

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

February 27, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of February, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 21st day of February 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, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

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- Dan McKeon of Amherst, Nebraska, has filed for Legislature District 41. Mr. McKeon was present to acquaint himself with the Board.

County Road Discussion – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to provide an equipment update to the Board. Discussed was the current status of the trucks. The Roads Department has started hauling gravel with the majority being stockpiled.

Equipment Surplus-Ms. Thomsen would recommend to surplus a 1994 Ford LTA9000, also known as Truck 2. Urbanski made a motion to surplus Truck 2 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –

Opioid Payment
Security Grant Application
Update on LB1067
Letter from History Nebraska
Information regarding the Security Grant Application
Letter from NIRMA regarding Money for Minutes

Unfinished Business- None

Single Lot Subdivision–Ropp Subdivision – Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and John Ropp were present to discuss the single lot subdivision application for John Ropp. The name of the proposed plat is Ropp Subdivision. Ms. Klinginsmith answered questions from the Board. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the application for Ropp Subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-John and Ruth Ropp-Cemetery –Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing for the conditional use permit at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Ms. Klinginsmith and John Ropp were present to discuss the conditional use permit application for a church, cemetery, community center and a school building for home schooling. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:29 a.m.

and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the conditional use permit application of John and Ruth Ropp as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Lisa Johnson-Courtroom Update and Additional Quote – Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson talked with the Board regarding the updates made to the courtroom. With the current updates a book shelf is still on backorder. The technology updates by the State of Nebraska are slated to start in April 2024. Ms. Johnson received quotes to complete the updates to the gallery area. Rasmussen made a motion to table the updates to the gallery in the courtroom until a balance in the ARPA Funds account can be determined based on other outstanding projects to be completed and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mark Feeney-Road Maintenance Wildlife Management Areas –Mr. Feeney contacted the Clerk’s office on Monday afternoon and will be unable to attend the meeting. This item has been re-scheduled for March 12, 2024.

Rob Schultz-NDA Reports/Requirement Sheets/Interlocal Agreement – Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to discuss the County Noxious Weed Program Evaluation (NDA Reports) with the Board. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the reports as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Schultz also presented an Interlocal Agreement for the Provision of Weed Control Superintendent Services By and Between The County of Hall, Nebraska and the County of Howard, Nebraska. The agreement shall commence on July 1, 2024, and shall terminate June 30, 2026. Urbanski made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Tom Busch-Letter Submittal – Sheriff Tom Busch presented two letters to the Board. The first letter was dated February 27, 2024, resigning as Howard County Sheriff effective March 11, 2024. The second letter dated February 27, 2024, Sheriff Busch recommended Chief Deputy Mike Hoff be appointed as Sheriff to complete his term in office. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman stated as the resignation was not placed on the agenda, the Board would be unable to accept the resignation or the appointment. Chair Hirschman recommended Sheriff Busch change the resignation date to March 12, 2024. Both letters will be placed on the March 12, 2024, agenda.

Executive Session-Employee Evaluations – Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session to discuss employee evaluations at 10:47 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session at 10:47 a.m. to discuss employee evaluations. Those present were Gary Rasmussen, Kathy Hirschman, Jessie Urbanski, and Janet Thomsen. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to come out of Executive Session at 11:36 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve road employee’s compensation package effective July 1, 2024 and road employee evaluations as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 2/27/2024 and the minutes dated 2/13/2024 as presented. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Payroll and Claims dated 2/27/2024: General-\$245,783.00, Roads-\$86,682.79, for a total of \$332,465.79 and the minutes dated 2/13/2024. 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 11:41 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 March 12, 2024.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk