

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 9, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2024, 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 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Absent; Kathy Hirschman, AYE; and Jessie Urbanski, Absent. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky. Due to the weather, the meeting was recessed until 10:03 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Absent. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

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

**Public Hearing-To Amend Zoning Regulations to update a portion of the Wind Generator Facilities** – Rasmussen made a motion to open the Public Hearing to amend zoning regulations to update a portion of the wind generator facilities at 10:03 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Mail** – None.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**Road Discussion**- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the current condition of the roads due to the previous day's snowstorm. Road crews were out cleaning county roads. Some of the roads are drifting shut behind the motor graders. East/West roads seem to have more drifting due to the wind. Ms. Thomsen estimated it would take two days to get everything cleaned up with more snow expected this week. The road crews will work extra hours if needed.

### **REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky acting as Chairman Sine dine asked for nominations for the Board Chairman for the year 2024. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to nominate Kathy Hirschman for Board Chair for the year 2024. Hirschman made a motion that nominations cease and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Chairman Hirschman then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Hirschman made a motion to nominate Gary Rasmussen for Vice Chairman. Mr. Rasmussen declined the nomination. Motion was made by Hirschman to nominate Jessie Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Treasurer Resolutions** - County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented two resolutions to the Board for their approval. **Resolution 2024-1** allows the Treasurer to deposit in any bank in excess of the capital stock and surplus of the bank, secured by pledges and assets for the bank. **Resolution 2024-2** gives the Treasurer the authority to invest funds in excess of current needs. Hirschman made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1 and Resolution 2024-2, Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. The Treasurer’s semi-annual report was presented by Howard County Treasurer, Sara Roy. Hirschman made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s semi-annual report and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Appointments**- The County Board went through the list of appointments of Committees as follows:

**HOWARD COUNTY APPOINTMENTS – 2024**

Region III Governing Board	Jessie Urbanski
Mid Plains Center for Mental Health	Jessie Urbanski
Midland Area for the Aging	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Community Action Partnership	Gary Rasmussen
Mid NE Individual Services	Jessie Urbanski
County Health Board	Dr. Chris Tomhave
	Sheriff Tom Busch
	Clerk Brenda Klanecky
Central Community College	Kathy Hirschman
Loup Central Regional Landfill	Kathy Hirschman
ADA Advisory Board	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Joint Housing Authority	Gary Rasmussen
Grievance Committee	All County Commissioners
Planning and Zoning	Ron Kulwicki (25)
	Terry Spilinek (25)
	Randy Kauk (25)
	Dave Sack (26)
	Jeff Christensen (26)
	Ken Kozisek (24)
	Jack Reimers (24)

	Daryl Anderson (26)
	Chris Kosmicki (26)
Board of Adjustment	Dave Boehle (26)
	Janet Thomsen (26)
	Mike Nelson (25)
	Chad Donscheski (26) – Alternate
	Terry Spilinek (24)
	Glenn Killion (25)
Safety Committee	Allen Wilshusen
	Jessica Hancock
	Kay Placke
	Lisa Johnson
	Jessie Urbanski
	Janice Jares
	Pat Koperski
	Janet Thomsen
	Marla Mason
	Tom Busch
	Melissa Paxton
	Jennifer Ostendorf
	Cariena Birchard
Tourism & Lodging Committee	Sheila Horak (25)
	Evelyn Dvorak (26)
	Donna Nielsen (26)
	Judy Dugan (25)
	Beth Cummings (25)
City/County Communications	Kathy Hirschman

	Jessie Urbanski (Alternate)
Extension Board	Denise Rathman
	Justin Wells
	Chandra Kosmicki
Hospital Board	Carol Schroeder
	Harriett Steenson
	Dan Nielsen
	Dave Brehm
	Mike Nelson
GIS Steering Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Neal Dethlefs
	Tim Aitken
	Brenda Klanecky
Loup Basin Health Dept. Representative	Gary Rasmussen
Howard County Spirited Citizen	Steven Neal
St. Paul Senior Center, Inc. Board	Gary Rasmussen
Crime Commission Grant Board	Tom Busch
	Dave Schroeder
	Brenda Klanecky
	Kathy Hirschman
Building Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Brenda Klanecky
South Central Economic Development Rep.	Laura Berthelsen
	Parker Klinginsmith (Alternate)
Loup Basin RCD Board	Gary Rasmussen
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Jessie Urbanski

A letter was received from the Howard County Medical Center stating that Carol Schroeder had agreed to extend her term another six years.

Rasmussen made a motion to approve the County Appointments as discussed. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Loup Central Landfill Association Resolution 2024-3** - Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3 to appoint Kathy Hirschman as the representative for Howard County on the Loup Central Landfill Association Board. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Highway Superintendent** – Rasmussen made a motion to re-appoint Janet Thomsen as Highway Superintendent and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Emergency Manager** -Rasmussen made a motion to re-appoint Allen Wilshusen as Emergency Manager and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Planning and Zoning Administrator** -Rasmussen made a motion to re-appoint Cherri Klingensmith as Administrator seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Meeting Dates** – The first meeting in May has been changed from May 14, 2024 to May 9, 2024, due to the primary election falling on that date. The December 24, 2024, meeting has been changed due to being a county holiday. Commissioners agreed to change the December 24, 2024 meeting to December 26, 2024. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Meeting Dates as presented. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Payroll Designation** – The Board reviewed the current policy regarding pay dates. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to keep the current payroll policy. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Engineer** – The County received a letter from Lance Harter asking to re-appoint Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Fair Labor Law** - Hirschman made a motion and seconded by Rasmussen that the County abides by the Fair Labor Law. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Bank Depositories** –

Boelus State Bank	Boelus, NE
Homestead Bank	St. Paul, NE
Citizens Bank & Trust	St. Paul, NE
Heritage Bank	St. Paul, NE
NPAIT	Lincoln, NE
NE Class	Lincoln, NE

County Treasurer, Sara Roy was present to discuss the Bank Depositories. Previously, the County had voted to add NE Class as a depository. Motion was made by Hirschman to approve the six depositories as listed and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Medical Provider** – Rasmussen made a motion to approve all doctors at the Howard County Medical Center as Official County Doctors. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Paper and County Website** – Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen that the Phonograph Herald is named the Official County Paper and the County’s Website the Official Website. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Contractors** - Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen that all contractors will file their proof of liability insurance with the County Clerk’s office for any County work to be done. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Burial** - Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman that the County will pay \$750.00 for both burial and cremations and will be buried only in the County lots. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Fuel Providers** -

Agricultural Services	Boelus, NE
Aurora Coop	Dannebrog, NE
Aurora Coop	St. Paul, NE
Casey’s General Store	St. Paul, NE
Jim’s Truck Stop	St. Paul, NE
K & B Kwik Stop	St. Paul, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Libory, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Paul, NE

Hirschman made a motion to approve the fuel providers as listed and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen-Aye, Hirschman-Aye and Urbanski-Absent. Motion passed.

**Gravel Providers** –

Central Sand and Gravel	Grand Island, NE
Hooker Bros.	Grand Island, NE
Island Land Handlers Inc.	Grand Island, NE
Liberty Sand and Gravel	Elba, NE
Mid-Nebraska Aggregate Inc.	Grand Island, NE

Ulrich Gravel Inc.

Ord, NE

Rasmussen made a motion to approve the gravel providers as listed and Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**2024 County Holidays –**

New Years Day	Monday, January 2, 2024
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 15, 2024
President’s Day	Monday, February 19, 2024
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27, 2024
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4, 2024
Labor Day	Monday, September 2, 2024
Columbus Day	Monday, October 14, 2024
Veteran’s Day	Monday, November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28, 2024
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 29, 2024
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, 2024
New Years Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Motion made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to approve the 2024 County Holidays as listed. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Public Hearing-To Amend Zoning Regulations to update a portion of the Wind Generator Facilities –**

Cherri Klinginsmith, Planning and Zoning Administrator presented the amendments to Zoning Regulations. After discussion, Rasmussen made a motion to close the hearing at 10:45 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4, amending certain sections of the Howard County Nebraska Zoning Regulations, specifically, Sections 4 and 6 of Wind Generator Facilities, “Requirements for small wind energy systems shall be permitted as an accessory use within any district where the use is listed and allowed,” and “Wind generator towers are limited to one tower per quarter section.” Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Law Enforcement Seminars-2024** -Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman received an email regarding Law Enforcement Seminars being offered by NIRMA. The training is geared towards law enforcement but also included County Attorneys and County Boards. The training would provide six hours of continuing education. The seminars will be held March 11-14 in various locations. One of the seminars will be in Grand Island on March 13<sup>th</sup> with no cost to the County. This information is to be shared with the Sheriff’s Department.

### **Excess Equipment-Transfer 2009 Ford F150 from the Sheriff's Department to the Emergency Manager-**

Sheriff Tom Busch provided a letter to the Board transferring a white 2009 Ford F150 pickup from the Sheriff's office to the Emergency Manager. A law/fire radio and all of the red and blue emergency lights and siren will be left on the vehicle. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the transfer of the 2009 Ford F150 pickup from the Sheriff's Department to the Emergency Manager and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. The pickup is to be delivered to the Road's Department to have decals and a toolbox removed.

### **Emergency Manager Updates-**

Some of the activities the Emergency Manager has been involved in and is currently working on are as follows:

Tire Grant.

Set date and location for tire disposal. Possible dates March 23<sup>rd</sup> or April 6<sup>th</sup>. Board asked that this information be brought to the second meeting in February, 2024.

NRD Application.

Webinars.

Assist Grants.

Grant to NEMA.

Regional PET meetings.

Twin Loups meetings.

Code Red.

Check on county tower located on Wausa Road.

March 18<sup>th</sup>-Weather Awareness seminar at the Civic Center.

**Review property schedules for NIRMA Insurance-**The Commissioners reviewed all County owned vehicles, towers and buildings, listed on NIRMA Insurance schedules. The Clerk will ask NIRMA some questions regarding the coverage and get back with the Board.

**Windows** – Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman had no new information to share with the Board.

**Executive Session** – Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen to go into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 11:48 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 11:48 a.m. Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen to come out of Executive Session at 12:11 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Action-The Commissioners, Hirschman and Rasmussen met with Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen and Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, separately during executive session to discuss their evaluations.



**Consent Agenda** - Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 12/27/2023, Treasurer, Clerk, District Court and Sheriff's Reports and Claims dated 1/9/2024, General-\$65,877.01; Road-\$141,718.36; Covid Funds-\$18,053.00; and 911 Emergency Management Funds-\$750.71 for a total amount of \$226,399.08. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman, seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be January 23, 2024.

Dated this 9th day of January, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk