

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, February 7, 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, Board of Trustees Minutes for December 11, 2023 meeting and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the six months ending December 31, 2023 and 2022 from Fremont Community Health Resources, correspondence from Midland University thanking the Board for the ARPA Funds they received on 5/31/2023 that help support their telehealth program, correspondence from Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District regarding the Urban Conservation Assistance Program and the Recreation Area Development Program, local Extension Programming and Financial Summaries for 2023 from University of Nebraska Extension Service in Dodge County, correspondence from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) notifying Dodge County of the closing of Disaster 4325 declared on June 20, 2017, Nebraska Department of Economic Development HMPG Audit monitoring letter; Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery for Dodge County Hazard Mitigation Projects and North Bend Drainage District Project, bond documents for Amanda Johnson, Treasurer Ridgeley Township – Continuation Certificate and Ridgeley Township Officials (Steve Helgenberger & Marvin Piper) – Public Official Name Schedule Bond and Certificates of Insurance for Certified Testing Services Incorporated and Platte Township.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 24, 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 48 inmates in custody with 39 being held in Saunders County, 8 in Washington County and 1 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. In the month of January, 88 inmates were booked into custody. County Attorney Hopkins reported that she will be meeting with the Saunders County Attorney and the Saunders and Dodge County Sheriffs to discuss Saunders County Jail operations. The focus of this meeting will be to explore any issues going on there that need resolution. Supervisor Backens asked if a representative from the Jail Standards Committee should attend this meeting. It was decided that this is not necessary at this point unless something is discovered in the meeting that needs to be addressed by the committee.

At 9:08 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, February 21, 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 \$278,842.72.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$366,963.83.

The Board unanimously approved Chairman Missel's signature on a letter to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to request an end date extension and milestone update for the Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Cooperative Agreement #NR216526XXXXC010 Rawhide Creek Watershed Improvement Project Work Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). Emergency Manager Tom Smith explained that the goal is to still have the watershed plan submitted by April 2024 and complete the remaining steps as in the original plan. There were delays in the process and he feels this is the preferred route to complete the project without missing any deadlines. Chairman Missel pointed out that in the first paragraph of the letter, the date "February 25" needs to be corrected to "February 2025". This correction was included in the motion.

Emergency Manager Smith gave an update on the ice jam on the Elkhorn River in northern Dodge County. The ice jam risk website (www.weather.gov/oax/icejamrisk) is running smoothly and is a good resource for information on ice jams for the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers. Larry Ruzicka signed the North Bend Drainage District phase 2 agreement and it will be sent to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The courthouse panic alarms accidentally went off last week and a lot of questions were raised as a result. The Courthouse Safety Committee has planned a training session on the panic alarms the last week of February.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Scott Huppert as the 2024 Dodge County Highway Superintendent, Class A License number S-1402, to serve from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Bendig reported that the Finance Committee met with Erickson and Brooks; the audit report is complete and will be distributed to the Board. He also reported for the Information Technology (IT) Committee that the Wi-Fi project is complete and all departments have been trained on the new system. The IT Committee also applied for two grants through the Cyber Security Grant Program. These grants will be awarded in June and will be an 80/20 split; Dodge County would be responsible for 20% of the grant award. Supervisor Backens reported that the Merit Commission has been working on testing for potential deputies and there will be interviews at the end of February. The courthouse security civilians have been hired and trained. Supervisor Tawney thanked all supervisors who attended the Dodge County Extension Office luncheon two weeks ago.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that the NIRMA regional meetings will be held in April; she provided a flier with more details for the Board members. The NIRMA Board had a meeting on January 26 and in this meeting they decided to

continue the ASSIST grant program for 2024; there will be \$150,000 available for this grant program. As Assistant Highway Superintendent, Ms. Andrews reported that the Dodge County Roads Department once again was awarded \$500 for the Money for Minutes program through NIRMA. These dollars are awarded to member safety committees that meet certain criteria that lead to loss prevention and improve safety.

The Board unanimously received the Public Notice and approved setting a hearing date for February 21, 2024 at 10:15 A.M. on the 2024 One- & Six-Year Road Improvement Plan.

The Board unanimously approved sending a letter to the Nebraska Department of Transportation to consider the installation of a turn lane off eastbound Highway 275 that turns onto Luther Road and an approach lane off Luther Road to eastbound U.S. Highway 275 for the safety of the traveling public. Supervisor Strand said the Road and Bridge Committee recommends sending the letter on behalf of the Board. Highway Superintendent Huppert read the letter for the record.

Highway Superintendent Huppert reported that employees have been repairing vehicles that broke down during the snowstorms the week of January 8. They are also working on tree and brush trimming at intersections to improve visibility. The signage for the new 275 Bypass around Scribner has been installed and the new signs for Hwy 30 are being installed. He is keeping an eye on the flooding from the ice jam on the Elkhorn River and any impact it has had on county roads. Superintendent Huppert has contacted the gravel pits and they do have gravel. He said the townships have been asking for it to fill in thin patches after the snowstorms. He has been to Lincoln to lobby for LB1030 – County Bridge Match Program, which, if passed, will be set for 2 years with \$4 million available each year. Nebraska counties would have 2 representatives on the evaluation team along with 3 from the Nebraska Department of Transportation that determine where the money goes. He is also following LB1335 which relates to the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act and infrastructure (i.e., road construction) progress. Chairman Missel said Senator Walz reached out to him regarding the no jake breaking sign that Dodge County requested to be installed on South Highway 77 between the roundabouts on the Southeast Beltway and the Platte River Bridge. Superintendent Huppert said he has not heard anything back from the Nebraska Department of Transportation about this. He added that the noise may subside after construction begins on the bridge over Elm Creek (Saunders County) just south of the Platte River Bridge.

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

At 9:57 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 9:58 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

At 10:02 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following Board members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5666 through #5668.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding Order for Dismissal with Prejudice for Autozone Development Corporation, Case No. 19C 0073.

Assessor Debbie Churchill told the Board that her office is working on 2024 property values and the values are still low, in some cases as much as \$200,000. She said the situation is not any better than it has been the past couple of years.

At 10:05 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk