

## 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, August 6, 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 2025/2026 preliminary levy requests (referred to the Finance Committee) from Cotterell, Cuming, Elkhorn, Everett, Hooper, Logan, Maple, Nickerson, Pebble, Platte, Pleasant Valley, Ridgeley, Union and Webster Townships, Dodge Rural Fire, Fremont Rural Fire, Hooper Rural Fire, Nickerson Rural Fire, North Bend Rural Fire, Scribner Rural Fire, Snyder Rural Fire, Uehling Fire, Winslow Rural Fire, Dodge County Agricultural Society and Dodge County Historical Society, county officials' reports, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, bond Continuation Certificate for Michael Schuler, Treasurer, Everett Township, Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment period for the Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for Rawhide Creek, Public Meeting will be held on August 21, 2025 from 2-4:00p.m. at UNL Extension Office, Fremont, NE, minutes of the July 22, 2025 Dodge County Planning Commission meeting and Utility Installation Agreement for OPPD to install an overhead & underground electrical line along Platte River Road.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 23, 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.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 53 inmates in custody with 35 being held in Saunders County, 13 in Washington County, 1 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 4 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, August 20, 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 \$314,115.57.

The Board unanimously approved the transfer of \$3,959.49 from the General Fund (Fund 100) to the First Responders Communication Fund (Fund 0942) for radio tower maintenance. This transfer will correct a payment that was received into the wrong fund on March 28, 2025.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$191,033.08.

The Board unanimously approved changes to the employee handbook policy regarding salary increases (page 12) as outlined by Supervisor Bendig. Supervisor Bendig read the proposed policy for the record: All County employees, those employees not under labor contract, will receive a cost of living increase annually as determined and approved by the Board of Supervisors if the employee has had an annual, written performance evaluation and is not under any disciplinary action. The Personnel Committee will determine the appropriate language to be included in the handbook. The current cost of living gauge utilized for annual cost of living by the Board of Supervisors is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Midwest Region, for the month of June. The Personnel Committee will determine if this is the appropriate gauge to use going forward. No step increases going forward. Assistant Highway Superintendent Jean Andrews said they usually give a step increase after a road employee has passed the introductory period (typically 3 months or 6 months), and she asked if this new policy would eliminate this step increase. Chairman Missel suggested Ms. Andrews talk to the Road Committee about this. Sheriff Weitzel proposed considering the CPI over a 12-month period; Supervisor Bendig said most counties use the June CPI. Chairman Missel said the County uses the CPI as a gauge and not as the written rule. He added that some years the County has gone above the CPI and some years they have gone below the CPI. This gauge will give the Personnel Committee and Finance Committee an indication of where the County needs to be. Ms. Andrews asked if the Board would guarantee a cost of living increase every year or if there is a possibility wages could be frozen. Chairman Missel said the Board will not guarantee an annual cost of living increase; budgetary needs will dictate what action the Board takes regarding salary increases.

The Board unanimously approved Chairman Missel's signature on the *Participation Package* for Opioids Settlement with Purdue. County Attorney Hopkins said the decision that has to be made is whether to turn the funds over to Region 6 or keep locally. She said this is the same as the other participation packages the Board has approved. Chairman Missel said a committee was formed when the first opioid settlements came into the County to determine the best use of these dollars.

At 9:15 A.M., a public hearing was held to consider the approval of a Class C – “Beer, Wine, Spirits On and Off Sale” new liquor license application for The Heights Venue LLC, dba The Heights Venue 3605 N. Somers Ave, Fremont, Nebraska. Hearing no testimony for or against the license, the Board unanimously approved the liquor license.

The Board unanimously approved the retirement of K9 “Matrix” from the Sheriff's Department and authorized the payment of \$1.00 by Sergeant Mastin to acquire the dog. The Board also extended their thanks for the service of the dog and his handler, Sergeant Mastin.

During public discussion, Sergeant Brie Frank with the Dodge County Sheriff's Department thanked the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and Dodge County Emergency Management for their support during the explosion of the Horizon Biofuels building and the aftermath. Chairman Missel voiced his appreciation for the leadership and expertise of Sheriff's Department personnel during this incident as well as the plane crash into the Platte River on April 18, 2025.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that Otoe County and the Otoe County Agricultural Society have joined the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA); NIRMA now has 118 members. Ms. Andrews also said the ASSIST Grant applications are due November 1, 2025.

The Board unanimously passed a motion to receive and adopt a Resolution for Signing of the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance 2025 and authorized the required signatures on the Resolution as well as the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance to Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards 2025.

Highway Superintendent Huppert reported that employees are repairing culverts, particularly in the northwest corner of Dodge County. Employees are trying to keep up with the shredding, but it continues to be a challenge because of all the rain. They are still working on ditch cleaning for the FEMA project; there is one month left to complete this project. Employees are grading on County Road Q west of Highway 79 and the rain is also affecting this project. Superintendent Huppert has been talking with the engineer about completing projects on Platte River Road. Signage needs to be finished, work on the curve at County Road 4 needs to be completed and signs that are down are having to be mowed around. The State is waiting for the agreement to be negotiated; the agreement is being hashed out by the lawyers at this point. The contractor is done with the work on old Highway 275 at Scribner; Superintendent Huppert approved the signage and will have some touchup work to do when it is turned over to Dodge County. Engineers are working with the City of Fremont and Port Authority regarding the utilities on Morningside Road; survey work will hopefully begin within the next month at this location. Superintendent Huppert sent in the final plans for the railroad crossing at Shoreline Drive and County Road 6; he also has a proposal for shutting down one crossing in Dodge County.

At 9:33 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider the request of David R. & Janis K. Poppe (Life Estate) of 1275 County Road C, Scribner, NE 68057 to subdivide a 5.29-acre tract and obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an existing dwelling as per Article 13, Section 4.2 Exemptions B. (1) located in NW ¼ NE ¼ Section 13, Township 20 North, Range 6 East in Pebble Township, Zoning District A-2, General Ag. Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that the Dodge County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of this lot split and 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.

At 9:35 A.M., the Board took a brief recess.

At 9:38 A.M., the Board reconvened and unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 9:51 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, the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

At 10:01 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members present: Beam, Giesselmann, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 24, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Equalization as printed.

The Board unanimously received and referred to County Attorney Hopkins correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following: Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Fremont Northside Townhomes II LLC, Case No. 24R 0309, Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Fremont Northside Townhomes II LLC, Case No. 24R 0310, Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Fremont Northside Townhomes II LLC, Case No. 24R 0311, Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Dennis D. Einspahr Trust, Case No. 24R 0573 and Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Dennis D. and Helen A. Einspahr Trust, Case No. 24R 0575.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Assessor Marshall and upheld the 25% penalty on the late filed Nebraska Personal Property Return for 2025 from Brock Pierson, 2280 County Road H Blvd., Hooper, NE.

At 10:06 A.M. the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until August 20, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry  
Dodge County Clerk