

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 23, 2024

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

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th 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 Klanecky.

**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 discuss the following items:

County Roads Building-No updates. Bids will be opened on August 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Bridge-23605-(8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East of Hwy 11)-Chris Adelman with Husker Steel was present to discuss a proposal from Norfolk Contracting to replace the abutment on a bridge located on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, East of Hwy 11. Due to the current status of the bridge the repair work is considered an emergency. Norfolk Contracting would be able to make the repairs in late August. It was estimated that the repairs could be completed in three weeks. A replacement bridge would close the road for more than a year. Mr. Adelman stated that if the County would provide a 24" culvert the company could install it at the time the repairs were made. Urbanski made a motion to approve Norfolk Contracting's proposal in the amount of \$186,754.00, for repair work on the bridge located at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East of Hwy 11, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The County will be responsible for packing the work site when the repairs are completed.

Irrigation Water and Mowing Ditches-Ms. Thomsen stated that she had placed notices in the Phonograph Herald this week. The first one is per Nebraska State Statute 39-301, it is illegal to water a public road. The second notice is per Nebraska State Statute 39-1811, that landowners are required to mow land that abuts public roads and drainage ditches at least twice per year. Mowing the first time by July and the second time, in September.

Several roads were discussed that are in need of various maintenance and repairs.

**Mail** –

Crime Commission Grant Assessment  
Highlights Elevated Threat Environment  
EBI Project Site  
Updates from Jon Cannon and Governor Pillen

**Unfinished Business** - None

**Tower Air Conditioner/Emergency Manager Vehicle-** Present was Allen Wilshusen to discuss the air conditioner located at the tower on Wausa Rd., that quit working. A new air conditioner has been installed. The cost of the new air conditioner will be paid with PET Region Funds. The Board discussed the process of what was required under the County Purchasing Act to purchase a vehicle for the Emergency Manager.

**Canine (K-9) Fund/Payment of K-9** –The Sheriff’s Department has received the new K-9, Dusty. The Sheriff will have an invoice for the dog to be paid at the next meeting. Also discussed was the Sheriff’s Department receiving the 1<sup>st</sup> payment of \$20,000.00 from the Paul Aschwege Estate. The next installment will be paid out in January, 2025. The 2024-2025 Budget amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

**Resolution 2024-14-Transfer Canine Funds from General to New Canine Fund-**Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss the transfer of Canine Funds in the General Fund Budget to a designated Canine Fund. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-14-Transfer of Canine Funds from General to New Canine Fund (2430), and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Budget-**The Board reviewed the revenue side of the budget. Also reviewed were the past revenues, expenditures and tax asking. A new account will be added to the budget for the bridge and street buyback. This item was discussed with the Highway Superintendent.

**Assessor Three Year Plan** –County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs, was present to discuss the Assessor’s Three-Year Plan with the Board.

**JPH Postcard Printing**–The County Assessor and County Clerk are in favor of going with CSG for the printing and mailing of the JPH postcards. MIPS and NACO will be partnering with CSG this year for printing and mailing the JPH postcards. Urbanski made a motion to approve using CSG to print and mail the JPH postcards and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Legislative Update** – Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman had the opportunity to speak with Senator Fred Meyer regarding the Governor calling a special session to cut taxes. She relayed her conversation with Senator Meyer to the Board. Also discussed was the Governor’s report received by email this morning and the impact on Howard County.

**Service Proposal-Finalize and Monetize Historic Tax Credits-** Board reviewed a Limited Scope Consulting Services Agreement between Howard County and CBRE to prepare Nebraska Historic Tax Credit Part 4 for filing with the NESHPO and NEDOR. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Limited Scope Consulting Services Agreement between Howard County and CBRE, not to exceed \$8,750.00, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 7/23/2024, and the minutes dated 7/9/2024 and 7/11/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 7/23/2024, General-\$230,209.07, Roads-\$78,656.70, for a total of \$308,865.77, and minutes dated 7/9/2024, and minutes dated 7/11/2024. 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 10:42 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 August 13, 2024.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk