

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 8, 2023

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 8th day of August, 2023, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 2nd day of August 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

Resolution 2023-20-Annual Certification of Program Compliance- Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-20, the Annual Certification to Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards 2023 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Game and Parks-Wildlife Management Service Roads – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss with the Board that she was approached by a local Nebraska Game and Parks officer regarding maintenance of roadways at three wildlife management areas located in the county, right off the county roads. Discussed was the grader/operator Rates and the frequency. The total amount of roadway to be maintained would be approximately 1 ½ miles. Ms. Thomsen will get in touch with Game and Parks for more details.

Update on Roads Maintenance and Plan – Discussion on graveling and grading of roads. Roads Department is currently short two employees on medical leave. Ms. Thomsen stated they will be spotting in clay on Denton Road, starting from 5th Avenue and going north. Working on culverts on Kimball Road. Closed 23rd Avenue west of Hwy 281 due to wash outs from the recent rains. They will be working on Inman Road south of the St. Paul Country Club. Mowing letters will be going out to landowners that have not mowed their ditches in July. The Roads Department is working on an incident where several stop signs, bridge markers and 911 signs were taken this past weekend, some were found in a canal ditch.

Mail – LATCF Second Submission for \$50,000.00 was received and an Opioid Payment Received in the amount of \$2,027.69.

Unfinished Business – None.

County Attorney, Dave Schroeder was present at the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Public Hearing-Verizon Communication Tower –Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present for the meeting were Shelly Stepanek, Renee Nesiba, Ron Kulwicki, Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, County Attorney, Dave Schroeder and Rick Adams, John Palmtag and Emily Milewski with Verizon. Mr. Adams submitted additional information to the Board regarding cell phone towers. Discussion was held regarding location, setbacks, safety, liability, updated engineering plan for a third antenna, the height of the tower and the distance from the county road.

Mr. Schroeder left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to close the public hearing at 9:51 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to deny the conditional use permit for the Verizon Communication Tower. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Nay; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Adams asked the Board for their reasons for the denial. Mr. Rasmussen stated the location was too close to the county road. Mr. Urbanski stated the location of the tower did not meet the setbacks in the zoning regulations and he did not want to set a precedence for the future. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith will send a denial letter to Verizon.

Quotes-Electrical Upgrades-Courtroom – The Clerk contacted four electricians to request bids to make upgrades to the electrical in the courtroom. Two submitted estimate proposals. One from Island Electric LLC in the amount of \$7,300.00 and the second from Rice Electric LLC in the amount of \$4,249.82. Urbanski made a motion to approve the proposal in the amount of \$4,249.82 from Rice Electric LLC and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Front Steps Update – Jerry Berggren – Jerry Berggren of Berggren Architects was present to discuss the Front Step Project. Commissioners are concerned with the safety of the new steps. Mr. Berggren and the three commissioners went out to view the step project. Mr. Berggren was in agreement that there were issues with the steps. He will plan to meet on Thursday, August 10th at the courthouse with Mid-Continental the company that installed the steps to work on a solution.

Region 3 Fiscal Year 2023-2024 County Match Request – Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Region 3 Fiscal Year 2023/2024 County Match Request in the amount of \$17,197.66. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Early Childhood-Budget Request-Dream Solko and Sarah Landell –

Jordan Meyer and Sarah Landell were present to provide information to the Board regarding the St. Paul Early Childhood Foundation which was established in 2021. Mr. Meyer provided the background of the starting of the foundation. The group has three goals to provide access to quality childcare, provide quality preschool and have access to scholarships to afford early childcare opportunities. The Foundation is looking for financial support from the community including private donors, local organizations and other foundations to purchase the Kid Academy to allow it to be operated as a non-profit. The foundation provided letters of support from the community. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman

thanked Mr. Meyer and Ms. Landell and stated that the County is currently working on the budget for the next fiscal year and will consider the request. No other action taken at this time.

Resolution 2023-21-Allocation of levy authority/political subdivisions for fiscal year 2023-2024 –

The Board reviewed the levies as presented. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-21-Allocation of levy authority/political subdivisions for fiscal year 2023-2024 as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Ron Schroeder- Claim –Ron and Kathy Schroeder were present along with Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Road Foreman, Ray Hurt to discuss reimbursement of a claim to re-stock fish in their pond in the amount of \$427.00. Sometime during the timeframe of late August to early September, 2022, a beaver dam located in a culvert along 12th Avenue was brought to the attention of the County Roads Dept. The County attempted to remove the beaver dam with an excavator. The culvert was too far down and a hole was poked in the top of the culvert to restore flow of water. After much discussion, Rasmussen made a motion to deny the claim in the amount of \$427.00 unless further evidence can be provided and Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Discuss Inventory Item Minimum Amount – The Clerk’s office is in the process of obtaining an updated inventory from each County Department for the past fiscal year. The Clerk had contacted the State Auditor’s office and they recommended the Board Adopt a resolution stating what items should be included on the inventory statements.

Rasmussen made a motion to set the minimum amount of value for items on the inventory forms at \$300.00 and seconded by Urbanski. A resolution will be presented at the next Board Meeting for approval. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Elevator Update- The renovation of the elevator appears to be complete. The Clerk received an email that the State Elevator Test is scheduled for August 16, 2023. The elevator will not be made operational until the State test has been passed. No action taken.

Road Building Update- The County is currently working on acquiring a 14’ strip of land located on the east side of the block the current St. Paul Shop is located on. The County is in the process of finding an independent architect per State Statute regarding the new St. Paul Shop building. No action taken.

Budget- The budget discussion will start at 1:00 p.m. on today’s date.

County Burial - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the application for the County Burial of John J. Preisendorf III. Payment of \$750.00 will be paid to Peters Funeral Home. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

At 12:17 p.m. the Board agreed to recess and reconvene at 1:10 p.m. Meeting was reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

Consent Agenda – Discussion was had regarding two claims to Berggren Architects in the amount of \$2,479.54 and a claim from Levander’s Body Shop in the amount of \$1,000.00 for storage fees. Sheriff Busch will speak with Levander’s regarding the storage fees. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes for 7/11/2023, 7/21/2023 and 7/25/2023; Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 7/25/2023; and Budget Session Workshop Minutes for 7/25/2023 and 7/27/2023. Claims: General-\$104,539.99, Roads-\$150,364.48,

Covid American Rescue Plan-\$9,715.70 and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$769.15 for a total of \$265,389.32 and Reports from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Budget - Board reviewed each department's expense amounts.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 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 August 23, 2023.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2023.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
 Howard County Clerk