

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, May 14, 2025 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Strand, Backens, Missel and Tawney. Absent: Giesselmann and Bendig. 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, email from Ryan Powers, District Supervisor, USDA-Wildlife Services acknowledging receipt of letter sent notifying USDA APHIS Wildlife Services of Dodge County's wish to cancel the contract with them that expires June 30, 2025, Certificate of Liability Insurance for WSP USA Inc., Notice of the Fremont City Council as the Board of Equalization will hold a public hearing regarding special assessment to be levied for Business Improvement District #1 at the regular meeting on May 13, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at 400 E. Military Ave. for the Removal of All Single-family, owner-occupied properties from the tax roll. (The description of the district boundaries is attached.), NIRMA Safety Shorts for May 2025 and Utility Installation Agreement for Lower Elkhorn NRD to install boreholes for geologic investigation to be backfilled immediately, located in Section 12, T18N, R8E.

The Board, with Supervisor Beam abstaining since he was not present at the April 30, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, unanimously approved the minutes of the April 30, 2025 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 Supervisors Bendig and Giesselmann.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 63 inmates in custody with 46 being held in Saunders County, 8 in Washington County, 3 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 6 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. So far in the month of May, 40 individuals have been booked into custody.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, May 28, 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 Supervisors Bendig and Giesselmann.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$291,405.64.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$580,143.64.

The Board unanimously approved the reappointments of Fred Mytty, Steve Pribnow and Joe Sajevic to the Fremont Municipal Inland Port Authority Board. The four-year terms of these board members will expire April 4, 2029.

District Court Judge Geoffrey Hall & Drug Court Coordinator Brandon Jerred attended the meeting and gave the Board an update on things going on in the judiciary. Judge Hall said he would like to make this update an annual occurrence. He gave the Board a report that listed the hourly rate paid for court appointed attorneys in each county in Nebraska; he said there is an attempt being made to make the hourly rate uniform statewide. It is the judges' responsibility to set the hourly rate; beginning July 1, 2025, the new hourly rate for court appointed attorneys will be raised to \$125.00 per hour. This led to a discussion about Dodge County employing a public defender. Judge Hall said Dodge County is the largest county in Nebraska that does not have a public defender and he thinks the county is ready for one. A public defender would have to be elected. For some good news, Judge Hall said Dodge County's efforts to collect unpaid court costs resulted in over \$118,000 being collected last year. He also spoke about the number of incarcerated individuals being lower and urged the Board to consider GPS monitoring for non-violent offenders. He said GPS monitoring costs a fraction of what it would cost to house an inmate. Judge Hall invited the Board to a ribbon cutting for Re-Entry Court on May 23. He said this is a pilot program for the rest of state and mirrors Drug Court in some respects. Brandon Jerred then addressed the Board and elaborated on Re-Entry Court. He said this is for people convicted of Class 3 & 4 felonies that need more supervision and judicial oversight after being released. There is a Re-Entry Court team that meets regularly to manage these cases. Mr. Jerred then talked about the Drug Court program and modifications his team is using to make the program better for the participants. He said over the last three years, 22 have graduated from the program and 82% have remained crime free. Drug Court Graduation will be held May 27, 2025 at 3:45.

The Board unanimously approved the reappointments of Marlin Brabec, Marv Hansen and Scott Wagner to the Dodge County Planning Commission for another 3-year term ending May 31, 2028.

The Board unanimously approved the Agreement for Professional Services between Burns McDonnell, Engineer and Dodge County, Nebraska to provide engineering services in connection with the Morningside Road Improvement Project with noted changes and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement. The first change is to change Arkansas to Nebraska on page 1, 3rd paragraph, last sentence. The second change is to strike paragraph 4.3 on page 1. The Board also acknowledged that Supervisor Greg Beam is no relation to Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co. Project Manager Steven Beam. During the discussion about the agreement, County Attorney Hopkins pointed out the arbitration process for dispute resolution (Section 7.10). She wants the Board to be aware that arbitration would be binding; there would be no way to resolve the dispute in court. She also pointed out Section 7.13 *Indemnification for Pollution Related Claims*. Ultimately the Board acknowledged the release of liability for Burns & McDonnell related to pollution related claims. However, because of the scope of work for this project, this issue should not arise. The contractor doing the physical work would hold liability insurance to cover pollution related claims.

The Board unanimously approved the Local Political Subdivision Acquisition Contract between Dodge County and CF Industries Distribution Facilities, LLC to convey .03 acres from CF Industries to Dodge County for \$100.00 and authorized Chairman

Missel's signature on the contract. This acquisition is for the Dodge County Concrete Box Culvert Project No. C-27 (643).

The Board unanimously approved the request of the Dodge County Highway Department to remove stop signs on County Road S (at County Road 20 Ave.) and to install stop signs on County Road 20 Ave. (at County Road S) southbound and northbound.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported employees are cleaning out ditches, installing culverts and patching potholes. The mower has been down and is expected to be back by this Friday; edging has been done on some of the county roads. Platte River Road at County Road 4 now has rumble bars and better signage. The paint striping on county roads was completed this week. Problems with townships and gravel continue; Superintendent Huppert has been talking to township road graders about how to apply the gravel so it will stay on the road. Speece Lewis has the engineering plans for the railroad crossing at County Road 6 and Shoreline Drive. Superintendent Huppert said he does not have the contract with Union Pacific Railroad for the section that they are turning over to Dodge County at the same location.

At 10:20 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 10:30 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 10:31 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, May 28, 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 except for Supervisors Bendig and Giesselmann.

The Board unanimously approved agreements with Brian Arnold, Nick Dizona, Chad Howser, Craig Miller and Jeff Quist to serve as referees for the upcoming 2025 property valuation protest season.

At 10:34 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk