

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 25, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of June, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of June, 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 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanicky.

Pledge of Allegiance- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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- None.

County Road Discussion –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen, were present to provide the Board with a flood update. Ms. Thomsen provided pictures of the damaged roads. She was out with NEMA and FEMA on Monday, June 24, 2024, to look at the flood damage. Several of the same roads were damaged three weeks ago due to heavy rains as well as in 2019. They are currently finding damage all over the County. Thomsen advised that the public should drive cautiously on the county roads. The Roads Department's main goal is to make all of the roads passable. Mr. Wilshusen reported that a page went out for Dannebrog on Saturday, June 22, 2024, for volunteers to put sandbags out and then pick up sandbags on Sunday. Several homes in Dannebrog reported water in the basement. Also reported was damage at Farwell. Mr. Wilshusen received correspondence from the USDA stating that farmers with damage should contact their local FSA office to see if they are eligible for any assistance. Congressman Adrian Smith's office also reached out to Mr. Wilshusen. The Code Red was used several times during the weekend.

Executive Session- Jerry Thompson IBEW-Discuss Personnel- Present were Union Steward, Jerry Thompson and Janet Thomsen. Rasmussen made a motion and Urbanski seconded the motion to go into executive session at 8:59 a.m. to discuss personnel. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session to discuss personnel at 8:59 a.m. Rasmussen made a motion and Urbanski seconded the motion to come out of executive session at 9:07 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Roads Department pay scale and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Howard County Ag Society-Request to use County Equipment – Jerry Thompson and Janet Thomsen were present to request use of County Equipment during the Howard County Fair. The Howard County Ag Society is requesting permission to use a County Payloader during the Howard County Fair to prepare the track for the demolition derby. Two of the County Road's employees serve on the Howard County Ag Society Board would run the equipment. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the request and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye

Mail –

Emails with Berggren Architects regarding Historic Tax Credits
Various Planning and Zoning Correspondence
Letter from NIRMA regarding ASSIST Awards
Damage Assessment emails from NEMA
Filings from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission
National Opioids Settlements-Payment
Updated County Purchasing Act amounts effective January 1, 2024 and after
Champlin Tire Recycling Inc.

Unfinished Business- None

Dush Acres Second Subdivision–Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Lenny Dush were present to discuss the Dush Acres Second Subdivision. During the last meeting two subdivisions were vacated. This is a multi-lot subdivision. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application of the Dush Acres Second Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fries Subdivision-Administrative Subdivision-Ms. Klinginsmith and Jim Fries were present to discuss the application for the Fries Subdivision. This subdivision is dividing the residence from the farm ground. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Fries Subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fiber Optic Quote/Install Cables in Courthouse for Extension and Treasurer (phone)-Doug Cramer -
Doug Cramer was present to talk to the Board regarding additional cables that need to be installed in the Courthouse. The Extension office would not require additional cables for a copy machine. The Treasurer’s office would like to add an additional phone line at the counter. Mr. Cramer estimated the cost at \$500.00 to \$600.00. to run the cable. Urbanski made a motion to approve running a cable from the Treasurer’s counter to the Assessor’s rack for the additional phone line and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The second item was fiber optic quote for the courthouse. Lumen provided two different quotes, one bandwidth-200 Mbps and the other bandwidth-400 Mbps. Rasmussen made a motion to approve a three-year contract with Lumen fiber optic for the 400 Mbps bandwidth at \$688.00 per month and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Hearing-Amend Hospital Budget – Rasmussen made a motion and seconded by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 9:30 a.m. regarding amending the Hospital Budget. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Arlan Johnson (CEO) and Morgan Meyer (CFO) were present to discuss amending the Hospital Budget due to increased staffing costs (employed and contracted), increased supply and drug costs associated with increased volumes, and increased benefit costs related to the facility’s self-funded health insurance plan in the amount of \$1.6 million. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:54 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve amending the hospital budget by \$1.6 million and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Clerk will submit the amended budget to the State Auditor’s Office. The hospital will be responsible for any expenses imposed on the County. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman stated this amendment does not change the County’s tax asking dollars.

Resolution 2024-12 Transfer Funds-Communications - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve Resolution 2024-12 transferring \$31,058.20 from the E911 Wireless Service Fund and \$10,352.74 from the 911 Emergency Management Fund to the Communications General Fund. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2024-13-Transfer Funds E911 – Rasmussen made a motion and Urbanski seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2024-13 to authorize the County Clerk and the County Treasurer to transfer \$4,880.86 from the E911 Wireless Service Fund to the 911 Holding account. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Dental Amendment Proposal/Worksite Benefits/1095/1094 Reporting-Kevin From-Kevin From and Chad Svoboda with Svoboda Benefit Solutions Inc., were present to discuss 1095/1094 reporting and worksite benefits. Their company is able to do the reporting for a fee. If the County was to go with worksite benefits, the fee could be lowered. This will be reviewed at the time of renewal. The other item dealt with amending the dental plan for in network and out of network dental plan. Rasmussen made a motion to amend the dental plan to mirror the medical plan with In Network and Out of Network with the change to be effective on the October 1st renewal.

First Light Child Advocacy-Leah Smillie-Leah Smillie, Executive Director of the First Light Child Advocacy was present to request funding in the amount of \$4,000.00. Ms. Smillie provided the Board with information regarding families that have been served in Howard County and the services they provide in general. Urbanski made a motion to approve First Light Child Advocacy request for funding in the amount of \$4,000.00 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Valley County/Howard County Jail Contract - The contract is on the Valley County agenda for June 25, 2024. This item will be placed on the agenda for July 9, 2024.

Surplus Equipment-Ambulance and Car-Sheriff Hoff-The Sheriff's office would like to surplus three vehicles. An ambulance, Charger and a Tahoe. The Sheriff will submit a letter listing the vehicles including a description and VIN numbers. This item is to be placed on the July 9th agenda.

Purchase New Car Proposal-Sheriff Hoff- The Sheriff's office received proposals for two vehicles, a 2022 Ford Police Interceptor and a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor as well as a quote for radio equipment for both vehicles in the amount of \$99,251.82. Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of the two vehicles in the amount of \$99,251.82 to be paid out of the ARPA fund and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Disaster Declaration – Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the signing of the Disaster Declaration for heavy rain and subsequent flooding that occurred on Friday, June 21, 2024. Chairman Hirschman read the Disaster Declaration. Urbanski made a motion to approve Hirschman signing the Disaster Declaration and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

(2) SDL Applications-Bootlegger Inc.-The Bootlegger Inc. is applying for (2) SDL's located at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The first event is to take place on July 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. The second event is to take place on July 16, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the two SDL's for Bootlegger Inc. as presented. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Transfer of Ownership/Courtroom Inventory-The County received a letter from Corey R. Steel regarding courtroom technology items that the Nebraska Administrative Office of Courts and Probation (AOCP) purchased and installed for the County. Per an agreement signed between the AOCP and Howard County to transfer the courtroom technology. Urbanski made a motion to sign the Statement of Acceptance of Possession and Future Responsibility and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 6/25/2024, and the minutes dated 6/11/2024, and the Sheriff's Report. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 6/25/2024, minutes dated 6/11/2024, and the Sheriff's Report. General-\$296,978.78, Roads-\$145,280.52, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$2.50 for a total of \$442,251.69. 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 11:40 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 July 9, 2024.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk