

## 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, October 4, 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, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding changes in channel lineup, correspondence from Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District regarding applications for the Community Forestry Incentive Program, Officials Bond Continuation Certificates for Robin S. Custer, SID #3, Lake Ventura and Michael Winterfeld, SID #3, Lake Ventura, letter from Alton Crook resigning from his position on the Dodge County Veterans Service Committee that expires on June 30, 2024, Certificate of Insurance for Cooney Fertilizer Inc., Minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting of the Dodge County Courthouse Safety Committee, Notice of Public Hearings with the City of Fremont Planning Commission at 5:00 p.m. on September 18, 2023 for a request for Amendment to Redevelopment Plan, Enhanced Employment Area and Landscape Waiver made by Brian Reilly on Behalf of Fremont Mall, LLC to amend the 23<sup>rd</sup> & Bell Street Redevelopment Plan to identify a project to rehabilitate the Fremont Mall located at 23<sup>rd</sup> St. and Yager Road and a waiver of landscaping on property described as Lots 5 and 6, Rodamar Addition Replat 1; Lots 1 and 2 Rodamar Addition Replat 2 located at the northwest corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> St. and Yager Road, Moving Permits for Barnhart Crane to move a crane on September 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> over county roads, Utility Installation Agreement with OPPD for a single phase primary underground cable at Vic of County Road 3 and US Highway 30 and Minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting of the Dodge County Highway Department Safety Committee.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting as printed.

The Board, with Supervisor Weddle abstaining since he was not present at the September 29, 2023 meeting, unanimously approved the minutes of the Special Emergency Meeting on September 29, 2023 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 51 inmates in custody with 35 being held in Saunders County, 12 in Washington County and 4 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. There were 111 inmates booked into custody in the month of September. County Attorney Hopkins reported that the committee is moving forward with establishing rules and regulations for the house release program, which will only be used for non-violent offenders. The committee will be meeting with the judges to get their input. Jail personnel requested that rules regarding house release be put in place, such as GPS monitoring, drug testing

procedures and check-in/check-out procedures. The use of this program will decrease the numbers of individuals incarcerated and will save the county money.

At 9:07 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, October 18, 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 \$272,801.92.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$944,856.60.

The Board unanimously received and accepted the recommendation of the Veterans Service Committee and approved the appointment of Ed O'Neil to the Dodge County Veterans Service Board to finish the term of Alton Crook, which expires on June 30, 2024.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation from the Fremont & Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board for them to expend American Rescue Plan Act funds for the following projects: 30 Bowl - \$25,000 for facility & equipment upgrades, Fremont Area Art Association - \$50,000 for Phase II Construction completion, Village of Dodge - \$41,000 for improvements to the North Park Ball Fields, Dodge County Agricultural Society - \$100,000 for construction of the Dodge County Fair Event Center in Scribner, John C. Fremont Days - \$13,000 for electrical upgrade for food court area in John C. Fremont Park, FEVR Rail to Trail Foundation \$40,000 for Construction of the FEVR Trail from Fremont to Hooper and Midland University - \$31,000 for construction of an indoor athletic fieldhouse. Molly Paden, Executive Director of the Fremont & Dodge County CVB, was present and explained that their board opened a 6-month application period and considered about 18 applications. She said their focus was on projects that would promote tourism in Dodge County and they felt these seven projects met their criteria. Supervisor Bendig said this \$300,000 of ARPA funds has already been allocated to the Fremont & Dodge County CVB and approved by the Dodge County Board. He said this is just a formality and meets the need for the CVB to ask for approval to spend over \$10,000. Supervisor Strand asked about giving money to 30 Bowl since the Board typically does not approve giving money to private businesses. Ms. Paden said there were other non-profit organizations that applied for funding. She added that since 30 Bowl is the only bowling alley in Fremont, they host a lot of tournaments that bring visitors to Fremont who stay in our motels and eat in our restaurants.

At 9:15 A.M., a public hearing was held to consider the approval of a Class C – “Beer, Wine & Distilled Spirits On and Off Sale” Liquor License for Shoreline LLC, dba “The Tow Line” at 3120 State Lakes Road, Fremont, NE, Dodge County. Hearing no testimony for or against the license, the Board unanimously approved the liquor license.

The Board unanimously approved Dodge County funding individual health insurance for Claudia Castaneda, Juvenile Diversion employee with the Dodge County Attorney's Office, effective November 1, 2023. Meggie Studt, Dodge County Juvenile Diversion Director, was present and explained to the Board that Ms. Castaneda's salary

is paid by a grant, but health insurance is not an eligible expenditure under the grant guidelines. She said her employment situation is the same and Dodge County agreed to take her on as a Dodge County employee (May 2020) and fund her health insurance. Ms. Studt also told the Board that Ms. Castaneda is bilingual, which is a huge asset to their office since there has been about a 40% increase in the number of Hispanic juvenile offenders in Dodge County.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development regarding Monitoring Performance Review Report #1 (R1) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Contract #19EM001 – Ames Dike and referred it to Emergency Manager Tom Smith and JEO Consulting for follow-up.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development regarding Monitoring Performance Review Report #1 (R1) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Contract #19EM005 – Breach Lake, Fremont Rod & Gun Club and referred it to Emergency Manager Tom Smith and JEO Consulting for follow-up. County Clerk Micki Gilfry told the Board that she forwarded this correspondence to the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD) since they managed these grants for Dodge County. NENEDD is helping gather the information requested by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Strand reported that he met with Dana Nielsen and Tim Walter (Building and Grounds) at the Wiseman building, which is the future site of the Dodge County Election office. He said they are doing general demolition but are waiting for more drawings from the architect before they go further. Chairman Missel reported that the Greater Fremont Development Council is hosting Inland Port Authority Stakeholder meetings on October 24, 2023. The Council would like as many Dodge County Supervisors in attendance as possible. There will be three different sessions for stakeholders that day.

The Board unanimously approved having the Dodge County Courthouse Safety Committee address the presence of Service Animals in the courthouse and post signage on the front door of the courthouse stating the expectations of these animals while in the courthouse. There was recently an incident in the county treasurer's office where an "emotional support" dog was growling at other customers. Supervisor Strand said Building and Grounds Manager Dana Nielsen researched signs for the front door. Supervisor Strand asked Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews to work with Mr. Nielsen to get signage posted.

The Board unanimously approved Highway Superintendent Huppert writing a study letter in consideration of correspondence received from landowner Jerry Hasenkamp requesting a segment of County Road H in Section 4, Township 19 North, Range 7 East in Everett Township be vacated. A public hearing for the vacation of this segment of road can be scheduled after receipt of the study letter from Superintendent Huppert.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that his employees are working on a grading project on County Road (CR) 11, between Foothill Road and CR N; there was an issue with standing water in this location that they are resolving. He has employees working on ditch cleanout and culvert installations between CR 1 and CR 3.

Superintendent Huppert said he has had one interview and another one is scheduled for positions he has open. He has advertised the job openings on Facebook and in the local newspapers but hasn't had a lot of people apply. CR 18 is partially open and there has been traffic on it. The seeding and striping still need to be completed; he's hoping the road will be fully open by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. CR F with the new box culvert is open and the shofly is gone. The seeding will be done this week, weather permitting. There is a meeting with the State this morning to discuss final work to be done on the Highway 30 Bypass, such as cleanup work and signage. He will also be talking to Cedar Valley about the approaches onto the bypass. He has been working with the State on opening and closing roads around the Highway 275 Bypass. There have been trucks getting onto the wrong roads (not haul roads) and tearing them up. Superintendent Huppert has been meeting with the engineers to look at bridges throughout the county. He would like to remove some of the bridges and put in culverts, similar to the project on CR F; he said there is a lot of rust on the bridges. Bridge inspections will begin this month.

At 9:36 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

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 Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously received and referred to the county attorney, correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission regarding Order for Dismissal with Prejudice for AutoZone Development Corporation, Case No. 21C 0258.

The Board, with Supervisor Weddle abstaining, unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Bargstadt on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2023 on a 2020 Toyota Minivan from Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children, 2415 N. Main St. Fremont, NE, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

At 10:01 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry  
Dodge County Clerk