



# Howard County Board Minutes



## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

May 13, 2022

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th of May 2022, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 4th day of May 2022, a proof of publication filed in the clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, mailed to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Boehle called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Dave Boehle, Kathy Hirschman, AYE; Gary Rasmussen, Aye. Also present is County Clerk Shawn Burkhardt. Absent is County Attorney Dave Schroeder. Chairman Boehle also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such Copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

### Public Comment

No public Comment

### County Road Discussion

Highway Superintendent Janet Thomsen was present for the county roads discussion. Thomsen discussed some preliminary concerns for the upcoming public hearing regarding the one- & six-year plan. Some areas discussed were 11<sup>th</sup> and Jansen Road. The public Hearing has been set for June 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

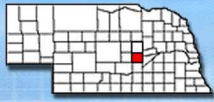
### NACO Medical / Dental plan rates Sub-Group Application

The officials were asked to join the meeting, county assessor Neal Dethlefs, Sheriff Tom Busch, and County Attorney David Schroeder joined the meeting. Mike Boden was present to review the rates and discuss various options that are available for the upcoming renewal. Overall, the premiums are going up 17%. The deductible buydown was discussed as well as the timeline that NACO & BCBS needs to have a decision by. The issue was tabled to the next meeting.

### Communications donation check – Sheriff Busch

Sheriff Tom Busch brought a check that was a donation for the Dispatchers in recognition of dispatcher's week. The check was made out to Howard County. Busch was directed to deposit the check in the county general fund and to follow up with Chief Dispatcher Paxton to include the funds in the departments upcoming budget. Busch also discussed issues with the communication center generator. The issue was related to the previous days power failure, the generator failed during the power outage. Busch was directed to look at upgrading the generator to one that is able to power the entire building. A generator needs to be plug & play with a back up if necessary. Sheriff Busch was asked to follow up on possibilities & to pursue various options. Sheriff Busch also discussed the radio system at the Communication center. Sheriff Busch was directed by the board to proceed with the upgrading of the radio system.

### Veterans Service Office FY Request



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Don Shuda with the Hall County Veterans Service office along with several Howard County Veterans were present to review the previous year assistance the office provided to Howard County Veterans. Shuda presented the 22-23 budget request to the board of funding of \$38722.00 Shuda also requested that the board approve the appointment of board member Bryce Pearson, which is to be addressed at the next commissioners meeting. Hirschman made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call; All Ayes.

## Culvert risers

Highway Superintendent Thomsen wanted to review the policy on requests for culvert risers considering the two recent requests. Thomsen was directed to review with the board each request as it is submitted.

## NRD Road Dam NE 10016 – 9<sup>th</sup> Ave

Highway Superintendent Thomsen reviewed the NRD inspection process for road dams, this was due to a dam that was established in 1975 but that no approval had been obtained. An application must be submitted to the NRD as well as a fee paid. Discussion was held regarding the payment of the application fee. Motion was made by Hirschman to sign the dam application, and second by Rasmussen. Roll call; all ayes. Motion was made by Rasmussen and second by Hirschman to require the landowner to pay the application fee. Roll call; all Ayes.

## Discussion – St Paul City recycling Trailer- Hauling / Cost Sharing

Options were discussed to aid the city in maintain the recycling trailer which is used by Howard County residents as well as the City of ST Paul. Options discussed included offering to drive the trailer to the recycling center every other time which would be approximately twice a month. Rasmussen made a motion to provide a county employee and a truck to take a rotation twice a month. The motion died for lack of a second as further discussion continued.

## Courthouse Renovation Steps – Architects notice to proceed

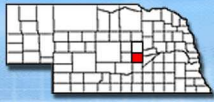
The front step renovations were discussed as the grant process is proceeding to utilize grant money for the historical preservation of the Courthouse. Motion was made by Rasmussen and second by Hirschman to give the notice to proceed with the project. Roll Call; All ayes.

## Mail

A letter was received from Loup Central landfill with their request for funding in the upcoming fiscal year. Also received was a postcard from AFAN offering the officials a farm livestock tour. The last piece of mail reviewed was a letter from Nebraska Historical T.C. regarding the part 2 approval for the courthouse step restoration.

## Tourism & Board Appointment - Donna Nielsen

The vacancy on the Tourism board was discussed. Commissioner Hirschman explained that one of the board members must be associated with a business that pays the tax, and that Donna Nielsen should be appointed to the board as she is the proprietor of the Bel-air Hotel. Motion was made by Hirschman and second by Boehle to appoint Nielsen to the board. Roll Call; All ayes



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## Union Negotiations

The agreement for the County employees Union is up to expire the end of June. Motion was made by Boehle and second by Rasmussen to appoint Commissioner Kathy Hirschman to begin negotiations for the Union agreement. Roll Call; All ayes

## Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the April 26th, 2022, meeting as well as reports from the Treasure, Clerk, and Sherriff's Office as well as claims drawn on their regular accounts in the amount of \$423286.38. Roll Call; All ayes.

## Executive Session Land Negotiation / Possible action

At 11:20 motion was made by Hirschman, and second by Rasmussen to go into executive session. Roll Call; All Ayes. At 11:51 Motion was made by Hirschman and second by Boehle to come out of executive session with no action taken. Roll call; All Ayes.

## Executive Session / Personnel / Possible Action

At 12:00 motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to go into executive session. Roll Call; All Ayes. At 12:19 motion was made by Rasmussen and second by Boehle to come out of executive session. Roll call; All Ayes. Motion was made by Boehle and second by Rasmussen to take the action of paying the Part time employee in the Clerk's office the current full-time rate for the current pay period as the hours worked were above the hours required for fulltime wages. Roll call; All Ayes.

## Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Boehle and second by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 Roll Call: all Ayes. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be May 24, 2022.

Dated this 13th day of May 2022.

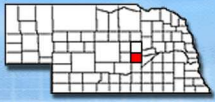
Dave Boehle

Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Shawn Burkhardt

Howard County Clerk



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