

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

May 28, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 28th day of May, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 1st day of May, 2024. 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. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Absent; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

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

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-** The County was represented in the Tyler Vanderheiden Memorial Run/Walk. The Nebraska Game and Parks along with the Tyler Vanderheiden Memorial partner to do a memorial event each year to remember Tyler Vanderheiden who died by suicide in 2015. Proceeds go for the creation and maintenance of trails in Nebraska. They strive to have participants from all 93 counties in Nebraska. The intention of their message is to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention while encouraging Nebraskans to practice self-care and get outside to enjoy our state.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: The condition of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also discussed were roads in the St. Libory area. Water was running over the road on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Several other roads were also discussed.

Jon Kuck Contract Review- The Board reviewed the contract that was drawn up. The Board questioned whether a deadline date needs to be set on the contract. Also questioned was placement of the fence. Changes will be made and reviewed by the Board at a future date.

**Mail** –Opioid Settlement Payment in the amount of \$2092.59, Letter from NDEE/Lukasiewicz, Scrap Tire Disposal Grant Payment, Mid-American Benefits -PCORI Fee, Letter from NIRMA, Legislative Updates, Medica Invite, and Letter from Howard County Medical Center.

**Unfinished Business-** None

**Howard County Medical Center-Budget/Morgan Meyer and Arlan Johnson**– Chief Executive Officer Arlan Johnson and Chief Financial Officer Morgan Meyer were present to discuss the hospital budget with the Board. Ms. Meyer noted that their revenues are higher as well as their expenses. Ms. Meyer would like to speak with our accountant regarding future budgets so we do not need to continue amending budgets. The accountant has been on vacation. Amending the budget will be on the June 25, 2024 Agenda. The amendment will need to be submitted to the State by July 1, 2024.

**NACO Update-Beth Ferrell** – Beth Ferrell with NACO was present to speak with the Board regarding upcoming County Budget Workshop, the Governor is scheduled to speak with the County officials. Other

updates included the legislative conference, ribbon cutting at the new site in Ogallala, December conference, and legislative updates.

**Public Hearing-One and Six Year Plan-Roads Dept** – Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:30 a.m., and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present was Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen. Ms. Thomsen discussed upcoming projects. Hirschman asked about the bridge projects. Gordon Road north of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Ms. Thomsen stated the Board can approve the One and Six Year Plan as presented and can amend later to add additional projects. Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to close the public hearing at 9:48 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the One and Six Year Plan as **Resolution 2024-11**. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Approval for Letting Bids/Shop Plans-County Roads Building** –Stacy Spotanski of Spotanski Creative Building Design and Drafting LLC, Janet Thomsen and Ray Hurt were present to discuss the letting of bids for the shop plans for the new County roads building. Mr. Spotanski presented the plans for the new roads building to the Board and answered all questions including the building possibly being built a little further south to meet the grade and also whether the State Fire Marshall would require a sprinkler system. Urbanski made a motion to approve the County building plans as shown and to go out for bids and set a date for the public hearing on July 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to open the bids and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sheriff Hoff-Personnel** –Sheriff, Mike Hoff, and deputies, Trev Sharman and Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss promotions within the department. Sheriff Hoff would like to promote Mr. Sharman and Mr. Tartaglia including pay raises. Discussed was the current budget and the budget moving forward. Also discussed was the hiring of an officer. The Board reviewed the Sheriff’s expenses through the end of May. The Board stated they would be able to make the promotions effective before the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Hoff will send a letter to the Clerk’s office regarding the promotions and pay raises.

**Sheriff Hoff-Body and Car Cameras** – Sheriff Hoff spoke to the Board regarding body and car cameras. Currently, the Sheriff’s office has car cameras. It would cost approximately \$22,000.00 to update the cameras the department currently uses. Axon has body cameras and car cameras. The Sheriff would like to order eight body cameras. If they buy seven the eighth one is free. The cameras (including body and car) would be on a five-year contract. The Sheriff’s department will get a contract with exact prices and bring back before the Board at the June 11, 2024, meeting.

**State Grant Award-** Connie Holmes was present to speak about Grant Number 25-CB-0513 in the amount of \$46137.00 for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Urbanski made a motion to approve the signing of Grant Number 25-CB-0513 and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Distress Warrant-Annual Report-Sheriff’s Department** -Sheriff Hoff spoke to the Board regarding the current distress warrants. Currently, there are two active warrants. Urbanski made a motion to accept the report and Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**M and K Mathews Administrative Subdivision-Michael and Kathleen Mathews-** Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Mike and Katie Mathews were present to discuss the M and K Mathews Administrative Subdivision. Ms. Klinginsmith gave the background history on the property. Urbanski made a motion to approve the M and K Mathews Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Code Red Billing Contract- Emergency Manager**-Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the Code Red billing contract which is ending June 30, 2024. He received a one-year contract in the amount of \$4828.00, annually and a three-year contract in the amount of \$4683.00, annually. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the three-year contract in the amount of \$4683.00 per year. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Security Camera-Courthouse** – The Sheriff received a bid from Urban Security Solutions LLC for a security camera. The Sheriff’s office will check the coverage of current cameras. This will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

**Sheriff’s Inventory/K9 and K9 Fund Claim** -The canine ownership was transferred to former Sheriff Busch. The County currently has a K9 Fund. During the last fiscal year the costs of the canine were taken out of general. The amount was \$561.60. The account will be reimbursed by the K9 Fund. The second item was a kennel that was installed at Mr. Busch’s residence. One was donated (\$1500.00) and the other was paid by the County (\$1251.00) for a total of \$2751.00. The permanent kennel paid for by the County is on the Sheriff’s inventory and will need to be transferred to Mr. Busch to come off of the Sheriff’s inventory. Sheriff Hoff will draw up a letter to be presented at the next Board meeting.

**FY2025 Agreement-Howard County Clerk of the District Court-**

Hirschman made a motion and seconded by Urbanski to approve the agreement between the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation and Howard County effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$18,024.00 annually. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Set Budget Dates/Budget Preparation** – Hirschman made a motion to begin the budget workshop on the afternoon of June 25, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and June 27, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 5/28/2024, and the minutes dated 5/9/2024, (BOE and Regular Meetings). Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the payroll and claims dated 5/28/2024: General-\$232,209.57 and Roads-\$75,825.53 for a total of \$308,035.10, and the minutes dated 5/9/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be June 11, 2024.

Dated this 28th day of May, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk