

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 11, 2023

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

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 5th day of July 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.

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- None.

County Road Discussion-

Assistant Road Foreman- Janet Thomsen, Highway Superintendent, recommended Jerry Thompson for the position of Assistant Road Foreman. Urbanski made a motion to offer the position of Assistant Road Foreman to Jerry Thompson and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

ROW Update- Janet Thomsen spoke to the Board regarding right-of-way State Statutes. She has placed ads in the paper regarding irrigation water on public roads and mowing road ditches in July and September.

Current county roads update - Discussion was held regarding current road work and conditions of gravel roads after the recent rains.

Mail – Opioid Payment in the amount of \$1,173.63 was received by the County.

Unfinished Business – Elevator renovations will begin July 24th. The elevator will be out of service for 2 ½ to 3 weeks.

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit Verizon Communication Tower –Motion was made by Rasmussen to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Present were Cherri Klinginsmith, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Rick Adams, Zoning Agent and John Palmtag, Engineering Department with Verizon. Cherri Klinginsmith presented to the Board the conditional use permit for a Verizon Communication Tower to be located in the NE ¼ of Section 11, Township 15N, Range 10 West of the 6th PM. The proposed tower is a 350-foot self-support tower. Items discussed were determination of sites, the ability to change the site location, safety both of collapsing of towers and the effects of 3G, 4G, and 5G, and the differences between each of the speeds.

Mr. Adams and Mr. Palmtag addressed these questions. Members of the public speaking during the discussion were, Terry Spilinek, Ron Kulwicki, and Bert McIntosh. Urbanski made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 10:18 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Urbanski made a motion to table the Conditional Use Permit for Verizon Communication Tower until further information can be obtained and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Item is placed on the Agenda for August 8, 2023.

Public Hearing-Amend Zoning Regulations A-1 Single Family Dwellings-Resolution 2023-17 –Motion was made by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Present was Cheri Klinginsmith. Ms. Klinginsmith presented to the Board for approval of Resolution 2023-17, the amendment of zoning regulations for A-1 Single Family Dwellings. Urbanski made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 10:22 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-17, the amendment of zoning regulations for A-1 Single Family Dwellings and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2023-18-Treasurer Signatories – Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-18 to add Sara Roy as a signatory on the Howard County Treasurer Bank Accounts and to remove Jackie Synowski, seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Willow Rising Inc.- Budget Request – A letter requesting \$4,000.00 from the Willow Rising Inc. for services provided to Howard County. Urbanski made a motion to approve the request and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Jerry Berggren-Historic Tax Credits and progression on the front step project- Conference Call – Board placed a conference call to Jerry Berggren to discuss how the historic tax credits worked with the front step project. Mr. Berggren explained how the tax credits work and answered questions from the Board. Board members expressed concern regarding the large gaps in the new steps and the liability. The Board and Mr. Berggren agreed to have the Clerk email pictures of the steps to Mr. Berggren to work on a solution.

Dispatcher Wages and Office Manager Wages -

Sheriff Tom Busch and Head Dispatcher Melissa Paxton were present to discuss wages with the Board. Others present for the discussion were Neal Dethlefs, Assessor, Sara Roy, Treasurer, Jessica Hancock and Starcie Burkett. Currently, Dispatch and Clerical are in the same job classification in the union contract which began July 1, 2022, and will run through June 30, 2024. The Sheriff and Head Dispatcher have concerns regarding current wages being part of the issue they are not able to fill vacancies. The Sheriff did comparables on wages. Discussion was had regarding increasing the wages and the effects this would have on both Dispatch and Clerical employees. Following more discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve proposed increases to the shift differentials for the dispatchers of \$1.00 for each shift differential. Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and

Urbanski, Aye. Proposed increases in shift differentials to the union contract will be placed on the July 25th Agenda.

Consent Agenda – Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 6/27/2023, Claims: General-\$63,386.89, Roads-\$202,544.95, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$10,380.83, Clerk, District Court Clerk, and Treasurer’s Report. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Executive Session - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 11:45 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. to discuss personnel. Present in Executive Session were Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski, Sheriff Tom Busch and Jessica Hancock. Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to come out of Executive Session at 12:11 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 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 25, 2023.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2023.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk