

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 16, 2021 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, 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's review.

The Board unanimously declared the meeting legally convened.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as printed and received and placed on file various county officials' reports, the May 10, 2021 Board of Trustees Minutes and Statement of Revenues and Expenses YTD Comparison for the eleven months ending May 31, 2021 and 2020 from Fremont Community Health Resources, a request for funding in the 2021-2022 Budget of \$2,000 for Keep Fremont Beautiful October, 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (referred to the finance committee), Certificate of Insurance for Getzschman Heating, NIRMA Safety Shorts for June 2021, Notice of Public Hearings for Cuming County Planning Commission on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 8:00 P.M. to amend Zoning Matrix to add Distillery as a Conditional Use in AG-1; TA-1 RPC, C-1 and I1 Land Use Districts and request for Conditional Use Permit for Joseph Knobbe to add a distillery spirits plant on property located at 1189 C Road, West Point, NE; 200 acres in Section 26, T21N, R5E and Moving Permit for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane over county roads and return June 8, 2021.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 2, 2021 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, County Attorney Paul Vaughan reported that they are still working with the Sheriff's Department on the glitches with the house arrest program. Once those issues are worked out, they will have the judges sign-off on it. He also said the number of arrests continues to increase, making house arrest an important option to decrease the number of inmates being incarcerated.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, June 30, 2021 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 in the amount of \$241,203.00.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$959,000.72. Chairman Missel pointed out that the larger claims continue to

be for gravel and there is also a claim for Dodge County's 1/3 cost share of the Southeast Beltway project.

The Board unanimously approved the request for CDBG Funds on Project 19-EM-005 Fremont Rod & Gun Club – Breach Lake Repairs and authorized Chairman Missel and County Clerk Mytty to sign the request for Construction Management Costs of \$225.00 (To NENEDD) and Project Costs of \$3,762.18 (to JEO Consulting Group Inc.).

Committee Reports – Chairman Missel said he and Supervisor Beam attended the NACO Conference earlier this month. Supervisor Beam attended a breakout session conducted by the Department of Homeland Security – *Cyber Security Threats and Enhancing your Agency's Security Protection*. He said DHS has a program where they will come in and assess the county's cyber security and provide free training that would enhance the county's cyber security. Supervisor Beam has contacted the DHS representative about setting this up, but has not heard back from him. Chairman Missel attended a meeting that provided some updates to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts. He said that Dodge County will be receiving a little over \$7 million and the county board will be tasked with deciding how to distribute the dollars and to whom. The dollars have to be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026. The City of Fremont is also receiving ARPA funds; the county may want to collaborate with them on expenditures. County Clerk Mytty reported on redistricting district boundaries after the 2020 Census and said the Secretary of State's office has announced that the census information will be released on August 16, 2021. Three board members (Lon Strand, Greg Beam and Pat Tawney) were appointed to serve on a redistricting committee along with County Clerk Mytty and Fremont City Council members. The committee will have until November 1, 2021 to complete the plan and they will provide the board and the city council with a recommendation followed by public hearings to garner public input. Supervisor Bendig reported that the IT committee is in the processing of receiving bids and estimates for an IT assessment.

A Public Hearing was held to consider amending the 2020-2021 County Budget, specifically to increase the appropriation in the COVID-19 Emergency Fund from \$44,066 to \$50,000 in expenses and increase revenue by \$5,934. Grand totals of the budget and revenue will also increase by \$5,934. County Clerk Mytty explained that in the 2019-2020 budget \$50,000 was appropriated for the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. Only \$5,934 were spent out of that appropriated amount leaving a balance of \$44,066, which was the budgeted amount for 2020-2021. The county spent more than \$44,066 making this amendment necessary. The Board unanimously approved the aforementioned amendment to the 2020-2021 County Budget.

The Board unanimously received pricing information for 2021-2022 Crushed Limestone Road Rock from Martin Marietta and approved the pricing that will be effective from July 1, 2021 through 12/31/21. Martin Marietta did not quote the rock supply agreement for Dodge County this year. Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert said some adjustments to this arrangement may be needed after the first of the year.

The Board, by a 6-0-1 vote, with Tawney abstaining, received bids opened for 2021-2022 Road Gravel from Dolezal Sand & Gravel, Eveland Supply, Lux Sand & Gravel and Stalp Gravel Inc. and will use the low bid when possible.

The Board unanimously received bids opened for Project 636 Yager Road Paving Project from Graham, Steve Harris Construction and M.E. Collins and awarded the bid to Graham for \$958,313.95.

The Board unanimously received bids opened for Ridgeland Road Pavement Repair from J & R Concrete & Construction, M.E. Collins and Sawyer Construction Company and awarded the bid to J & R Concrete & Construction for \$62,713.00.

The Board unanimously authorized Highway Superintendent Huppert to complete a study on vacating Road U Blvd and County Road 29 where the two intersect near the Elkhorn River at the request of the Elkhorn Township Board. Superintendent Huppert said there is a new railroad bridge going in near this location and the railroad has agreed to make turnarounds for trucks and people wanting to fish at this location. The study will be presented at the next board meeting along with a resolution to set public hearing dates on the matter.

The Board unanimously approved the request from the North Bend Area Chamber of Commerce to temporarily close a portion of County Road 8, aka "Cemetery Road", on the northeast edge of North Bend on June 26, 2021 for the Old Settlers fireworks show. The county clerk's office will notify the sheriff's department regarding the road closure.

County Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert provided a briefing on projects for the Board. Work on County Road L between County Roads 8 & 9 is complete; on County Road H between County Roads 11 & 12 a section of road is being redone; on County Road 24 between County Roads G & H there will be a bridge taken out after 7/4/21 and replaced with a 120' long 9' culvert; FEMA projects are all obligated except for two townships, NEMA now has to approve them for reimbursement; the FEMA reimbursement amount is going to be 90% not the 75% originally thought so instead of paying the 12.5% share the county will pay 5% (after splitting the additional 15% with NEMA); Superintendent Huppert will be participating in a preconference with Graham to discuss the Project 636 Yager Road Paving Project and with J & R Concrete on the Ridgeland Road Pavement Repair; the Scribner/Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project has been granted an extension by FEMA until March 21, 2022 and they will go out for bids this month with a projected start date in early August; the Hooper/Logan Creek project will go out for bids later this month as well.

The Board unanimously received Replacement Tower Douglas Site Update from Rey Freeman Communications Consulting (RFCC) and Mazzitello Professional Services, received bids received for Replacement Tower – Douglas Site Construction Project from High Maintenance and Mod's (High Tower), Sabre Industries and Murphy Tower Service LLC and awarded the bid to the low bidder, High Tower, for \$96,272. Tom Christensen of the Fremont Fire Department was present to explain the need for this replacement tower. He said the PSAP system must communicate with the computer at the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, but the existing tower is overloaded by 300%. They looked at the following options to link to the computer: reinforcement of the current tower at a cost of \$130,000; hook up to another nearby tower, which is also overloaded; run fiber optic from the Elkhorn tower to the Douglas County tower at a cost of \$250,000. The best option is to replace the tower; Dodge County will not have responsibility for maintenance and ownership of the new tower.

At 9:48 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 9:56 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 9:57 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, June 30, 2021 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 #5341 & #5342.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of Dodge County Treasurer Gail Bargstadt and approved the 2021 Application for Exemption (form 457) from St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 422 E. 4th St., Fremont, Nebraska on a 2011 Intern 0566 Bus.

The Board unanimously received a list from County Assessor Churchill of her request for changes to valuations of parcels for 2021 and passed a motion approving and authorizing the County Clerk to mail notices to the owners of the properties.

The Board unanimously received 2021 valuation protests #3 and #83.

The Board unanimously passed a motion to advertise for two additional days for the Board to meet as a Board of Equalization, if needed, in July on the 21st and 23rd at 9:00 A.M. to take action on 2021 valuation protests.

County Assessor Debbie Churchill clarified to the Board how the assessor's office is handling property valuations when the protester presents a recent sale or appraisal as justification for lowering the valuation. Local real estate companies believe that a 6% increase in valuation each year is a conservative number; the assessor's office is adding 6% per year on valuations of protesters with a recent sale or appraisal. For example if an appraisal from 2019 is received, 12% would be added to it. Supervisor Strand said if the assessor has a reason for doing it this way, they should be able to rely on that method. He also suggested that she write an article explaining this methodology and have it published through local news media. Assessor Churchill said she would contact the Fremont Tribune and Walnut Radio about this.

At 10:10 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk