

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 17, 2023 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. 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 county officials' reports, Proceedings of the Fremont Municipal Inland Port Authority's April 27, 2023 meeting provided by Secretary, Fred Mytty, Certificate of Liability Insurance for WSP USA, Inc., NIRMA Safety Shorts for May 2023, correspondence from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy regarding violations of NDEE Title 124-Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems by RMG Fremont LLC located at 549 E. County Road T in Fremont, NE, Notice of Public Hearings on a request of Mayor Spellerberg for a change to the text of the Unified Development Code to establish a Port Authority Zoning District, generally adding the district to Sections 11-403, 11-502, 11-603, 11-814 and 11-815 of the Fremont Municipal Code; and a request by Mayor Spellerberg for a Change of Zone from R, Rural to PA, Port Authority on property generally described as lying between Highway 275 on the west; the north-south ½ section line of Section 21, T17N, R9E and Section 28, 17N, R9E on the east; the Union Pacific Rail Road on the north and the south section line of Section 29, 17N, R9E and 28, 17N, R9E, Dodge County, NE, Moving Permit for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane over county roads and return on May 5, 2023 and Moving Permit for Loy Woerman to move a grain bin over county roads on May 9, 2023. The Board also approved the addition of an emergency item to the agenda for consideration and possible action on a county disaster declaration for the 5/12/23 tornadic/severe thunderstorm event. Chairman Missel said the emergency exists due to the timeliness of signing this declaration so action can start to open up funding for damage repairs.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 3, 2023 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.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 72 inmates in custody with 55 of them being held in Saunders County, 11 in Washington County, 3 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and 3 are under house arrest. County Attorney Hopkins reported that she has been working with the county court judges to expedite bond review hearings so those who are appropriate for bond (with low level offenses) can be processed before they get transferred to another facility.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, May 31, 2023 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 \$270,601.37.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$606,220.65.

The Board unanimously received the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Staff Report and authorized Chairman Missel to sign a 2023 Ballot for Election to the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Board of Directors for Shelly Holzerland, Communications Director, Fremont/Dodge County 911. Chairman Missel said the Board recognizes Ms. Holzerland's commitment to serving and representing Dodge County on this board. Ms. Holzerland was present and said NRIN is very important to all PSAPS in that it provides a low-cost way to share data and videos. She said being a representative on this board allows her to advocate for Dodge County and provide input for future expansion of the network.

The Board unanimously received and approved the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar. Supervisor Bendig said this calendar is similar to ones in past years. He added that there may be amendments to it if there is any legislation passed that would change any of the dates. If there are changes to the calendar, it will be brought before the board again to approve them. Chairman Missel told the Board that Fred Mytty will be helping with the budget this year.

The Board tabled follow-up discussion and any action on the creation of a special committee to address the distribution of funds that have been and will be received by Dodge County from the opioid settlements. This item will be added to the agenda for the May 31, 2023 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

The Board acted on the emergency item that was added to the agenda by unanimously accepting the recommendation of Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith to issue a county disaster declaration for the 5/12/23 tornadic/severe thunderstorm event. Emergency Manager Smith provided the Board with information from the preliminary damage assessments. He said the county disaster declaration will make it possible for people with damage to receive USDA Small Business Administration grants and low interest loans. The Dodge County disaster declaration will be sent to the State of Nebraska and they will decide whether to declare a state disaster, which would make federal aid available to Dodge County.

The Board unanimously received the contract awarded to Cedar Valley Paving LLC to pave Road 18, Project 642 and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the contract.

The Board unanimously received the contract awarded to A & R Construction for the box culvert Project 640, Structure No. C002701225 and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the contract.

The Board unanimously received the Supplemental Agreement for Observation of Construction Agreement with Speece Lewis Engineers originally dated June 20, 2022 for Project 642, Road Grading and Paving Project Road 18 and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement.

The Board unanimously received the Supplemental Agreement for Observation of Construction Agreement with Speece Lewis Engineers originally dated June 20, 2022 for Project 640, replacement of Structure No. C002701225 and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement.

The Board unanimously authorized the Dodge County Highway Superintendent to conduct a study on the request of property owners Daniel Veskerna and Steven Renner for Dodge County to relinquish ownership of the portion of Jones Street that remains vacated in the Road Rail Subdivision of the NW ¼ Section 25, T17N, R8E, Dodge County, NE. The portion that Dodge County would relinquish is from the south line of Morningside Road, south to the westerly extension of the south line of Lot 1R, replat of Veskerna Business Park. It was agreed that Dodge County does not need to retain ownership of this right-of-way; the road will most likely never need to be used publicly again. The completion of the study will allow for a date to be set for a public hearing to hear testimony for or against the relinquishment.

The Board unanimously approved the request of Highway Superintendent Huppert to advertise for bids for Crushed Limestone Road Rock for fiscal year 2023-2024 and to have the bids opened on June 12, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. in the Dodge County Highway Department.

The Board unanimously approved the request of Highway Superintendent Huppert to advertise for bids for Road Gravel for fiscal year 2023-2024 and to have the bids opened on June 12, 2023 at 11:15 A.M. in the Dodge County Highway Department.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that there will be CPR/AED training on Thursday, May 18, 2023 for county employees to be held in the conference room of the Judicial Center. Chad Engle from NIRMA will be conducting the training.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees have finished the regrading project on County Road 17; the farmers are happy and said it has been a long time coming. Employees are laying the base for the new shed that will be used to store salt (at the Roads Department yard). He said they plan to build the footings in July, so they are getting the ground ready now. Work on Morningside Road (the first mile from Hwy 275 to County Road 26) is starting; the road will be closed for rebuilding, ditch cleaning and culvert work. Weather permitting, this should be about a 3-week project. There are drainage issues at this location they are hoping to alleviate. Employees are installing culverts on county roads where the old FEVR rail line used to be; they are also removing the remaining pieces of rail in these places. Superintendent Huppert and a few of his employees helped with barricading roads after the storm on 5/12/23 to keep people away from power lines that had been knocked down. The right-of-way has been secured for the County Road 18 paving project. OPPD is tentatively planning to move the poles in July; the in-ground utilities are out of the way. Cedar Valley Paving LLC plans to start the project around the 1st of July. The box culvert project on County Road F is set with a late July to early August start date. Planning for the portions of "old" Hwy 30 that will be relinquished to Dodge County has begun; the county will take over mowing, signage and any complaints that arise. The bids for the reconstruction of two bridges along "old" Hwy 30 will be going out in December, so that work will be done in the 2024 construction year. Work on Yager Road is slowly moving along and dirt work is supposed to begin next week. Chairman Missel complimented the work done on west Military Avenue; the ability to see deer here has been greatly improved. Supervisor Backens asked about the pothole south of County Road T on

Yager Road. Superintendent Huppert said this was made by the contractors and they are responsible for fixing it. Supervisor Backens also asked whether a short portion of the new Southeast Beltway is going to be named. He believes there will be accidents at this location and thinks it is important for emergency services to have an address to identify it. In conclusion, there was discussion about how tight the roundabouts are on the new Southeast Beltway.

At 9:44 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5586 through #5608.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Bargstadt on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2023 on a 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup from Spirit of Peace Church, 303 W. Maple St., Hooper, Nebraska, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

The Board unanimously approved referee agreements for the 2023 property valuation protest season with the following appraisers: Brian Arnold, Chad Howser and Craig Miller and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreements.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Tax Equalization & Review Commission (TERC) regarding Decision and Order Reversing the Decisions of the Dodge County Board of Equalization for Case Nos.: 19C 0019 & 20C 0024 (Hy-Vee). Supervisor Bendig asked if the county will appeal this decision. County Attorney Hopkins said she has asked for a closed session at the May 31, 2023 board meeting to discuss this. The deadline to appeal this decision is shortly after the next board meeting.

The Board unanimously received the Findings and Order In the Matter of Equalization of Value of Real Property Within Dodge County for Tax Year 2023 Before the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission stating no further adjustments of value are needed and no further proceedings shall be held to determine whether further adjustments should be made.

Dodge County Assessor Churchill provided some explanations about the 2023 Real Property Valuation methodology used by her office. She gave the Board statistics about the 20,859 notice of valuation changes that will be mailed out next week. Assessor Churchill said she wants the Board to be aware of the details behind the numbers in case they get calls from constituents.

At 10:23 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk