

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

March 28, 2023

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 28th day of March, 2023, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 22nd day of March 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, Absent; 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

County Road Discussion- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following:

1. One and Six Year Plan

Discussion was had regarding five bridges in the County being placed on the One and Six Year Plan. The One and Six Year Plan will be advertised in the newspaper for three weeks prior to the Public Hearing to be scheduled on April 25, 2023. Also discussed were road maintenance items which are not required to be in the Plan.

2. Seasonal Help

Three past seasonal employees have expressed interest in coming back to work. Also discussed was the possibility of hiring high school age seasonal workers. Ms. Thomsen is to check with the County insurance carrier regarding high school age seasonal workers. Hirschman made a motion to pay Seasonal Employees a starting wage of \$17.40 per hour and working up to 40 hours per week. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –

1. Email from Mid-Continental Restoration Co. regarding front steps of Courthouse.

The Clerk received emails that the front steps restoration project will begin in April. The County will be responsible for hiring an electrician to hook up the electric heating system.

2. Letter from Nirma regarding ASSIST Awards

The Emergency Manager received a check from NIRMA for costs incurred to inspect the County fire extinguishers.

3. Email from Zelle HR Solutions

Unfinished Business – None

Addendum to IBEW Contract - Jerry Thompson representing the IBEW was present to discuss an addendum to the IBEW Contract. A motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to approve the Addendum to IBEW Contract to define holiday hours considered as time worked. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Tax Sale Report - County Treasurer, Jackie Synowski met with the Board to present a list of delinquent Real Estate Taxes sold at the Public Tax Sale on March 6, 2023, and explain how the process works. No action taken.

County Assessor Updates -County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs met with the Board to update them on an upcoming Terc Hearing to be held on May 30, 2023. The Assessor explained that his office deals with valuations not taxes. Mr. Dethlefs provided an overview to the Commissioners on the valuation process.

Executive Session – Litigation – Possible Action – Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 8:52 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 8:52 a.m. Those present in Executive Session are Hirschman, Urbanski, Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson.

Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to come out of Executive Session at 9:16 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No Action taken.

Public Hearing-Bader Subdivision – Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. regarding Bader Subdivision. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Cherri Klinginsmith, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Greg Bader were present to discuss the Bader Subdivision.

Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to close the public hearing at 10:06 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to approve the Bader Subdivision as presented. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

BTS-Telephone System-Loren Cleveland - Loren Cleveland and Jon Fischer with BTS were present along with several County employees to discuss two proposals for a new telephone system for the Courthouse, Roads Department and one phone at the E911 Center. Each employee was given a chance to ask questions and make comments regarding the proposed telephone system. Hirschman made a motion to approve leasing the telephone system for a one time fee of \$5,610.00 and an additional monthly fee of \$933.68. This will be a two-year contract. The County will also allow BTS the necessary access to reconfigure the current State of Nebraska phone lines. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 3/14/2023, and 3/21/2023, Payroll and Claims: General-\$210,362.33 and Roads-\$63,331.52 for a total of \$273,693.85.

Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be April 11, 2023.

Dated this 28th day of March, 2023.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
 Howard County Clerk