

# Howard County Board Minutes



## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 24, 2023

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, AYE; Kathy Hirschman, AYE; and Jessie Urbanski, AYE. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Hirschman 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**- None

**Road Discussion**-The refurbished grader is back. Discussed streets in St. Libory. Roads Department purchased a used bucket truck which will come in next month. Discussed inspections on the bucket truck and training the road employees on how to operate the bucket truck. Additional discussion on other roads located within the County.

**Mail** – CNCAP Newsletter and an email from the Adams County Emergency Manager office.

### **Unfinished Business** – None.

**Public Hearing – Twilight Subdivision** – Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Cherri Klinginsmith, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Jose Avila were present to discuss the subdivision with the Commissioners.

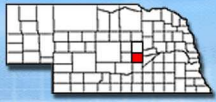
Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to close the public hearing at 9:10 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Twilight Subdivision. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**NECLASS Resolution 2023-6** - County Treasurer, Jackie Synowski presented a resolution to the Board to authorize the Treasurer to invest funds into the Nebraska Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System Trust (NECLASS) at her discretion. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-6 and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**2-SDL Approvals-Miretta Vineyards & Winery Inc.**-Two Special Designated License applications were received from Miretta Vineyards & Winery Inc. for events scheduled on February 10-11, 2023, and February 14, 2023. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the two Special Designated License applications as presented and Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Appointment to South Central Economic Development Representative** – Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve Laura Berthelsen to represent Howard County as the South Central Economic Development Representative. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Fire Alarm Panel Update** – Two Proposals were received from Electronic Systems, Inc. to replace the Fire Alarm Panel, add pull stations by each building exit, re-connect all sprinkler zones, install and program all relay modules on new elevator and add an annunciator. Price-\$18,186.00 includes all equipment, cable and labor to install and test. The



# Howard County Board Minutes



second proposal included replacing existing horn/strobes with new ADA compliant devices and add strobes in 2 public restrooms on main floor and add horn/strobes by all exits. These items were recommended by the State Fire Marshall. Price-\$6,053.00 includes all equipment, cable and labor to install and test. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve both proposals and use ARPA funds to pay for the project. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Assessor's Overhead Door Repair** –Neal Dethlefs and Pat Koperski, were present to discuss the repair of the Assessor's Overhead Door. Board had received a previous proposal dated July, 2022, to replace the whole door and it had been approved. Overhead Door was contacted on the status last week. It was determined that the whole door didn't need to be replaced. Overhead is to send a new proposal by the end of the week on the cost to repair the current door.

**Treasurer's Semi Annual Report** - Treasurer, Jackie Synowski presented the Semi Annual Report to the Commissioners. Treasurer answered the Board's questions regarding the report.

**Compensation for Courthouse Closures** – Urbanski made a motion that when the Courthouse closes due to weather, County employee snow hours can be made up with vacation time if the employee chooses. Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Rasmussen made a motion that Holidays count as time worked and any time over 40 hours is paid overtime effective January 15, 2023. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Jerry Thompson- IBEW-Memorandum for clarification of the dates when new wages go into effect. Employee reviews by 15<sup>th</sup> of January-** After discussion, Urbanski made a motion to add an addendum to the Agreement between the Howard County Roads Workers and the County of Howard, Nebraska. Effective January 24, 2023, yearly pay scales will take effect July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Yearly performance reviews will be given by January 15th. Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Closed Session – Possible Litigation** – Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to go into Closed Session to discuss possible litigation at 9:50 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Closed Session to discuss possible litigation at 9:50 a.m. Those present in Closed Session are Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski and County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to come out of Closed Session at 10:31 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to pay the Internal Revenue Service regarding payroll taxes and forms the following amounts for failure to file penalty, failure to pay penalty and interest charges for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2021 (\$25,489.71), 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2022 (\$30,959.80) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2022 (\$34,167.45) for a total of \$90,617.45. Payments are to come out of the ARPA fund. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to contract with Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth to file an abatement letter for reduction in penalties on behalf of Howard County and authorizing Tim Vaughn to speak on behalf of Howard County with the IRS regarding the penalties. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Closed Session – Job Applications – Possible Action-** Rasmussen made a motion to go into Closed Session to review job applications at 11:23 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: All Ayes. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Closed Session to discuss job applications at 11:23 a.m. Those present in Closed Session are Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen.

Rasmussen made a motion to come out of Closed Session at 11:55 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: All Ayes. Urbanski made a motion and Hirschman seconded to authorize Janet Thomsen and Ray Hurt along with a County Commissioner to conduct job interviews and discuss job duties and bring back a recommendation to the next Board Meeting on February 14, 2023. Roll Call: All Ayes.



# Howard County Board Minutes



**Consent Agenda** - Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 1/5/2023 and 1/10/2023, Sheriff's Report and Payroll and Claims in the amount of General- \$214,976.98 and Roads- \$65,953.76 for a total of \$280,930.74. Roll Call: All Ayes.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be February 14, 2023.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2023.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk