

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 9, 2024

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

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3rd day of July, 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 was present to provide an update on the flooding. The Road's Department is continuing to repair the flood damaged roads. The highly traveled roads have taken priority. They will also be starting to work on the minimum maintenance roads. Bridge-23605 (8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East of Hwy 11) will be reviewed this afternoon. Also discussed were roads in need of gravel. Personnel-Ms. Thomsen questioned the Board on whether she could look at advertising for a Roadworker position. Urbanski made a motion to approve advertising for a Road's position and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mail** –

NIRMA Members Survey  
NIRMA Crime Coverage Agreement  
USAC Funding  
Hamilton Monthly Report  
Payment in Lieu of Taxes  
Treasurer's Semi-Annual Statement

**Unfinished Business** - None

**Open Bids County Roads Building-** Present were, Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson, Rob Schultz, and Stacy Spotanski. Also present was a representative from Hackel Construction Inc., who brought in a bid. Board Chair Kathy Hirschman opened the lone bid from Hackel Construction Inc., located in Ord, Nebraska. The lump sum base bid was \$2.6 million with an alternate of \$469,000.00. The alternate is considered an addition. Urbanski made a motion to reject the bid from Hackel Construction Inc. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Board held a brief phone call with Tanner Hackel to ask questions regarding the bid. The County Road's Building Committee will meet at the courthouse on July 10, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

**J & S Riverview Subdivision** –Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for the J & S Riverview Subdivision. This is a single lot subdivision. The Board asked questions regarding an easement into the property. The Board stated that an easement would be required before selling the property and/or building a home on the lot. Urbanski made a motion to approve the J & S Riverview Subdivision adding that an easement would be required before selling the property and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Interlocal Jail Agreement-Valley County/Howard County**–Sheriff Mike Hoff and the Board reviewed the interlocal jail agreement. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the interlocal jail agreement between Valley County/Howard County and seconded by Urbanski. This agreement is to be signed by the Sheriff and the Board Chair. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Three Surplus Vehicles-Sheriff's Department**-Sheriff Hoff presented a letter to the Board to declare three vehicles as surplus to be sold. The vehicles are a 2002 Ford Ambulance, a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe and a 2013 Dodge Charger. Rasmussen made a motion to approve declaring the vehicles listed as surplus vehicles and authorize sale of each vehicle and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Surplus Vehicle-Emergency Manager** -The Board received a letter from Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen to request declaring a 2009 Ford F150 Pickup as surplus. Urbanski made a motion to approve declaring the 2009 Ford Pickup as surplus equipment and sale of said vehicle and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Sheriff's office will remove excess equipment from all four surplus vehicles prior to selling.

**K-9 (Canine Fund)-Sheriff's Department**– Sheriff Hoff and Deputy Malik BearHeels were present to discuss the Canine (K-9) Fund and purchasing a K-9. The Howard County Sheriff's office is scheduled to receive annual payments for the next 10 years from a Howard County resident that passed away in December, 2023. The first payment is to be received this week. Money could be placed in a separate canine fund. The account would make it easier to keep track of expenses. The Sheriff's office has the opportunity to purchase a K-9 from out of state. The dog is already trained. The Board discussed costs and expenses with the K-9 to get set up, additional training, supplies, vet expenses and dog food, etc. Urbanski made a motion to set up a separate Canine (K-9) Fund within the budget and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The K-9 will be placed on the next agenda. Payment for the dog will be discussed.

**Window Change Order** - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the window change order in the amount of \$3,000.00. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 7/9/2024, and the minutes dated 6/25/2024 and 6/27/2024, and the Department Reports. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 7/9/2024, General-\$61,174.55, Roads-\$130,702.89, Inheritance Fund-\$72,725.54 and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$862.39 for a total of \$265,465.37, minutes dated 6/25/2024, and the budget workshop minutes dated 6/25/2024 and 6/27/2024, and the Clerk, District Court Clerk, Treasurer, and Sheriff's Report. 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 10:37 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 23, 2024.

Dated this 9th day of July, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk