

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Vice-Chairman Strand at 9:03 A.M. on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Missel. Prior to roll call Vice-Chairman Strand 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 official's report, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding changes in pricing, correspondence from Midland University thanking the County for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, Board of Trustees minutes for the May 13, 2024 meeting and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the eleven months ending May 31, 2024 and 2023 from Fremont Community Health Resources, Praeipce (Case No. CI 23-512) & Defendant City of Fremont's Answer and Cross-Claim (Case No. 23-512) – Borrromeo Land Holdings, LLC a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, Plaintiff vs. ARG Property Group, Inc.; John Doe, Real Name Unknown; City of Fremont; Gail Bargstadt, Dodge County Treasurer, in her official capacity; Dodge County, a Political Subdivision in the State of Nebraska; and Any and All Persons Who Have or Claim Some Lien Upon or Interest in the Real Estate Described, Real Names Unknown, Defendants (referred to County Attorney Hopkins), Certificates of Liability Insurance for Allo Communications, LLC, Engineering Services & Products Company, Inc. and Lux Sand & Gravel Inc., Minutes from the June 12, 2024 meeting of the Dodge County Courthouse Safety Committee, Certificates of Liability and Property Insurance from NIRMA for 2024-2025, Public Notice of Public Hearings of the City of Fremont Planning Commission to hear Request for Hills Farm Addition Final Plat and Annexation of 29 residential lots and 2 outlots on property generally located southeast of Hills Farm Road and the Burlington Northern Railroad; and Public Notice of public hearings to hear Request of Mary Ann Diers Yost for Brooks Hollow 3<sup>rd</sup> Final Plat and Annexation consisting of 17 residential lots generally located at Heatherwood Dr. and Peterson Ave. to be held at 5:00 P.M. June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 400 E. Military Ave., Fremont, NE, Minutes of the Dodge County Planning Commission held June 18, 2024, Preliminary Plat for Old Settlers Estates located in Williams Addition, City of North Bend, Dodge County, Nebraska to make comments regarding the plat located in City of North Bend's One-Mile Jurisdiction, Utility Installation Agreements with Allo Communications, LLC to install fiber optic lines in Sections 34 & 35 according to plan sets and one for OPPD to install an overhead secondary crossing and set poles at 2500 County Road P, Nickerson, and Utility Installation Agreements with Great Plains Communications to install Fiber Optic in Sec. 6 & 7, T17N, R7E and in Sections 7 & 8, T17N, R7E

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting as printed.

At 9:05 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors and convened as a Board of Corrections.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 47 inmates in custody with 34 being held in Saunders County, 10 in Washington County, 1 in Platte County and 2 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 9:05 A.M.

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

The Board unanimously approved transferring \$200,000 from the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Communications Fund to the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Bond Fund to cover the cost of the principal and interest payment due. County Clerk Gilfry explained that money is coming into the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Communications Fund from rural fire district repayments for radios, which can be used instead of money from the bonds.

The Board unanimously authorized County Clerk Gilfry to reallocate funding from surplus budgets to deficit budgets. County Clerk Gilfry gave an example of the Public-safety Answering Point (PSAP) budget that went over budget almost double of what they were budgeted for this year. The funds are all within the General Fund, so there are no other transfers that would be needed and no public hearing required. Supervisor Backens said he would follow up with Shelly Holzerland about the PSAP budget and why it went over budget.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$289,257.81

The Board unanimously approved financial claims in the amount of \$2,551,009.33 which is \$2,558,259.33 (claims submitted) - \$7,250.00 (claim for 911 blue address sign installation).

The Board unanimously approved having the Roads Department complete the installation of the blue 911 address signs. Supervisor Strand said they will take care of the project from here on.

The Board unanimously approved and authorized signatures for renewal of a Work/Financial Plan with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS) for expenses not to exceed \$16,668.43 for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Scot Rosendahl, Wildlife Specialist with APHIS-WS, was present and told the Board that there is a 3% cost of living increase included in the contract. Mr. Rosendahl reported that this year he has done a lot of work in the City of Fremont removing beaver dams; he will also be removing beaver dams on private property throughout Dodge County. The turkey vultures continue to be a concern at the airport in Fremont so he has been working to control that population. There is also one street in Hooper that has several turkey vulture roosts. Mr. Rosendahl has been working with the City of Hooper and the affected residents to come up with methods to relocate the birds; they will be performing pyro shoots several nights in a row to try to get the birds to move somewhere else.

The Board unanimously approved the request for \$3,100.00 in funding for Medicare Education Support in Dodge County from Mary Loftis. Ms. Loftis is an independent contractor for the Nebraska State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). The Medicare counseling provided includes helping individuals compare drug and health plans, health plan enrollments and fraud

detection and reporting. Ms. Loftis has been offering this education support since 2006 in Burt, Dodge & Washington Counties.

The Board unanimously approved the necessary signatures on the *Participation Package* for Opioids Settlement with Kroger. County Attorney Hopkins said this is ongoing litigation of the opioid settlements. She said her office receives the funding, tracks it to make sure it is going to the correct recipients and deposits it into the opioid fund.

The Board unanimously approved the base salary increase from \$38,000 to \$40,000 annually for University of Nebraska Extension assistants effective July 1, 2024. It was agreed that Dodge County doesn't negotiate with the University of Nebraska on wage issues since there is an addendum to the interlocal agreement that outlines the funding arrangement for one or more Extension Assistants. Supervisor Tawney said the Nebraska Extension Assistants reach a large portion of the youth in Dodge County through various programs and have made a positive impact.

Veterans Service Officer Mark Schneck addressed the Board about concerns he has regarding courthouse issues. The first concern was about offices being closed (locked doors) to the public; he said during COVID it was understandable, but now there is no reason public servants should have locked doors. He asked the Board to review the practice of offices being locked. He also voiced concerns about the number of people and lack of privacy for people coming in to discuss property valuations. He said at times the volume of constituents goes all the way down to the same end of the hall as the Veterans Service Office. The final concern Mr. Schneck discussed was dress code of courthouse employees; he said shorts and t-shirts are not, in his opinion, professional attire.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Backens shared a thank you letter from the Dodge County Firefighters, Mutual-Aid Association for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding they granted for the installation of rural address signs throughout Dodge County. He also reported that there are 2 recruits at the law enforcement academy and they will be making a conditional offer for a sheriff's deputy position. Supervisor Bendig said one of the recruits at the academy dropped out.

At 9:30 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Jordan Brichacek of 1767 County Road Q, Dodge, NE 68633 to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to store and apply Bio-Solids as per Article 12, Section 2.18 Conditional Uses and Article 25 Supplemental Regulations, Section 22 Industrial Waste-Water-Bio-Solids located in W ½ NE ¼ Section 30, 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 CUP. She also reported that Mr. Brichacek has until January 1, 2025 to spread the Bio-solids, but he plans to spread it in July. Hearing no testimony for or against the request, the Board unanimously approved the 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 9:35 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Scott Wulf of 16388 County Road 3, Hooper, NE 68031 to subdivide an 11.46-acre tract and obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an existing dwelling as per Article 12. 4.2 Exemptions B. located in part Tax Lot 7, NW ¼ Section 19, Township 19 North, Range 9 East in Hooper Township, Zoning District A-1, Intensive Ag. Zoning Administrator Jean

Andrews reported that the Dodge County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the CUP. Hearing no testimony for or against the request, the Board unanimously approved the 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.

The Board unanimously received information about the re-organization of the Dodge County Planning Commission from Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews. She reported that there were no changes; Marlin Brabec remains Chairman, Brad Fooker remains Vice-Chairman and Allen Rolf remains Secretary from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

The Board unanimously received Notice of Highway Project Number 30-6(140) - Rawhide Creek Culvert correspondence regarding Right-of-Way Acquisition located in part of the SW ¼ SE ¼ Section 9, Township 17 North, Range 9 East and Part of the NW ¼ NE ¼ Section 16, Township 17 North, Range 9 East. The State has drainage work they need to do in this location; this land was part of a drainage district that dissolved over 60 years ago. After the dissolution of the drainage district, the land reverted to the original owner, Dodge County.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees are cleaning corn stalks out of ditches and are trying to keep up with the shredding. There is still a grading crew on County Road 24 off County Road F. J & R Concrete completed work on county road bridges, concrete work on a culvert on Hooper Road, concrete work where the State ended on County Road G around Scribner and they will be working on the Pebble Bridge. The Pebble Bridge will be closed for 2-2 ½ weeks starting July 8. Highway Superintendent Huppert and employees will be replacing culverts on the bridge on County Road 11 north of County Road T. The Highway 30 Bypass has all four lanes open and striping is complete. The pre-construction meeting for Platte River Road will be July 2 in North Bend. The grinding and overlay will be done at the same time as the bridge work; traffic will be diverted. Supervisor Strand commented about the heat buckle on County Road F east of Scribner. J & R Concrete has started repairs on this and will be done with it by tomorrow afternoon. A request will be made to advertise on July 10 for bids for overlaying Old Highway 275 and the project on County Road F.

The Board unanimously approved an agreement between the Dodge County Sheriff's Department and Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #17, (Contract effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027) and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreement.

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

The Board unanimously received certification from County Assessor Churchill, per state statutes 77-126, 77-129 and 77-1311, that the portion of the Property Record file substantiating the calculation of the protested value is maintained in her office in electronic or paper form.

The Board unanimously received 2024 Property Valuation Protests #53 through #302.

The Board unanimously passed a motion to advertise for two additional days for the Board to meet as a Board of Equalization, if needed, in July on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. to take action on 2024 valuation protests.

The Board unanimously received June 26, 2024 Board Notices from County Assessor Churchill of her request for changes to valuations of parcels for 2024 and passed a motion approving and authorizing the County Clerk to mail notices to the owners of the properties.

At 10:08 A.M., Vice-Chairman Strand adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

At 10:18 A.M., the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, and Bendig. Absent: Missel and Tawney.

At 10:15 A.M. a Public Hearing was held to consider a Resolution to vacate the road that abuts Block 1 and 2 on the east side (Ames, NE) that runs north from the intersection of Old Hwy 30, also known as Platte River Road for 452.16 feet located in the SE ¼ Section 9, Township 17 North, Range 7 East. Highway Superintendent Huppert reported that Justin Taylor wants to clean up the trees and trash where this road lies. Superintendent Huppert's recommendation is to allow the vacation of this road. Hearing no testimony for or against the vacation of said road, the Board unanimously adopted a Resolution approving the vacation. Supervisor Weddle read the Resolution for the record.

At 10:24 A.M. Vice-Chairman Strand adjourned the Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry  
Dodge County Clerk