

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 22, 2023

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 22nd day of August, 2023, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th 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- Hirshman spoke to the Board regarding the Veterans Service Office. It has been in the news that there was money leftover in the budget and that it would be going back to Hall County. Howard County has an Interlocal Agreement with Hall County which began in approximately 1994. Four counties pay into the Veterans Service Office and Howard County would be receiving a refund on their share of the excess dollars. In the future any leftover dollars will be placed in a separate fund for veteran's services.

County Road Discussion – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen fielded questions from the Board regarding current road projects taking place, conditions of roads and the possibility of adding a stop sign at an intersection where a recent motor vehicle accident took place.

Annual Certification of Highway Buyback- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Annual Certification of Highway Buyback and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Advertising for County Roads Position – Urbanski made a motion to advertise for a County Roads Position and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –Registration for NACO District Meeting on September 21st in Kearney-Rasmussen, Hirschman and Urbanski plan to attend.

Letter from NIRMA regarding ASSIST Program-County Roads Department received three checks for a total of \$1,061.11 from NIRMA to purchase gauze, horse and buggy signs and hearing protection.

NIRMA-Dismissal of Case No. CI22-3020, Rick Hill v. Election Systems & Software. Mr. Hill had filed suit against the County Clerks of all 93 counties in Nebraska.

Unfinished Business- None.

Contryman’s Budget Engagement Letter – Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the Countryman’s Budget Engagement Letter. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Early Childhood Foundation-Dream Solko- Dream Solko and Sarah Landell were present to discuss available funding of the Foundation. Urbanski made a motion to award \$5,000.00 to the Early Childhood Foundation and seconded by Rasmussen. Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2023-22- Set the Inventory Minimum Amount- Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-22, Setting the Inventory Minimum Amount to \$300.00 beginning with fiscal year 2023-2024, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2023-23-Homestead Bank Treasurer Signatories, Resolution 2023-24-Heritage Bank Treasurer Signatories and **Resolution 2023-25- Boelus State Bank Treasurer Signatories** - Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolutions 2023-23, 2023-24 and 2023-25, Treasurer Signatories to remove Jackie Synowski and Aimee Dixson and add Sara Roy, Mykenna Sorgenfrei and Jan Jares, seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye.

Front Steps Update-Samples of caulking colors were received. The Commissioners took the samples out to the front steps to choose a color. It was a unanimous decision to go with the color “stone”. An email received from the contractor indicated that the handrail for the front steps should be completed within two weeks. The contractor plans to come back at that time to finish the project.

Elevator Update-The State Elevator Test took place on August 16, 2023, a few items have to be completed and the next State Elevator Test will take place on September 6, 2023. The elevator is currently back in service.

Roof Repair Update – Ziemba Roofing began work on repairing the roof of the courthouse this morning. The repairs should be complete by today or tomorrow.

Roads Building Update- Hirschman had spoken with Jeff Palik from Olsson Associates in Grand Island regarding obtaining an architect for design-bid-build of the new building. Hirschman will be contacting architects in the near future.

Inventory-The Clerk presented the completed inventory forms for fiscal year 2022-2023. Also included is inventory for real estate owned by the County. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the inventories as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Set a Date for Joint Public Hearing – Urbanski made a motion to set possible dates for the Joint Public Hearings for September 18, September 14 or September 21st to start at 6:00 p.m. Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. At the present time it is unknown if any political subdivision will need to go through the LB 644 (pink postcard process).

City/County Communications Renewal – Hirschman met with City officials regarding the communications renewal. A copy of the formula to determine the City’s share of the communications costs was provided to each commissioner for review and discussion. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the new monthly payment of \$3,158.54 from the City of St. Paul and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Budget- Hirschman spoke with the accountant during a short break regarding the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. The goal is to adopt the new budget at the September 12th Board Meeting.

Consent Agenda Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 8/8/2023; and Payroll: General-\$211,018.98, Roads-\$67,917.37, for a total of \$278,936.35. 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 11:33 a.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 September 12, 2023.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2023.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk