

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The 2025 Reorganizational Meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was called to order by County Clerk Gilfry at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Backens.

County Clerk Gilfry 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 to review.

The Board unanimously declared the meeting legally convened.

Bob Missel was nominated as Chairman for 2025. Receiving no other nominations, the Board elected Supervisor Missel to be the Chairman by unanimous consent.

Lon Strand was nominated as Vice-Chairman for 2025. Receiving no other nominations, the Board elected Supervisor Strand to be the Vice-Chairman by unanimous consent.

The Board unanimously passed a motion appointing County Clerk Micki Gilfry and her office as “keeper of the agenda” for the Board of Supervisors for 2025.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as printed and received and placed on file county officials’ reports, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, correspondence from Nebraska State Probation, Sixth Probation District, Patty Lyon, Chief Probation Officer, regarding Probation – Quarterly County Billings 2024/2025 and reimbursement of expenses to Dodge County for the period October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, letter from County Treasurer Winterstein regarding Fremont Mall LLC % Hy-Vee 2021 Tax Roll Correction #5716, 2022 Tax Roll Correction #5717, 2023 Tax Roll Correction #5718 and 2024 Tax Roll Correction #5719 resulting in a tax refund of \$10,609.51, Certificate of Insurance for Meier Construction Corp. and correspondence from the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects regarding the revocation of architecture and professional engineering licenses of Toby S. Gay of Columbus, NE.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 24, 2024 meeting as printed.

At 9:06 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 in 2023 there were 1,626 individuals booked into custody and in 2024 there were 1,521 booked into custody. Currently there are 49 inmates in custody with 33 of them being held in Saunders County, 13 in Washington County, 1 in Douglas County, 1 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 1 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. During the last 2 weeks of December 2024, there were 38 individuals booked into custody. County Attorney Hopkins told the Board that her office is trying different strategies to reduce the number of days inmates are in custody. Judge Klein is open to working with her office to expedite processing offenders, which has increased the burden on her office. She also told the Board that the jail contract

with Saunders County is renewed next year. Dodge County must notify Saunders County of their intentions to house inmates within 6 months of the contract's renewal date.

At 9:14 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, January 22, 2025 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 \$319,488.75.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$186,095.39.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Bendig, reporting for the Finance Committee, handed out an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) report that reflects the changes that were approved at the December 24, 2024 Board of Supervisors' meeting. He also distributed information about legislation on the budget cap. He announced that the 2023/2024 Audit is complete and the report for that should be available within the next month. Finally, he reported that the standard mileage rate for 2025 is 70 cents per mile, up from 67 cents per mile in 2024. Chairman Missel reported that he, Emergency Manager Tom Smith and Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews attended the Lower Platte Natural Resource District Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting yesterday and they received documentation that they will review. He also reported that he will be determining committee assignments and hopes to get that information to the clerk's office within the next week.

The Board unanimously approved the Master Professional Services Agreement with Speece Lewis a Bowman Company and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement.

The Board unanimously approved the Work Order for the Master Professional Services Agreement dated 1/3/2025 with Speece Lewis a Bowman Company and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement. This agreement identifies their hourly rate for the services they provide.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees continue to perform maintenance on equipment. He said he is having employees evaluate equipment after all weather events so they are prepared for the next time they need to use it. Employees continue to clean out ditches for the FEMA project; Emergency Manager Tom Smith recently submitted \$195,000 worth of work done in Dodge County. Employees have removed brush on the north side of County Road S between County Roads 17 and 18. They will need to clean out the ditch to manage the drainage in this area. Superintendent Huppert is working with the State to get funding to complete work that needs to be done on Platte River Road before Dodge County takes it over. He told the Board that he will be in a class for three days next week to learn about the new way the State wants bridge inspections to be done. The new bridge inspection program will increase the amount of time it takes to inspect each bridge and may require a bridge replacement to be made sooner than it is currently. This program is to be implemented by fiscal year 2027-2028.

Committee Reports revisited – Supervisor Tawney said the Extension Office would like to host a luncheon like they did last year and extend the Dodge County Board of Supervisors’ meeting on January 22, 2025 to include the luncheon; this would allow more than three supervisors to attend the luncheon. It was agreed that this should be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Chairman Missel told the Board that Dustin Marvel from OPPD contacted him and would like to meet with Dodge County to offer insight into zoning rules and regulations for solar farms. He will try to schedule a meeting with Mr. Marvel for January 21, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.

At 9:34 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 9:41 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 9:42 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, January 22, 2025 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, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Backens.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5720 & #5721.

The Board unanimously received and referred to County Attorney Hopkins correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following: Certification of Final Decision and Order for Hy-Vee Inc., Case Nos. 21C 0117, 22C 0201, 23C 0250 and 24C 0280 and Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Freemont Mall LLC, Case No. 21C 0432.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein to approve the Applications for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2025 (Form 457) from various nonprofit organizations and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the forms.

At 10:03 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk