

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, January 24, 2024 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 official's report, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding changes in channel lineup, signed disaster declaration authorized under Nebraska State Statute R.R.S. 81-829.50 for Dodge County due to the severe winter weather event that occurred on January 12, 2024, Certificate of Insurance for A & R Construction Co., NIRMA Safety Shorts for January 2024, Project Update from Nebraska Department of Natural Resources regarding the Logan Watershed and Utility Installation Agreement with OPPD to install an overhead secondary crossing and set pole in right-of-way at 1524 County Road 24 in Nickerson, NE.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 10, 2024 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 44 inmates in custody with 36 of them being held in Saunders County, 7 in Washington County and 1 with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

At 9:06 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, February 7, 2024 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 \$308,800.41.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$304,624.84.

The Board unanimously received the 2023 Noxious Weed Control Plan, the 2023 Activity Report and other related reports from Weed Superintendent Larry Klahn and approved and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the reports as submitted. Weed Superintendent Klahn told the Board that the county utilized a drone again in 2023 to spray weeds. The drone is efficient for small patches of weeds and can get under the tree canopies. Mr. Klahn said phragmites is one of the noxious weeds that is still present in the county and one he watches closely. He said this weed used to be found mostly in the Platte River Valley but now he is finding it in the hills as well.

The Board unanimously received the PSAP Staff Report dated January 10, 2024 and an Independent Contractor Agreement with the City of Fremont, Fremont/Dodge County Communications Center and P.S. Rad Com LLC to provide radio administration services for the public safety radio system. In the same motion, the Board unanimously authorized Chairman Missel and County Clerk Gilfry's signatures on the Agreement. Tom Christensen, representing P.S. Rad Com LLC, was present and explained that the original contract did not have an automatic renewal clause in it. This contract includes the term of the Agreement and procedures to terminate the Agreement. Chairman Missel reported that the PSAP Board has already approved this Agreement and they are pleased that Mr. Christensen is continuing his role as the administrator.

The Board unanimously approved the appointments of Jill Gossett (Family Wellness Representative) & Chris Raasch (Youth Representative) to the Dodge County Extension Board for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2026.

Brandy Johnson, Communications & Learning Manager, General Counsel with NIRMA (Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association) was in attendance to tell the Board she will be doing a profile article about Dodge County for the NIRMA *Interchange* magazine. She said she is interested in hearing what sets Dodge County apart from other counties and any historical information and/or interesting stories about Dodge County.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Bendig reported that Applied Connective Technology will be in the courthouse tomorrow to switch over to the new Wi-Fi. He also reported for the Finance Committee that the FY2022-FY2023 Dodge County audit report is complete; copies will be delivered to the county this week or next. Supervisor Missel reported that the Joint Water Management Advisory Board met on January 18, 2024 and Emergency Manager Tom Smith gave an overview of the projects. The application for federal funding for the Lower Elkhorn/East Fremont project is of particular interest right now. If completed, this project will be the largest land engineered project Dodge County has undertaken.

The Board unanimously approved the request of Highway Superintendent Huppert to advertise for bids for 2024 Applied Traffic Paint Striping and to have the bids opened on February 15, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of the Dodge County Highway Department. Assistant Highway Superintendent Jean Andrews told the Board that they are bidding this earlier than normal because the supplier wants to purchase the paint before prices increase. She added that there will be more roadways to stripe this year because of the paving of Yager Road and County Road 18. Chairman Missel asked if Platte River Road would be added this year. Ms. Andrews said Dodge County will not be striping this road until the state finishes the overlay and bridge construction on it.

At 9:24 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 9:31 A.M., the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

A public hearing was held to consider amending the Dodge County General Assistance Program Guidelines. The Board unanimously received a summary of the proposed amendments to the guidelines that was prepared by Program Coordinator Chey Hagen. Proposed amendments include adjustments to the income guidelines for applicants and increases in the amounts of assistance for rent and/or utilities, gas, food and personal care items. Chairman Missel said the committee researched what other

counties (the size of Dodge County) are providing for their general assistance applicants. Hearing no testimony against these amendments, the Board, in a separate motion, unanimously approved the amendments to the Dodge County General Assistance Program Guidelines as presented.

At 9:38 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 10:01 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5656 through #5665.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding Certification of Final Decision and Order for Fremont Golf Club, Case Nos. 22C 0372 and 22C 0373.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Bargstadt to approve the Applications for Exemptions from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2024 (Form 457) from Liberty Baptist Church, Fremont, NE, The Salvation Army, Fremont, NE and Dodge County Head Start, Fremont, NE and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the forms.

The Board unanimously approved the Contract for Services with Lake Mac Assessment, LLC, Ogallala, NE (Bryan Hill, Contractor) for two appraisals for properties involved in Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) appeals and authorized the necessary signatures on the contract. Assessor Churchill said Mr. Hill will do site visits at both locations and she will send an appraiser from her office as well. These appraisals are not the typical "on paper" type of appraisal but they are acceptable and would be able to be defended at TERC.

Assessor Churchill reported that she is preparing permissive exemption applications for the Board to be presented next month. She said there are two organizations that have not filed and her office has done everything they can to contact these organizations. She asked the Board members to contact these organizations if they know someone associated with them.

At 10:07 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board reconvened and recessed as a Board of Supervisors until 12:00 P.M. when they will reconvene at the Dodge County Extension Office Appreciation Luncheon.

At 12:00 P.M., the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors at the Dodge County Extension Office Appreciation Luncheon. The following members were present: Beam, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. No action was taken while at the luncheon.

At 1:20 P.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk