

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 11, 2023

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 5th day of April 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

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

1. **Right of Way-**Highway Superintendent will be placing a Notice in this week's paper and again in two weeks to remind landowners to remove fence and to not plant crops in the County Road right-of-way.
2. **Accept Road Employee Resignation/Advertise Position-**Resignation of County Road's Administrative Assistant effective April 21, 2023. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to hire a full-time Administrative Assistant with a starting wage of \$16.42. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The County Roads Maintenance applications are to be placed on the agenda for the April 25, 2023 board meeting.

**Mail** – Opioids payment received.

**Unfinished Business** – The County is looking for an electrician to install and connect the heating system for the front steps replacement project. The project is set to start on April 17, 2023.

**Executive Session – Personnel-Job Applications – Possible Action-** Rasmussen made a motion to go into Executive Session regarding personnel and job applications at 8:55 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: All Ayes. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss personnel and job applications at 8:55 a.m. Those present in Executive Session are Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen.

Rasmussen made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:14 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: All Ayes. Rasmussen made a motion and Urbanski seconded to authorize Janet Thomsen and Ray Hurt along with a County Commissioner to conduct job interviews and discuss job duties. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Approve/Deny Land Purchase from Ag Society-Roads Shop** –On April 5, 2023, Kathy Hirschman, County Board Chairman met with the Howard County Ag Society. At that meeting the Ag Society was in agreement to sell the County a portion of land owned by the Ag Society for a new Roads Shop. The County and Ag Society agreed upon a purchase price of \$50,000.00. Present to discuss the purchase were Jeremy Meyer, Don McCarty and Joe Coufal with the Ag Society. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the purchase of land from the Ag Society for \$50,000.00 for a new Roads Shop. Roll Call: All Ayes. The Land Negotiation will be placed on the next Agenda on April 25, 2023. County Surveyor, Tim Aitken will survey the property.

**Extension Update** – Doug Anderson was present to discuss Extension updates. The position for the Crop and Water Systems has been opened.

**Miretta Vineyards & Winery Inc.-SDL Request** – Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the SDL for Miretta Vineyards & Winery Inc. for an event on May 20, 2023. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Veterans Service Officer-Budget Request and Re-Appointment** – Veterans Service Officer, Don Shuda, along with Veteran Board Members, Bryce Pearson, Larry Kiser and Fritz Lee, and Margy Goerl were present to discuss the Veteran's 2023-2024 budget request with the Board. Mr. Shuda updated the Commissioners on the services his office provides for Howard County Veterans. The Veteran's Board requested an increase of \$1,188.00 for the year for a total of \$39,910.00. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the budget request for 2023-2024. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the reappointment of Larry Kiser for an additional five-year term on the Veteran's Board. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**NIRMA Claim No.: GLHowar033789 Update** – The Commissioners received a letter from NIRMA dated March 27, 2023, stating that NIRMA Claim No: GLHowar033789 has been settled out of court in the amount of \$77,500.00. This item is required to be made an agenda item pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-713.

**2022 Annual Reporting of Tax Increment Financing Projects -** A copy of the 2022 Annual Reporting of Tax Increment Financing Projects was received from Dream Solko, Executive Director of the St. Paul Development Corporation on March 29, 2023.

**Time Capsule** – The County is planning to insert a time capsule in the new steps located on the front of the courthouse. Discussion was held on what to place inside the time capsule. The elected officials will be working to gather items for this project.

**Letter from IRS** – The Clerk received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service regarding changes to the December 31, 2020, Form 941. The changes resulted in penalties and interest in the amount of \$5,211.50. A second letter for March 31, 2021, Form 941, taxes and penalty of \$8,659.05 and a third letter for June 30, 2021, Form 941, taxes and penalty of \$10,825.31. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve paying the penalties and interest in the amount of \$24,695.96, due to changes on the December 31, 2020, March 31, 2021 and June 30, 2021, Form 941's. The payment will be taken from the ARPA funds. Roll Call: All Ayes. The County Clerk will contact Tim Vaughn, CPA regarding negotiations of penalty and interest, after April 18, 2023.

**Consent Agenda** - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 3/28/2023, Claims: General-\$81,937.72 and Roads-\$73,004.31 and Covid American Rescue Plan-\$89,777.96 for a total of \$244,719.99, and the District Court, County Clerk, and Treasurer Reports. Roll Call: All Ayes.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be April 25, 2023.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2023.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk