

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, November 27, 2024 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 correspondence from Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting, Certificates of Insurance for Western Engineering Co., Inc. and Barnhart Crane and Rigging Co., notification from Jennifer Dam, Director of City Planning, that Habitat for Humanity has withdrawn a request for a Conditional Use Permit (there was no hearing at the November 12, 2024 City Council meeting), Notice of Public Hearings for the City of Fremont Planning Commission held November 18, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. for a request by Roger Menn for a Conditional Use Permit for an event center with a waiver of hard surfacing for overflow parking on property located at 3551 N. Somers Ave., Fremont, NE; a request by Christine Acuna for a Conditional Use Permit for an in-home daycare on property located at 818 W. 9th St., Fremont, NE and correspondence from Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) regarding the receipt of an ASSIST grant in the amount of \$500 to purchase an AED for the Schneider Street building.

The Board, with Supervisor Bendig abstaining since he was not present at the November 13, 2024 meeting, unanimously approved the minutes of the November 13, 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.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 45 inmates in custody with 35 of them being held in Saunders County, 7 in Washington County, 2 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 1 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, December 11, 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.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$304,333.71.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$538,186.45.

The Board unanimously received the request from Sheriff Weitzel to declare two 2016 Ford Explorers as surplus property and authorized the vehicles to be taken to Jack Nitz & Associates for public auction.

Shayla Linn, Executive Director of the United Way, provided an update on their plans to spend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding before the December 31, 2026 deadline. She reported that they have the ARPA funding broken down into three categories. The basic needs category includes rent and utility assistance for Dodge County residents and to date they have spent \$326,695.81 of the \$425,000 they were awarded; they plan to have the remainder spent by the end of 2025. The second category is aid to non-profit agencies; they have spent \$235,515.00 of the \$425,000 they were awarded. These funds are disbursed with United Way funds in agency quarterly checks. The plan is to use \$100,000 in 2025 and the remaining \$89,485 in 2026. A project fund is the third category the ARPA funds will be used for and these funds will be used to make the conference room in the Olson Community Engagement Center more accessible to the public. Construction is to start in December to install a door to the conference room so the public can use the conference room without having access to the rest of the building. Beth Nacke, Extension Educator with the Dodge County Extension Office, reported that they have been using their ARPA funds for the Monthly Meal Kit program, which addresses food insecurity among adolescents. They also have a Little Free Pantry program which offers anonymous access to free food whenever it is needed. She said they still have 4 pantries yet to be installed and plan to spend the remainder of their ARPA funding to get the supplies to install the pantries. During this discussion, it came into question what the total amount of ARPA funding is for the extension office. Ms. Nacke is under the understanding that their total funding is \$10,000. Dodge County records indicate the total amount of the award is \$75,000. Supervisor Bendig said he and County Clerk Gilfry will review the original ARPA documents to determine the correct amount. Midland University reported that they have used their ARPA funding to support a 24/7 telehealth/counseling platform for students. They will be making one more reimbursement request that will use up the remainder of their ARPA funding. Supervisor Bendig asked Highway Superintendent Huppert if the Old Highway 275 overlay project is complete. He said it is complete and may cost less than the \$942,000 ARPA funding allocated for the project. If there is money left over from this project it will need to be obligated before December 31, 2024.

At 9:15 A.M., a public hearing was held to consider the approval of a Class D "Beer, Wine, Spirits Off Sale Only" New License Application for Saga Properties Fremont, LLC dba "Dual Stop Fremont". Hearing no testimony for or against the license, the Board unanimously approved the liquor license. Savan Patel, Manager of Dual Stop Fremont was present and explained that when the Bell Street viaduct was closed it adversely affected their business. They had credit issues and for that reason, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission revoked their liquor license. To obtain another liquor license, Dual Stop Fremont had to start the application process all over again.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the National Association of Counties (NACo) regarding renewal of Dodge County's NACo 2025 membership dues and approved a payment of \$743.00 for the renewal.

The Board unanimously received applications for the investment of funds for the year 2025 from Union Bank & Trust, Lincoln, NE and Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT). It is the consensus of the Board that Dodge County should keep their investments with local depositories.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Bendig reported that the migration to one server is continuing and should be complete by the end of the year. Supervisor Strand reported that Dodge County’s IT company is looking into the software glitch that has caused the courthouse doors to be open on holidays over the past few months. Chairman Missel reported that he and Supervisor Beam met with North Risk Partners about Medica health insurance coverage. Originally Medica proposed a 10% increase for 2025, but this was negotiated down to a 5% increase. Supervisor Backens reported that work on the parking garage will be moving forward by the City of Fremont; the estimated cost for repairs is \$300,000.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Marlin Brabec to a three-year term on the Board of Adjustment. Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews said he will be replacing Russell Rabeler on this board. Mr. Brabec has been serving as an alternate on this board, so a new alternate will have to be appointed. Ms. Andrews said the Board of Adjustment will meet in January to select a chairman.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees continue ditch cleaning for the FEMA project. The snow fence in Dodge County has been put up; there is still some fencing that needs to be added along Platte River Road. There is approximately 20 miles of snow fence throughout the county. Dodge County does put up snow fence for some of the townships, but they charge the townships for this service. Employees will be patching potholes as weather allows; they will be borrowing a hot trailer from the City of Fremont to do this work. Superintendent Huppert spoke with the Nebraska Department of Transportation today about who is responsible for snow removal on Platte River Road. The by-laws state that if there is still a contractor working on the road, they are responsible for snow removal. November 15th was the deadline for asphalt work and it is not done, so that work will resume April 15, 2025. The bridge and intersection work are not complete either and Superintendent Huppert is concerned about county snowplows damaging these areas. He requested a letter from the State Department of Transportation to Dodge County releasing the County from any liability if they do any damage during snow removal. The State told Superintendent Huppert not to send a new snowplow operator to work on Platte River Road. Superintendent Huppert is planning to go to the State Highway Commission meeting on Friday, December 6, 2024. He has been in contact with the commission secretary to see if he can get on the agenda to discuss Platte River Road. Supervisor Strand asked if it would be helpful to have one of the Road & Bridge Committee members attend this meeting as well. It was decided that an elected official from the Road & Bridge Committee will attend this meeting. The Highway Superintendent Association will be discussing issues they have with the turnout structures to county roads on the State right-of-way at the NACO Annual Conference in December. Another issue to be discussed at the conference is utility installations as they relate to county road right-of-way and the acquisition of permits to do this work. Bridge inspections are done and the State will be doing audits on 25 of the bridges in Dodge County. Superintendent Huppert will work on the FEMA project after the bridge inspection work is completed. Emergency Manager Tom Smith has managed a lot of the paperwork for this project; there should be approximately \$250,000 worth of reimbursements for the work that has been done. Supervisor Bendig asked if gravel is being put on the county roads. A letter has been sent to the townships to instruct the grader operators to take care of their gravel; they will not get more gravel until the operators show some improvement in maintaining the gravel on their roads.

At 9:30 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider the request of James Minarick of 1361 County Road 4, North Bend, NE 68649 to subdivide a 5.39-acre tract and to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an existing dwelling as per Article 12, Section 4.2

Exemptions B. (2) located at 941 County Road 6, Scribner, NE in Part of SE ¼ NE ¼ Section 14, Township 19 North, Range 5 East in Pleasant Valley Township, Zoning District A-1, Intensive Ag. Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that the Dodge County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the subdivision and CUP. Hearing no testimony for or against the request, the Board unanimously approved the subdivision and 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.

At 9:55 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization

The Board unanimously received and referred to the county attorney correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following: Notice of Appeal and Order to Show Cause and Notice of Hearing for Dan Carlson, Case No. 24R 1518 and Order for Hearing and Notice of Hearing for Freemont Mall LLC, Case No. 21C 0432.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2024, on a 2025 Interstate trailer for Midland University, 900 N. Clarkson St, Fremont, NE granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

At 10:07 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

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

At 10:07 A.M., with no further business to consider, the Board of Supervisors adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk