

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, May 1, 2024 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Backens. 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, Oath of Office for Brad Dahl, Fremont Community Health Resources Board of Trustees, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare 2024-2025 budget request in the amount of \$97,496 and Utility Installation Agreement with OPPD to install overhead secondary crossing & set pole at 2500 County Road P, Nickerson, NE.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting as printed.

At 9:05 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors and convened as a Board of Corrections.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that there are currently 48 inmates in custody with 39 being held in Saunders County and 9 in Washington County.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, May 15, 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 except for Supervisor Backens.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$289,295.98.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$448,434.88.

The Board unanimously accepted the resignation of Stephen Dorsey from the CVB Advisory Board Committee.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Fremont and Dodge County Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee and appointed Jennifer Halladay, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Express, to fulfill the term of Stephen Dorsey which expires December 31, 2026.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation from the Fremont & Dodge County CVB Advisory Committee to grant \$10,000 of funding for John C.

Fremont Days activities. The funding would provide \$2,500 for the Hot Air Balloon Glow/Watermelon Feed, \$2,500 for the Rodeo Sponsorship and \$5,000 for a City-Wide Signage Campaign. Molly Paden, Executive Director of Fremont & Dodge County CVB, was present and told the Board that in the past the CVB has provided funding for the Hot Air Balloon Glow/Watermelon Feed and the Rodeo sponsorship events. The signage campaign is a new effort to advertise John C. Fremont Days events going on all over town. The funding is for the stands that hold the signage and the signage itself.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation from the Fremont & Dodge County CVB Advisory Committee to grant \$15,000 of funding to Midland University for Heedum Field Track Renovations. Ms. Paden reported that the track needs to be resurfaced and the improvements will allow Midland to host more events. Supervisor Strand asked if the CVB has provided funding for Midland University (private college) in the past. Ms. Paden said they did give American Rescue Plan Act funding to them and they gave a small amount towards their 140th year celebration. Supervisor Strand said he would like to see more requests from entities that are not in Fremont but he is unsure how to make those entities aware that money is available. Ms. Paden said the CVB has given funding to the Village of Dodge for a mural and funding to the City of Scribner for the upcoming Battle of the Bulls event. These funding requests were smaller amounts that did not need the approval of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation from the Fremont & Dodge County CVB Advisory Committee to grant \$50,000 of funding for Nebraska Game & Parks Dead Timber Construction, which is contingent on getting matching funds. Ms. Paden said the construction will basically relocate everything to an area out of the flood plain. The disposition of the matching funds will be announced in June.

The Board unanimously authorized Chairman Missel to sign a 2024 Ballot for Election to the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Board of Directors for Tim Hofbauer, Platte County Emergency Manager. Shelly Holzerland, Communications Director, Fremont/Dodge County 911 reminded the Board that the NRIN is a statewide microwave network that connects all of the 911 centers in the state. The network makes it easy to share public safety information with other 911 centers. The governance board members serve three-year terms on an alternating basis.

The Board unanimously approved a request from the Fremont Area United Way to reappropriate the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds they received. The reallocation would change the Basic Needs category to \$425,000, the Partner Agency Awards to area non-profit entities category to \$425,000 and the Olson Community Engagement Center Building Award category to \$50,000.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the selection committee and named Kristine Winterstein as the new County Treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Dodge County Treasurer Gail Bargstadt; the term ends in January 2027. Kristine had been serving as the Deputy Dodge County Treasurer and emerged as the best candidate to fill this position. Chairman Missel thanked the selection committee for their thoughtful consideration of the applicants. He also thanked Ms. Winterstein for her willingness to step into this role. County Treasurer Bargstadt's last day will be Friday, May 3.

During public discussion, Gary Ruskamp of Dodge, NE commented on the poor condition of County Road 2 and asked the Board to consider moving the project completion date up on this. He provided supporting documentation and signatures of other residents that would like the road to be repaired. Highway Superintendent Huppert said this road needs to be ground down 1 ½ “ and overlaid with 2” of asphalt to fully repair it. He said they have been trying to keep up with panel replacement and will need to survey the road to determine the condition of the panels before overlaying it. This project would have to go out for bids and could possibly be moved up to be completed within the next year or two.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Strand reported that they are hoping to pull the building permit for the Election Office this week.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews and approved the reappointments of Gene Ruzicka, Allen Rolf and Adam Taylor to the Dodge County Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring May 31, 2027.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees are working on hard surface road edging (rock and dirt work). Hot mix is being applied to culverts that have settled and regular culvert installations have started. Employees are keeping up on the mowing especially with all the rain we’ve had. Superintendent Huppert said he gets complaint calls about the roundabouts on the Southeast Highway 77 Beltway because the weeds are so tall. Mowing these roundabouts is the State’s responsibility. He said he has been working with Rick (State) on the signing and plans for moving traffic on the 275 By-Pass near Scribner. He has also talked to the State about the work on the Highway 30 By-Pass. Specifically, he has asked them to put up barricades since they have closed County Roads 13, 15, 17 and 19. Plans also have to be made for the traffic transfers that will occur so the new by-pass can be prepped and painted. Superintendent Huppert is going out for informal bids for bridge approach projects. Supervisor Bendig asked about the status of the Platte River Road (Old Highway 30) overlay project. Superintendent Huppert said he was told the State will go out for bids on this on May 11. Supervisor Bendig also asked about the Old Highway 275 overlay project. Superintendent Huppert said the engineers have indicated that they will be going out for bids on this late May or early June. It will include the work that needs to be done on County Road F around Scribner.

At 9:34 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 9:49 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, Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members present: Beam, Weddle, Strand, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Backens. 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 approved tax roll corrections #5681 through #5683 and #5685 through #5687. Tax roll correction #5684 is to be held until further notice.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Bargstadt on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2024, on a 2005 Chrysler Town & Country van from Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc., granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Bargstadt on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2024, on a 2013 Chevy Express G3500 van from Liberty Baptist Church, Fremont, NE, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

Assessor Churchill reported that her office will be sending out approximately 20,000 change of value notices this year.

At 10:10 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to receive public input as whether to allow or to deny any continued exemptions in Dodge County for 2024. Assessor Churchill asked the Board to consider waiving the filing deadline for First Congregational Church UCC on parcel #270132097. She explained that they did file late but wrote a letter of explanation which included a request to be considered for tax exempt status for 2024. The Board unanimously approved waiving the filing deadline which will allow the Board to approve First Congregational Church UCC's continued exempt status for 2024. With no testimony given for or against the Permissive Exemptions in Dodge County for 2024, in a separate motion the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of Assessor Churchill and approved the list of Permissive Exemptions as presented including approvals and denials of tax exempt status.

At 10:17 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk