

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, June 11, 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, Board of Trustees Minutes for April 7, 2025 meeting and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the ten months ending April 30, 2025 and 2024 from Fremont Community Health Resources, Public Notice of the Fremont City Council to be considered on June 10, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. for a request of David Brakenhoff on behalf of NEBCO, Inc. and Western Sand & Gravel for a final plat consisting of 18 lots and to annex property located south of Sandcherry Rd. along Juneberry Rd. generally described as a portion of Tax Lot 2 in the NE ¼ Section 35, T17N, R8E and a portion of Tax Lot 3 in the NW ¼ Section 36, T17N, R8E in Dodge County; a request by Planning Director for corrective annexation of property located in the Morningside Pointe First Addition located in NW ¼ of fractional Section 30, T17N, R9E located south of Lauren Lane and east of Kate Ave.; and a request by Mario Lopez for a Conditional Use Permit to expand a nonconforming use to allow the installation of a swimming pool on property located at 976 County Road 26, Dodge County, NE, NIRMA Safety Shorts for June 2025 and Utility Installation Agreement for Skywave Wireless Inc. to install Fiber Optic Line in public roads located in Pebble Township.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 28, 2025 meeting as printed, noting one change on the first page, fourth paragraph. Supervisor Bendig's name was misspelled.

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 68 inmates in custody with 50 being held in Saunders County, 10 in Washington County, 1 in Sarpy County, 2 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 5 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. In the month of May, 135 individuals were booked into custody. So far in the month of June, 37 individuals have been booked into custody.

At 9:08 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, June 25, 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.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$308,150.31.

The Board unanimously approved transferring \$550 from the General Miscellaneous Budget (970) to the Local Emergency Planning Committee Budget (695) to cover a budget shortfall; both departments are within the General Fund. Supervisor Bendig explained that the shortfall occurred because of grant funding. Grants are applied for and reimbursement does not always happen within the budget year the grant was expected to be reimbursed.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$412,410.29.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution approving the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District Hazard Mitigation Plan in its entirety. Emergency Manager Tom Smith explained that this plan includes the cities of North Bend and Fremont and the drainage districts in Dodge County. Adoption of the plan ensures Dodge County's eligibility for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. Chairman Missel read the Resolution for the record.

The Board unanimously received the grant award notice for the FY2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, EMW-2023-CY-00011-S01 and authorized Supervisor Bendig to be the Jurisdiction Official to sign the grant award notice. Supervisor Bendig explained that this grant in the amount of \$55,500 is for the server that Applied Connective Technologies installed in the courthouse.

Beth Ferrell, Legal Counsel for the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), attended the meeting as part of the annual visit to counties in Nebraska. She updated the Board on workshops and conferences that have occurred and those coming up. At the October Legislative Conference, priorities are set for NACO as to which legislative issues they will pursue at the next session. The Salary Study for Elected Officials will also be released at this conference. Ms. Ferrell also provided updates on legislation from the session that adjourned on June 2, 2025. Generally, the date for legislative changes to take effect is September 3, 2025; there are some exceptions to this effective date. Legislation to address replacement revenue if Inheritance Tax is discontinued is dead and will carry over to the 2026 legislative session. Ms. Ferrell is preparing the summary of legislation and plans to have it out by the end of June. Supervisor Strand commented that he would like NACO to go back to the old format of one less day for the annual conference in December; he said the extra day costs the counties a lot of money.

The Board unanimously approved payment for the renewal of Dodge County's NACO membership dues for FY2025-2026 (first half) in the amount of \$4,078.27 and 2026 NACo (National Association of County Officials) membership dues (first half with 5% discount) in the amount of \$352.93.

Jerry Berggren with Berggren Architects was present to discuss the agreement between Dodge County and Berggren Architects to provide restoration services to the interior and exterior of the Dodge County Courthouse. Supervisor Strand and Mr. Berggren both acknowledged that this agreement had fallen through the cracks since first presented in October of 2024. Mr. Berggren handed out to each supervisor what he called a "Rule Book", which is an informational notebook that contains the documents involved in the process; the Board unanimously received the "Rule Book". He said roof and masonry work

will be what they work on first and he added that this contract is expandable and flexible so work can be completed within Dodge County's budget. Dodge County can apply for Nebraska Historic Tax Credits for work done over a five-year period. The credits equal 30% of eligible costs; fees from Berggren Architects are an eligible cost. The tax credits are sold and the money received is unencumbered; many of their clients use the tax credit dollars to fund the next phase of restorative services. An early estimate for the total cost of construction is \$875,000 based on conversations Architect Doug Elting had with the Building Committee. Berggren Architects' fees for construction are calculated using accepted construction costs. Berggren Architects will prepare documents to go out for bid for contractors to complete the work. Mr. Berggren estimated it would take 6 months to get their work done to be able to go out for bids. Realistically, work would begin in the next budget year, Spring of 2026. In a separate motion, the Board unanimously approved entering into the agreement with Berggren Architects, noting the date change on the agreement from October 21, 2024 to June 11, 2025. Included in the motion was authorization for Chairman Missel to sign the agreement. Supervisor Bendig had further questions about where the money for this project is going to come from and whether the vote should be taken now when there is no definitive dollar amount identified to complete the project. Chairman Missel said to know what the construction costs will be, Dodge County needs to authorize this agreement. Supervisor Strand said Berggren Architects acts as a construction manager as well as an architect. Without their expertise, the project cannot move forward. Mr. Berggren reiterated that they will work with Dodge County on each project based on what they can budget for each year. County Attorney Hopkings said the agreement specifically says Berggren Architects will be paid a maximum of 15% of the project costs.

The Board unanimously approved the Interlocal Agreement with Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation regarding District 6 Adult Drug Court and authorized the necessary signatures on the agreement. District 6 Adult Drug Court Coordinator Brandon Jerred was present and told the Board that the drug court employees work for Probation, but they have a separate budget. This interlocal agreement states that Probation will continue to provide personnel for the District Six Adult Drug Court and will collect fees from the Dodge County Clerk for Drug Court.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Beam reported that Zelle HR Solutions is going through the employee handbook and have started assisting with the hiring process for new employees.

Supervisor Giesselmann left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The Board unanimously authorized payment of the NIRMA/NIRMA II 2025-2026 Insurance Billing Statement. The Board declined to select higher deductibles. Dodge County's annual contribution amount for 2025-2026 is \$367,210, which represents a .45% (\$1,664) decrease from last year.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Todd Taylor to the Dodge County Board of Adjustments fulfilling Vernon Brandert's term that expires August 31, 2026.

The Board unanimously received bids opened on May 29, 2025 for 2025-2026 Road Gravel, accepted all bids and authorized the highway department to use the lowest

bid when applicable. Assistant Highway Superintendent Jean Andrews told the Board that the average cost last year was \$25.85/ton and this year it is \$26.41/ton.

The Board unanimously approved Work Order #008 for Speece Lewis, a Bowman Company to perform engineering services for a culvert project located on County Road F between Sections 27/34, T20N, R7E and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the document.

At 10:14 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

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

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5772 through #5777.

The Board unanimously received 2025 Property Valuation Protests #1 through #18.

The Board unanimously received June 11, 2025 Board Notices from County Assessor Marshall of her request for changes to valuations of parcels for 2025 and passed a motion approving and authorizing the County Clerk to mail notices to the owners of the properties.

The Board unanimously passed a motion to advertise for three additional days in July for the Board to meet as a Board of Equalization, if needed, on the 16th, 24th and 25th at 9:00 A.M. to act on 2025 valuation protests.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following: Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for John Palinski, Case No. 24R 0246, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Jeff N. Schoeneck, Case No. 24R 0824, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Chad Schoeneck, Case No. 24R 0735 & 24R 0736, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Mary Sue Korus, Case No. 24R 0094, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for James M. Brabec, Case No. 24R 0696, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Fremont Northside Townhomes II LLC, Case Nos. 24R 0309, 24R 0310 and 24R 0311, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Dennis D Einspahr Trust, Case No. 24R 0573, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Dennis D and Helen A Einspahr Trust, Case No. 24R 0575, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Michael D. Arps, Case No. 24R 0631, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for JSJ Properties LLC, Case No. 24R 0588 and Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Dan Knosp, Case Nos. 24R 0697 thru 24R 0703 (7 total).

At 10:21 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss potential legal action.

At 10:34 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the discussion of potential legal action. No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

At 10:35 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

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

At 10:36 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 10:46 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.

Immediately thereafter, Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk