

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 23, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of January, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th 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 8:30 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 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-** Congratulations to Howard County Dispatchers, Starcie Burkett and Karol Dvorak, who completed the APCO International Communications Training Officer Graduates Certificates. In 2022 Nebraska passed a baseline training standards for 911 Dispatchers. Both Burkett and Dvorak have met those standards.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen updated the commissioners on the conditions of the county roads during the recent snow storms. Also discussed were comments made by the public. Sign training on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Set a date for Road's Work Session-** After discussion the commissioners agreed to meet with the highway superintendent on February 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. for a road work session.

### **Mail** –

NACO District Meeting 3/21/24-Hirschman and Urbanski plan to attend.

County Board Chair Workshop 2/16/24-Rasmussen, Hirschman and Urbanski plan to attend.

Courthouse Security Training to be held in March by NIRMA.

CNCAA's Spring Conf April 18-19

Thank you note from CASA

### **Unfinished Business-**None.

**NIRMA Insurance Schedule Review** –A review of county vehicles to decide whether each vehicle should have full physical damage coverage. Urbanski made a motion to remove full physical damage coverage from the 2003 ambulance and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-5-Transfer Funds from General Fund to ARPA Fund** –Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 to transfer funds from the General Fund to the ARPA fund to reimburse in the amount of \$140,121.00 for IRS penalties and interest expenses that were not qualified expenses that previously were paid out of the ARPA fund and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**IT Grant-Doug Cramer** – Doug Cramer and Eli Hunter with Hamilton Information Services were present to discuss a State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program for fiscal year 2024 with the Board. The Grant would cover 80% of the expense and the County would be responsible for 20% to implement the testing, policies and upgrade cybersecurity. They also explained what their service would provide to the County and how the process would work. Urbanski made a motion to apply for the Cybersecurity Grant and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Addendum to Fuel Providers-Charlie’s Station-Elba, NE** -Due to not having a quorum to vote on Charlie’s Station-Elba, NE at the re-organizational meeting, an addendum to add Charlie’s Station-Elba, NE was presented to the Board. Jessie made a motion to approve the addendum to add Charlie’s Station to the fuel providers for 2024 and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Abstain; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Rob Schultz-Update Weed Department, Discuss/Approve NDA State Reports, Resolution 2024-6 Delegate Authority to Weed Control Superintendent** –Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-6 to delegate authority to the Howard County Weed Control Superintendent and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz presented the Weed Control Authority Board Roster; the Budget Report; the Noxious Weed Report; the Noxious Weed Infestation Report; and the Activity Report for year 2023 to the Board and answered questions of the Board. Urbanski made a motion to approve the reports and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Vacate Bader Subdivision** – Howard County Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Greg Bader were present to discuss the vacate of Bader Subdivision. The single lot subdivision was previously approved by the Board in March 2023. Due to errors in the measurements of the subdivision, Ms. Klinginsmith stated to correct the issue, the current subdivision would need to be vacated. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the vacate of Bader Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Single Lot Subdivision application for Paulders Subdivision** – Howard County Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Greg Bader were present to discuss the application for a single lot subdivision for Paulders Subdivision. The current single lot subdivision application is located in a portion of the vacated Bader Subdivision. The application meets all regulations. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application for a single lot subdivision known as Paulders Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Distress Warrants-Sheriff’s Dept.-Graves and Jarman** – Howard County Chief Deputy, Mike Hoff was present to discuss two distress warrants to strike from the records. The first one in the amount of

\$45.31 for Jarman who is deceased. Urbanski made a motion to strike the Jarman distress warrant and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The second one for Graves in the amount of \$887.71 for personal property which is in bankruptcy. Urbanski made a motion to strike the Graves distress warrant and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Brennan's Lawn Care Inc. – Fertilizer Estimate** – Alan Brennan brought in a fertilizer estimate for the courthouse lawn for 2024 in the amount of \$1,500.00. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the estimate in the amount of \$1,500.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Present Financial Statement Books ending June 30, 2023 from Countryman Assoc. to Board** - A management representation letter was received from Countryman Associates PC for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 audit. Upon review of the letter and the draft of the Financial Statement Transmittal and Approval, Rasmussen made a motion to approve the signing of the letter and the financial statement as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mike Koperski-Executive Session** - -- Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 10:41 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 10:41 a.m. Present in executive session were Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski and Mike Koperski, Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to come out of Executive Session at 10:52 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the minutes, payroll and claims as presented. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 1/9/2024, Payroll and Claims for 1/23/2024: General-\$236,072.29 and Roads-\$66,555.74, for a total of \$302,628.03. 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 11:19 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 February 13, 2024.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk