

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 20, 2024 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Backens. 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, Board of Trustees Minutes for February 12, 2024 meeting and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the eight months ending February 29, 2024 and February 28, 2023 from Fremont Community Health Resources, letter from County Treasurer Bargstadt regarding Kenneth & Sandra Hasemann 2023 Tax Roll Correction #5672 resulting in a tax refund of \$230.73, Certificates of Insurance for Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, Pleasant Valley and Union Townships, Notice of Public Hearing for Douglas Planning Commission on March 20, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. regarding request to rezone from AG Agriculture to R-2 Urban Residential Moderate Density District a Parcel in the S ½ Section 12, Twsp 16 N, Range 10 East, Correspondence from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy regarding Weitzenkamp Farms, Inc. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation, NPDES General Permit for CAFOs, Moving Permits for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane over county roads on March 8 – 11th; March 12 & 13th, 2024, March 14-16th and return and Utility Installation Agreement with Lumen to install a fiber optic cable in Sections 19 & 20, T20N, R6W.

The Board, with Supervisors Bendig and Tawney abstaining since they were not present at the March 6, 2024 meeting, unanimously approved the minutes of the March 6, 2024 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 Backens.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 45 inmates in custody with 41 being held in Saunders County and 4 in Washington County. Supervisor Strand commented that the number of inmates in custody is historically low. He thanked County Attorney Hopkins for the efforts of her office that have influenced the number of individuals incarcerated. County Attorney Hopkins said they are working with the courts to get lower-level offenders processed quickly. They are also ensuring public safety by keeping the higher-level offenders in custody. She added that not all involved in the process are happy with the speed at which inmates are being processed. County Attorney Hopkins reported that the meeting with Saunders County Corrections to discuss known issues has not taken place. She said the contract to house inmates with Saunders County Corrections is up for renewal this year. She is hoping a meeting to discuss issues will also be an opportunity to identify areas in the contract that may need attention.

At 9:07 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, April 3, 2024 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 Backens.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$283,087.92.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$390,806.58.

The Board unanimously received the 2023 Annual Report from Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council and approved the renewal of Dodge County's Sponsor Membership of \$350.

The Board unanimously approved three-year contracts with Great Plains Communications to upgrade internet speeds to 1G/1G for the Schneider building and Probation building at a rate of \$149.95/month and a rate of \$185.95/month for the Dodge County Courthouse. Supervisor Bendig explained that this upgrade is in conjunction with the new phone system upgrade. He said this change will save the County \$164.00/month and he is comfortable with the three-year term.

The Board unanimously approved a one-year contract with Great Plains Communications to upgrade internet speeds to 300/300 at a rate of \$99.95/month for 33 W. 4th St. (juvenile services office). Supervisor Bendig explained that this service will be an upgrade to the service, but the monthly rate is lower. He said the one-year term was selected because this building is rented and they don't want to be locked into a longer contract term in case the office is relocated.

The Board unanimously approved a contract for service with Allo Communications for backup internet at speeds of 500/500 for the Courthouse at a rate of \$185.15/month and authorized the necessary signatures on the contract. Supervisor Bendig said now that the phone system runs over the internet, it is important to have a backup service in place. It will also provide backup services for the Wi-Fi in the Courthouse.

The Board unanimously received the monitoring response letter to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development related to the 19EM001 grant (Ames Dike CDBG) and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the letter.

During public discussion, County Attorney Hopkins reported that there has been more disruptive courtroom behavior recently. She talked with Sheriff Weitzel and the Sheriff's Department is going to start providing security for juvenile court hearings. In April there is a Grand Jury proceeding scheduled to address the death of an individual while being apprehended. County Attorney Hopkins said she will be reaching out to the Saunders County Sheriff's Department to provide security for these proceedings. Regarding truancy issues, County Attorney Hopkins said a meeting was held with the principals in the Fremont Public School District and the feedback was positive. She said the parents of the truants are now more involved in making sure their children are in school. She added that it is not their intent to throw parents in jail, but rather to get them to give more attention to the problem of their child's truancy.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Tawney reported that the watershed project for the North Bend Cutoff Ditch project is in the process of solving easement issues. The Rawhide Creek Watershed project is progressing; at a recent meeting with the airport authority issues with the water basins were discussed. The Elkhorn Township/Fremont East Drainage Improvements project is in a wait and see position now waiting for FEMA's approval. Supervisor Bendig reported for the IT committee that they are working on redundancy for the phone system at the Probation Office. Applied Technology is working on a network upgrade that will get all departments in the courthouse on the same network. The committee is still waiting to hear if any of the grants they applied for will be approved by Homeland Security.

The Board unanimously received information about upcoming ADA training opportunities and referred consideration of the appointment of a new ADA and Title VI Coordinator to the personnel committee.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reminded the Board that the deadline to register for the upcoming NIRMA regional meetings is April 3, 2024.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees have started the grading project (#654) in Scribner. Employees are working on the riprap around the bridge on County Road 5 (project #625). The last six employees received their certification for the barricade and flagging class. In April Superintendent Huppert will be attending a bridge conference in Kearney and the National Association of County Engineers Conference in Palm Springs, CA. He reported that he has picked up from where he left off last fall installing the blue address signs at lakes in Dodge County. After all of the signs are installed, it needs to be determined how to budget for future problems such as broken or stolen signs that need to be replaced. Assistant Highway Superintendent Jean Andrews said this needs to be figured into new construction permits. Supervisor Strand said the cost of a new permit could be increased to cover the cost of the sign plus installation. Ms. Andrews said the permit fees have not changed since 2012.

At 9:37 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 10:01 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present except for Supervisor Backens.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5674 through #5680.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following for Robert J. Schmidt: Certification of Final Decision and Order for Case No. 22A 0449 and Certification of Final Decision and Order for Case No.21A 0600.

At 10:03 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk