

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, April 2, 2025 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Giesselmann, 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 to 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 a change in channel lineup, Board of Trustees Minutes for the February 10, 2025 meeting and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the eight months ending February 28, 2025 and 2024 from Fremont Community Health Resources, Certification from County Treasurer Winterstein of Return of Tax Sale Proceedings, Nebraska Department of Economic Development Compliance Monitoring Review for Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) - Elkhorn Township East Fremont Drainage Scoping Project, NIRMA Safety Shorts for March 2025, March 5, 2025 meeting minutes of the Dodge County Courthouse Safety Committee, Certificates of Insurance for Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, Cuming, Everett, Pebble and Pleasant Valley Townships, Notice of Cancellation of insurance policy for Cedar Valley Corp. LLC, Reinstatement Notice of Workers Compensation Policy for Cedar Valley Corp. LLC, Notice of Public Hearings for Douglas County Planning Commission to be held March 26, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at 15335 W. Maple Road – Douglas County Conference Room, 1st Floor, Omaha, NE for the following requests: Matthew Bevington for an amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan; Matthew Bevington to consider rezone at 10798 N. 312th St., Section 16, T17, R9; Matthew Bevington for a request for a Special Use Permit to operate a construction yard at 10798 N. 312th St.; Sam Burke request for a Special Use Permit for U-Pick Flower Farm at 1405 S. 261, Section 29, T15, R10 and Tyler Nelson to amend Special Use Permit for Nelson Produce Farms located at 10505 N. 234, Section 15, T16, R10, Minutes of the March 18, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Planning Commission, Utility Installation Agreement with OPPD to install an underground electric distribution line between County Road 6 and County Road 5 on County Road R in Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 5 East, Private Utility Installation Agreement with Mid-State Engineering to install a temporary ground water monitoring well at Meadowbrook Park, Moving Permit for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane over roads in Dodge County between March 12th and March 14th, 2025 and return and Minutes of the March 27, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Highway Department Safety Committee.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 5, 2025 meeting as printed (there was no meeting held March 19, 2025 due to the blizzard).

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 61 inmates in custody with 49 being held in Saunders County, 7 in Washington County, 2 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 3 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. During the month of March, there were 144 individuals booked into custody.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, April 16, 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.

Due to the blizzard on March 19, 2025 and loss of power in the courthouse, there was no meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors. On March 20, 2025, the Dodge County Finance Committee approved the following amounts for payroll & accounts payable expenditures that were previously budgeted: Wage & Hour claims (Payroll) \$304,595.61 & Financial claims (Accounts Payables) \$342,612.26. The Board unanimously reaffirmed the approval of expenditures for payroll & accounts payables made by the Finance Committee on March 20, 2025.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$299,555.10.

The Board unanimously approved the transfer of funds from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the Indigent Fund in the amount of \$25,000. Expenses for the Indigent Fund have increased, so the Board agreed this money should stay in the Indigent Fund and not be paid back when funds become available.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$201,972.64.

Scot Rosendahl, Wildlife Specialist with Earlybird Pest Control, LLC (Formerly with USDA-APHIS) attended the meeting and informed the Board he has retired from the Federal Government. He would like to continue providing services to minimize wildlife damage caused by a variety of species in Dodge County. The current contract with USDA-APHIS is effective until June 30, 2025. Mr. Rosendahl said the county will need to contact the USDA to cancel the remainder of the contract. Since the proposed contract for services from Earlybird Pest Control, LLC was not included on the agenda, Chairman Missel requested that it be placed on the April 16, 2025 agenda for consideration.

The Board unanimously received the 2024 Annual Report of the Fremont Transit Program. Program Manager Dakota Buesing gave the Board an update on the transit program and expounded on statistics from their 2024 Annual Report. He said they have surpassed 10,000 rides since the beginning of the program in September of 2023. Last month they applied for \$984,000 grant dollars for fiscal years 2026 and 2027; they were told there will be less funding available in that 2-year grant cycle. They plan to acquire a bigger vehicle, which will help them transport more people to the same location instead of using multiple vehicles, and hire another driver. It is also in the plans to expand the service to more of Dodge County; a survey has been developed to assess the transportation needs of residents outside of Fremont. City of Fremont Grant Coordinator Angie Olson spoke more about the grant and said they will be reaching out to the county in May to reassess what Dodge County will be willing to obligate to this program. Ms. Olson also talked about possible partnerships with transit programs in other counties and with organizations that are frequent destinations of their passengers.

The Board unanimously received the "Reports and Requirements Summary" (2024) for Dodge County from Trevor Johnson, Program Manager, Nebraska Department of

Agriculture, Noxious Weed Program regarding annual evaluation of the County Weed Control Authority and authorized Chairman Missel and Weed Superintendent Larry Klahn's signatures on the summary. One deficiency was identified on the Weed Control Authority Board Roster; the contact information for the control authority (County Board) is to include email addresses and the existing roster lists physical addresses. Chairman Missel requested that County Clerk Gilfry follow up with Mr. Klahn to make sure this correction is made.

The Board unanimously authorized Chairman Missel to sign a letter of support for Nextlink Internet's projects in Dodge County to be included with their application for Nebraska Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant funding. Nextlink Internet provides broadband fiber technology to under and unserved locations in Dodge County. Nextlink Internet Area Maintenance Manager Nathaniel Murray was present and gave the Board some background on Nextlink. Supervisor Bendig asked if the support of the Board constitutes an endorsement for Nextlink. Mr. Murray confirmed that this is not an endorsement and Dodge County is under no contractual obligation by signing the letter of support.

The Board unanimously received the 2024 Annual Report from Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council and approved the renewal of Dodge County's Sponsor Membership for 2025 in the amount of \$350.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Strand reported that the building permit for the Election Office has been obtained. Supervisor Bendig reported that there is an Information Technology meeting at the conclusion of the Board meeting today. He also encouraged the Board to review the payroll and accounts payable documents that County Clerk Gilfry prepares and brings up to the boardroom for each meeting. He anticipates the budget process to be more difficult this year with the new requirement to keep budget increases no more than 2%. Chairman Missel reported on the blizzard with information from Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith. No federal disaster declaration has been made yet. Dodge County has an estimated \$5 million in damages from this event; this includes the cities of Fremont and Scribner. Director of Communications, Fremont/Dodge Co 911 Shelly Holzerland and Tom Christensen with P.S. Rad Com LLC (provider of radio administration services for the public safety radio system) are assessing the damage to the communications tower at the power plant. Chairman Missel requested another board member address the 2025 Leadership Fremont group on April 25 since he will be out of town.

The Board unanimously approved the reappointment of Ken Molacek to the Dodge County Board of Adjustment for another 3-year term ending March 31, 2028.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Brad Fooker as an alternate member of the Dodge County Board of Adjustment.

A Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Bradford and Cynthia Wehner of 1546 County Road P, Hooper, NE 68031 to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to install a new Telecommunication Tower as per Article 12. Section 2.7 Conditional Uses and Article 25 Supplemental Regulations Section 4 located in NE ¼ SW ¼ Section 16, Township 18 North, Range 7 East in Maple Township, Zoning District A-1 Intensive Ag. The Dodge County Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the CUP. Hearing no testimony for or against the request, the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission and 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.

A Public Hearing was held to consider the request of Jeff Hanson of 2582 Quail Dr., Fremont, NE 68025 to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the renewal of a previous Bio-solids Permit as per Article 13. Section 2.18 Conditional Uses and Article 25 Supplemental Regulations Section 22 located in E ½ NE ¼, Section 33, Township 18 North, Range 7 East in Maple Township, Zoning District A-2, General Ag. Scott Nun with Nebraska/Iowa Agronomics, Tekamah, was present representing the City of Fremont and Jeff Hanson. He told the Board this is a standard permit that is being renewed for another 5 years. He said they will follow all regulations and they typically have the bio-solids spread by Thanksgiving. Hearing no testimony 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 eleven bids from the March 12, 2025 bid letting for Project C-27 (643) to replace the bridge by constructing Twin 12' x 6' x 68' Concrete Box Culverts and accepted Highway Superintendent Huppert's recommendation to award the contract to A & R Construction Co., Plainview, NE. Superintendent Huppert said this company constructed the box culvert on County Road F and he was pleased with their work. Supervisor Bendig asked if he considered Young Construction Co., LLC since they stated they could complete the project by the end of May 2025. Superintendent Huppert said A & R Construction told him they may be able to move up their projected start date to August or September.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Huppert to approve Speece Lewis, a Bowman Company Work Order #007 to Master Professional Services Agreement for Shoreline Drive Railroad Crossing Improvements between Sections 11/12-T17N-R5E and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement. Superintendent Huppert explained that this is for engineering plans for this crossing. He said in the past the State and the railroad would pay for the engineering work since the county's engineers cannot work on the railroad's right-of-way. Union Pacific Railroad is requiring the county's engineers to prepare the plans. There may be state funding to help pay for this through a reimbursement process. The railroad also told Superintendent Huppert that the county would be responsible for the maintenance of the lights and bars at this crossing. He spoke with representatives of the Nebraska Department of Transportation and was told, by law, no counties in the State of Nebraska are responsible for the maintenance of railroad crossing lights and bars. The State will pay the expense for the railroad crossing lights and bars.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported employees are still working on FEMA projects; the bank stabilization projects are done and they will continue to work on ditch cleaning as weather allows. Employees are patching potholes and sealing cracks; there is still a lot of work to do on these. During the blizzard on March 19, 2025, the Roads Department worked closely with the Sheriff's Department and utility companies to clear the roads. Superintendent Huppert said he and the engineer for the Old Highway 275 asphalt overlay project walked the entire length of the road that was milled and found gloves, pop cans, sheets of plastic and mud mixed in with the asphalt. It was written in the contract that Dodge County can take back up to 5% of the project cost if not satisfied with the work. He said he and the engineer are meeting on Friday with the contractor that did the work on this project. Supervisor Backens asked if the decking on the Ridgeland Avenue bridge is supposed to be replaced. Superintendent Huppert said it is still on the list and is part of the State Bridge Program.

At 10:24 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

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

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5767 & 5768.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) and referred it to County Attorney Hopkins regarding the Decision & Order Affirming the Decision of the Dodge County Board of Equalization for Kishen M. Patel Case No. 22C 0276.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2025, on a 2005 Chrysler Town & Country van for Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc., granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

At 10:26 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk