use conforms to the regulations of the district in which it is located.

A Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Chad R. & Cara Rebbe, Etal of 1756 County Road N, Hooper, NE 68031 to subdivide a 7.3 acre tract and obtain a Conditional Use Permit for an existing dwelling as per Article 12, Conditional Uses, Section 4.2 Exemptions located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2, Township 18 North, Range 7 East in Maple Township, Zoning District A-1, Intensive Ag. Hearing no testimony for or against the request, the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approved the lot split and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) based on the conditional use conforms to the intent and purpose of the regulations and the use conforms to the regulations of the district in which it is located.

A Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Chad R. & Cara Rebbe, Etal of 1756 County Road N, Hooper, NE 68031 to subdivide a 14.18 acre tract to construct a new single family dwelling as per Article 12, Section 2.1 Conditional Uses located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2, Township 18 North, Range 7 East in Maple Township, Zoning District A-1, Intensive Ag. Hearing no testimony for or against the request, the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approved the lot split and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) based on the conditional use conforms to the intent and purpose of the regulations and the use conforms to the regulations of the district in which it is located. Mr. Rebbe was present to explain that the unconventional property line follows their lane, some bromegrass, a tree line of cottonwoods and a bottom terrace.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews told the Board about a NIRMA sponsored HR round table discussion about employee engagement at 12:00 p.m. on June 2. Those interested can register at NIRMA.info. She also informed the Board to expect a premium increase from NIRMA.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert updated the Board on projects going on in the Roads Department. Employees are starting the final mile of Foothill Road with a hopeful completion date of late June. Culvert installations continue. The recent rains did not help the county roads so there are grader operators out working on the rock on the trouble spots. Superintendent Huppert said he wants to incorporate the white rock into the roadway so they won't have as many issues in the future. There have been 3 complaints filed with the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy about the dust and speed on Morningside Road from the 275 By-Pass to the water treatment plant. The City of Fremont implemented phase 3 of the project at the water treatment plant; Superintendent Huppert did not know about this. He has been in contact with the contractors about watering and the speed limit has been reduced to 35 mph on this stretch of road. He told the contractor the road will be shut down if they are not compliant. The gates for the Logan Creek flood control project are being installed and the final inspection with the state will be on June 3. They will be going out for bids soon for the Scribner/Elkhorn River project with hopes of starting construction this calendar year. He is working with two township auditors on flood related issues and he is working with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to close out Elkhorn and Pleasant Valley Townships. The City of Fremont will complete their work on Yager Road this week or next; construction can begin when they are finished. Superintendent Huppert will be attending the Highway Superintendent conference in Valentine next week.

At 10:09 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors and convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present except Supervisor Weddle.

The Board unanimously received a letter from County Treasurer Bargstadt and accepted her recommendation to approve 2020 & 2021 tax roll corrections for Oldcastle Central resulting in a tax refund of \$7,606.95.

The Board unanimously received an Exemption Application (Form 451) from the Fremont Branch of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, accepted County Assessor Churchill's recommendation to approve the application and authorized the Dodge County Board of Equalization to sign the Exemption Application for 2022.

The Board unanimously approved a referee agreement for the 2022 tax valuation protest season with William Kaiser and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreement.

The Board unanimously approved using the state printing office to print postcards relating to LB644 & LB927 regarding the "postcard budget limit act" that was discussed at length earlier in the meeting with Jon Cannon, Executive Director NACO.

The Board unanimously approved an emergency item to be added to the agenda due to the time sensitive nature of the issue. County Assessor Churchill requested that Post-Abstract Board Notices for June 1, 2022 be approved by the Board so they can be mailed out by the county clerk's office on June 3, 2022. Assessor Churchill explained that the notices are dated June 1, 2022 but they would like them mailed on June 3, 2022 to give property owners time to receive their property valuation notices that were

mailed on Tuesday, May 31. In a separate motion, the Board unanimously received the Post-Abstract Board Notices for June 1, 2022 (to be mailed June 3, 2022) from County Assessor Churchill of her request for changes to valuations of parcels for 2022 and approved and authorized the county clerk to mail notices to the owners of the properties.

Assessor Churchill explained that she has to send the state the methodology used to determine property valuations for this year. She also sent it to the Board and asked if they have any questions about it. She pointed out that many of the subdivision valuations went up because they weren't within the level of value. Appraisals from 2021 will have a 6% market adjustment added to them, which is what has been done the past couple of years.

At 10:20 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

Committee Reports: Supervisor Bendig reported that Applied Connective Technologies (the new managed service provider for Dodge County) has started the email migration to the new county Microsoft email system. They have also installed a new server in the sheriff's department and will be installing 2 new firewalls in the next couple of weeks. Supervisor Backens reported that the Merit Commission is interviewing candidates for open sheriff deputy positions.

At 10:24 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk