

Howard County Board Minutes



HOWARD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Howard COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

July 26, 2022, St Paul, NEBRASKA

The Howard County Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 8:40 A.M. on Tuesday, July 26th in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in St Paul, Nebraska.

Chairman Boehle called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Dave Boehle, Kathy Hirschman, and Gary Rasmussen. 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. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in The Phonograph Herald on the 20th day of July 2022, and the convened meeting was open to the public. The agenda was posted on the Howard County website; and 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.

Public Comment

No public comment

County Road Discussion

Highway Superintendent Janet Thomsen was present to discuss County Roads. Thomsen introduced a new roads employee Russ Mace. Another employee Earl Swet will be starting August 31st. An Engineering study was discussed, the incorrect road was listed on agenda so it will be addressed during the next meeting. Thomsen reviewed the use of road drags and explained that they are more efficient.

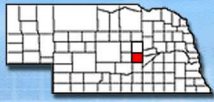
Mail

No mail to review.

Lower Loup NRD – Resolution Mitigation Plan

A resolution submitted by Lower Loup NRD was reviewed. After discussion a motion was made by Rasmussen and second by Hirschman to approve Resolution 22-14. Roll Call All Ayes.

Treasurer – Semi Annual



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County Treasure Jackie Synowski presented the board with the Treasures Semi -Annual Report.

Treasure – License Plates

County Treasurer Synowski asked the board for some alternate storage space for the new license plates that will be delivered all at one time. Synowski explained that normally the plate come in batches, but due to increased fuel costs the State of Nebraska will be only shipping the counties plates once they are all ready. This will cause storage issues as the plates have to be unboxed & reorganized in the correct order. The board granted space in the Board Room as well as the Extension office. The Extension office currently has a vacancy as no Extension Educator has been hired to replace the former Educator.

PUBLIC HEARING – CUP Schmidt

At 9:15 motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to open the Public Hearing for a conditional use permit for Heather Schmidt. Roll Call; all Ayes. Planning & Zoning Administrator Cherri Klinginsmith explained that the CUP would need to be rescheduled as the requester was unable to attend today. At 9:15 motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to close the Public Hearing. Roll Call; all Ayes. No action taken.

Elevator Maintenance – Update

Howard County custodian Pat Koperski gave the board an update on the status of the Courthouse elevator. The work to be done and the larger project of upgrading the elevator. The upgrade will have to include code updates, to be in compliance.

Maintenance Training Update

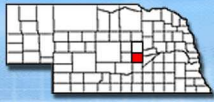
Pat Koperski attended a maintenance & safety training seminar that he reviewed with the Board. The Board presented Koperski with a certificate in recognition of his training.

Assessor office – Replace counter shutter estimate

An estimate was received from Overhead door to replace the roll down shutter at the Assessor's office counter. The estimate was reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve the replacement estimate for \$9390.00 from Overhead door was made by Hirschman, second by Rasmussen. Roll Call: All Ayes

P&Z Complaint Recommendations

Planning & Zoning Administrator Cherri Klinginsmith discussed the Planning & Zoning Board minutes regarding a complaint the board has been addressing. The legal description of the



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proprieties involved and reference in minutes from the Planning and zoning board was discussed & the board was updated regarding legal description listed.

Safety Committee Appointments Update

The appointments for the County Safety committee were discussed as employee turnover has caused vacancies. Motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to appoint the following to fill the vacancies: Janice Jares, Melanie Soper, and Allen Wilsusen. Roll Call: All Ayes

FY 22-23 Budget

The FY 2022-2023 budget was discussed & amounts reviewed for the Board's proposed amounts. This will be tabled to next meeting.

COR – Cyber Security / Budget

Doug Cramer with COR was present to review the current billing, and coverage that COR provides for the County owed computers. Doug also discussed areas of vulnerability to the county. The use of personal laptops connected to the Courthouse network was one such issue, as well as an out-of-date computer in the Clerk's office that hosts the Register of Deed's network that is vulnerable. Doug was asked to get quotes to replace the two computers at issue.

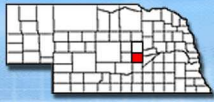
County Attorney arrived at the meeting at 10:20.

P&Z Complaint Recommendations

Planning & Zoning Administrator Klinginsmith reviewed the status of the complaint and her recommendations. NDEE investigated and found that Mamot Feed lot is in compliance with their regulations. An inspection was conducted July 13, 20202. Shelly Helgoth and Travis Caspersen each spoke to the board regarding the complaint. County Attorney Schroder advised the board to take action. At 11:04 Schroeder left the meeting. The board directed County Surveyor Tim Aitken to review elevation of the area.

Access to River Bridge on Wausa RD

Several landowners from the area the County bridge on Wausa Rd were present to request that the County limit the access to the private property adjacent to the bridge. Those speaking about the issues that access to the river has caused included Ray Hurt Jr. Clark Pedersen, and Andrew Jensen. Highway Superintendent Janet Thomsen stated that a guard rail might be installed to prevent the trespassing. Sheriff Tom Busch also spoke and advised the landowners to post "No Trespassing" signs and to report any trespassing or observed



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suspected criminal activities, so that the department could investigate. The board directed Thomsen to determine if it is possible to install a barricade.

Personnel / Union Policy Standards / Enforcement

Discussion was held regarding the employee's vacation usage and the union agreement that was approved effective July 1, 2022. The agreement states that vacation is to be taken in two-hour increments, and that only forty hours may be carried over on the employee's anniversary month, or that it may be paid out. The board reviewed the policy, and the board conceded to allow several exceptions.

Executive Session / Personnel / Possible Action

At 12:10 motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to go into executive session. Roll Call; all Ayes.

At 12:22 motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to come out of executive session, with the action taken that Karol Keller's pay rate is to be \$18.16. Roll Call; all Ayes.

Executive Session – Land Negotiation

At 12:23 motion was made by Hirschman, and second by Rasmussen to go into executive session. Roll Call; All Ayes. At 12:32 Motion was made by Hirschman and second by Boehle to come out of executive session with no action taken. Roll call; All Ayes.

Crime Commission Enhancement Grant

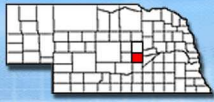
Connie Holmes with the Crime Commission gave a review of the Crime Commission Grant that was being requested. Motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to approve the Grant request in the amount of \$24851.00, and that should be added to the budget under "miscellaneous – Crime Commission" Roll Call, all Ayes.

FY 22-23 Budget

The FY 2022-2023 budget was discussed. Weed Superintendent Rob Schultz discussed the weed departments request for Equipment repair, and / or replacement. The board agreed to put \$16000 in the budget for equipment repair.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Hirschman and second by Rasmussen to approve claims in the amount of \$262806.93 and the minutes from 7-12-22, as well as the reports from the Treasurer, Clerk and Sheriff's offices. Roll Call; all Ayes. Roll Call; all Ayes.



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There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman, second by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 Roll Call, All ayes. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be August 9, 2022.

Dated this 26th day of July 2022.

Dave Boehle

Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Shawn Burkhardt

Howard County Clerk