

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 27, 2023

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of June, 2023, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 21st day of June 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 Deputy County Clerk, Marla Mason.

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.

Pledge of Allegiance-

Public Comment- Tylor Robinson was present and stated at the most recent Planning and Zoning meeting that Article 4, Section 4 was discussed regarding public notices for workshop sessions. He feels these sessions should be audio and video recorded and would be a benefit to the public.

County Road Discussion-

Amend Contract-IBEW to Add Assistant Road Foreman- Urbanski made a motion to approve the amended IBEW Contract as presented to add an Assistant Road Foreman to be effective July 1, 2023 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Motor Grader Update - Tyler McNitt with Cat was present to update the Board on the delivery date of a new motor grader purchased approximately a year ago and is expected to be delivered in September or October of this year.

Assistant Road Foreman Applications-Executive Session-Possible Action - Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session at 8:41 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen to review Assistant Road Foreman Applications. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session at 8:41 a.m. to review applications. Those present were Gary Rasmussen, Kathy Hirschman, Jessie Urbanski, Janet Thomsen, and Ray Hurt.

Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to come out of Executive Session at 8:57 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Urbanski made a motion to allow Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen to proceed with the interviews for Assistant Road Foreman position and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

gWorks Contract- Janet Thomsen, Highway Superintendent, had previously spoke with the Board regarding a gWorks program called Simple Roads. Signs, culverts, bridges, motor grader route maps, projects, One and Six Year Plans are examples of items that can be placed in the program and saved on the cloud. The program can also be used to submit to FEMA. The setup cost is \$8,000.00 and the

annual fee is \$4,500.00. Ms. Thomsen checked with the Assessor to see if the County has any credits to put towards the setup cost. There were no credits available. An email was received to give a \$1,000.00 credit towards the setup costs. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the gWorks Contract and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Nay; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

Current county roads update - Road employees have been cutting trees and grading roads.

Mail – PILT Payment and Grand Island Area Clean Community Report.

Unfinished Business – None

Public Hearing-Single Lot Administrative Sub-Ambroz Acres –Motion was made by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Present were Cherri Klinginsmith and Trenton D. Snow. Cherri Klinginsmith presented to the Board for approval of the Single Lot Subdivision.

Rasmussen made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 9:10 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Urbanski made a motion to approve the Ambroz Acres Single Lot Administrative Subdivision and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the County of Adams and the County of Howard – The Agreement is for Mental Health Board Proceedings terms and fees. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

First Light Budget Request – A letter requesting \$4,000.00 from the First Light Child Advocacy Center for services provided to 10 counties including Howard County. Urbanski made a motion to approve the request and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sheriff Distress Warrant Report – Sheriff Tom Busch presented the Sheriff's Distress Warrant Report to the Board. Discussion was held.

Discuss Dispatch Scheduling and Vacation Pay -

Sheriff Tom Busch and Head Dispatcher Melissa Paxton were present to discuss the dispatch scheduling and vacation pay.

Urbanski made a motion to approve the Dispatch 12-hour scheduling on a temporary basis with dispatchers working 36 hours one week and 48 hours the next week, hours will not be prorated, employee will be short 4 hours one week and receive 8 hours of overtime the next week, seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Discussion was held regarding vacation time earned and paying out for dispatchers.

Resolution 2023-15 Transfer Funds-Communications - Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve Resolution 2023-15 transferring \$30,495.36 from the E911 Wireless Service Fund

and \$5,381.53 from the 911 Emergency Management Fund to the Communications General Fund. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2023-16-Transfer Funds E911 – Urbanski made a motion and Rasmussen seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-16 to authorize the County Clerk and the County Treasurer to transfer \$9,864.67 from the E911 Wireless Service Fund to the 911 Holding account. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Memorandum of Agreement- Sheriff's Dept. - Sheriff Tom Busch presented a Memorandum of Agreement between The Government (NAVSURFWARCEIVEDIV CRANE) and the Howard County Sheriff's office. The purpose of this agreement is to extend a previous agreement dated December 16, 2020, to optimize taxpayer's money by extending the useful life of military electro-optics (night vision) equipment. Urbanski made a motion and Rasmussen seconded the motion to approve the memorandum of Agreement as presented. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Insurance Buyout – Sean Wysocki was present to discuss the cash in lieu of insurance. Hirschman made a motion to keep the Insurance Buyout the same amount of \$375.00 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Printer Designation LB644-2023 Postcard Printing - Urbanski made a motion to approve designating the State Print Shop as the vendor for the 2023 postcard printing and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

IRS – The Clerk's office received a letter from the IRS regarding the first quarter of 2023. The Clerk reviewed the IRS letter with the County's Auditor and Tim Vaughn with AMGL, PC regarding penalties and interest. Both parties reviewed payroll withholdings and determined the withholding process was being handled correctly. Mr. Vaughn will prepare a letter to the IRS to request a refund of the penalties and interest and remedy the discretions with the IRS.

Consent Agenda – Two claims were questioned by the Board for the front step project. One to Berggren and Assoc. in the amount of \$2,479.54 and another to Mid-Continental Restoration in the amount of \$209,689.20. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 6/13/2023 and 6/16/2023, Claims: General-\$271,154.83 minus \$2,479.54 to Berggren and Assoc. for a total of \$268,675.29, Roads-\$88,939.67, ROD Preservation and Modernization Fund-\$916.92, and Covid American Rescue Plan-\$235,095.44.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be July 11, 2023.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2023.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Marla Mason
Howard County Deputy Clerk