

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, November 17, 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 county officials' reports, correspondence from NE Dept. of Environment and Energy for an Application for Major Modification received for Maple Creek Poultry, LLC, correspondence from NE Dept. of Environment and Energy for an Application for Modified Construction and Operating Permit Issued to DAO Farms Animal Feeding Operation, Devon Ortmeier located in SE ¼, SW ¼, Section 6, T20N, R7E, correspondence from NE Dept. of Environment and Energy for a NPDES General Permit for Operations Confining Cattle for Muller Farms located in NW ¼ Section 28, T20N, R7E, Notice of Public Hearing of the City of Fremont Planning Commission to hear a request of Mitch Chitwood representing Stone Bridge Church asking for a Conditional Use Permit for a child care facility at 1041 N. Nye Ave. Hearing to be held November 15, 2021 at 5:00 P.M., NIRMA Safety Shorts for November 2021, Utility Installation Agreements with OPPD to install overhead secondary crossing and set pole in ROW located at 3130 N. Co. Rd 20 Ave. NE and 6320 State Highway in Section 28, T17N, R9E and Moving Permit Application for Barnhart Crane to move a self-propelled crane over county roads on November 10th, 2021 and return.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the November 3, 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, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 92 inmates in custody with 2 being held at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, 5 under house arrest, 25 in Washington County (female only) and 60 in Saunders County. It was noted that there are more individuals under house arrest. County Attorney Paul Vaughan said they are trying to use house arrest as much as they can but it's a delicate balance to decide which individuals qualify. The judges are warming up to the idea of using house arrest.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, December 1, 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 and hour claims as submitted in the amount of 250,936.06.

The Board unanimously approved a transfer of \$54,000 from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the Flood Control Fund. The amount of the transfer will be returned to the Inheritance Tax Fund when grant monies are received.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$489,528.56.

The Board unanimously received a letter from County Treasurer Bargstadt and accepted her recommendation to approve 2019 and 2020 tax roll corrections for 2700-2850 E. 23rd LLC resulting in a tax refund of \$3,946.00. These corrections are the result of a Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) decision.

The Board unanimously approved an update to the wording on the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between Dodge County and the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD), adopted a Resolution Authorizing Participation in the NENEDD following the guidelines in the updated interlocal cooperation agreement and authorized the necessary signatures on the resolution.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from Erickson & Brooks CPA regarding audit services for Dodge County for the years ended June 30, 2021 through June 30, 2023 and authorized the necessary signatures on the engagement letter. Supervisor Bendig reminded the Board the audit for the year ended June 30, 2020 was late getting completed by Bland and Associates. The finance committee came to a mutual agreement with Bland & Associates to dissolve the relationship with Dodge County for the remainder of the contract period (through FY ending June 30, 2023). The committee reached out to Erickson & Brooks CPAs, a local accounting firm with experience auditing Dodge County. Erickson & Brooks can begin the audit for the year ended June 30, 2021 in November with a projected completion of January 2022. The two remaining years, Erickson & Brooks projects that they can present a final report in November. In a separate motion the Board unanimously received correspondence from Bland & Associates acknowledging the termination of the audit engagement for the three remaining years and that Dodge County has no further financial obligation to Bland & Associates.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the National Association of Counties (NACo) regarding renewal of Dodge County's NACo 2022 membership dues and approved a payment of \$734.00 for the renewal.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews talked about the Article from the Hub Opinion (newspaper in Kearney) that appeared November 6th about NIRMA returning a dividend to its membership for the past 26 years. She said the article explained why members get a dividend and the how controlling claims benefits everyone down to local property taxpayers. Ms. Andrews also spoke about the Nebraska Highwater Sign Initiative that will alert the public of flood risk and encourage the public to be risk ready and said she wanted the Board to be aware of it. She said she didn't know if it would pose any risk to the county to take part. Chairman Missel suggested referring the matter to Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith so he could provide an opinion on the matter. The Board unanimously approved referring this information on to Mr. Smith.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Department of Transportation regarding the year-end certification of County Highway Superintendent for 2021 and passed a motion adopting a Resolution authorizing Chairman Missel to sign the Year-End Certification of the County Highway Superintendent form.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert provided the Board with an update on current projects. He said OPPD is working on a lot of underground installations and changing out poles. He is trying to keep up with where and when they are working so he can make sure they're trenching where they're supposed to and putting barricades out in the work zones; he gets a lot of complaints about OPPD. The highway employees are finishing ¼ mile of foothill road right after Thanksgiving and will shut down that work for a while after that. Employees are also working on field entrance and drive way repairs for local farmers as well as snow fence installation. The snow plows are ready, but not on the trucks yet; the plan is to get plows on 2 or 3 trucks after Thanksgiving. He is still working on bridge inspections, which require a lot of paperwork. Union Pacific Railroad is going to close a portion of County Road 29 and U Blvd. next week in order to work on the new bridge there. The Hooper North Logan Creek project is done, but inspections still need to be completed. FEMA/NEMA projects are all done. FEMA is still asking questions on some of the information that has been submitted. The 140 grader is coming in tomorrow. The tractor that was ordered months ago is projected to be here in January or February. The pickups that were ordered in May are projected to be here in March 2022. Superintendent Huppert is still working on the Yager Road project, but he needs the Board's help finding an appraiser to complete the right-of-way issue.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Tawney reported that there is a public open house meeting regarding the Rawhide Creek Watershed Project on Thursday at the City Auditorium at 6:00 P.M. Supervisor Bendig reported from the IT committee that CoreTech will be providing them with a preliminary report at the end of this week. Chairman Missel reported on the work the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) subcommittee has been doing. He said they decided not to meet again until after the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board meeting since there may be new information on guidance for the use of the ARPA money.

The Board unanimously received follow-up information from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) pertaining to a tabled agenda item from the November 3, 2021 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors regarding the approval or disapproval of a Wetland Reserve Easement on land located in Section 2, Township 20N, Range 6E, Dodge County, NE, parcel ID 270098098. The Board didn't think this follow-up provided any new information to help them make an informed decision about approving or disapproving the Wetland Reserve Easement at the aforementioned location. Supervisor Strand said the Board wanted someone to come to the meeting and explain their rationale on this issue. Supervisor Weddle asked if this is a matter that should go before the Planning Commission. Chairman Missel said it doesn't involve zoning, so it doesn't need to go before the Planning Commission. He said he thinks the county board should wait for someone to reach out to the county again before taking any action. Supervisor Tawney pointed out that if the county board doesn't make a decision on the matter within 60 days, the easement will automatically be approved. County Attorney Vaughan said on the easement application form it says

the Planning Commission should review the easement. The Board decided not to offer any opinion on the subject.

At 9:48 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

A short recess was taken at this time.

At 10:00 A.M., Chairman Missel convened the Board as a Board of Equalization with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Backens.

The Board unanimously approved the taxless tax roll corrections (#5379) for 2021. This will give the Dodge County Treasurer the ability to print and mail correct tax statements for 2021.

At 10:02 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

Fred Mytty
Dodge County Clerk