

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 13, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th day of August, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 7th day of August, 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 8:40 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**- None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items:

**Executive Session-Personnel-Roads**-This agenda item remained in open session. Thomsen presented applications for road workers to the Board to review. Hirschman made a motion to have Urbanski meet with Thomsen to set up interviews and bring a recommendation back to the Board and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Wing Repairs-Bridge on Kimball Rd. South of Hwy 92**- Thomsen received an estimate from Husker Steel to have Norfolk Contracting repair the wing on a bridge located ½ mile south of Hwy 92 on Kimball Road for \$68,821.00. The work would be done at the same time the bridge repairs are scheduled on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also discussed was whether these two bridges would qualify for FEMA. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the estimate for repair work on the bridge located on Kimball Road South of Hwy 92 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Isaiah Graham-Minimum Maintenance Road**- Isaiah Graham was present to discuss and receive clarification on the placement of a driveway on land he recently acquired, located in 25-14-10. As well as to discuss an easement and minimum maintenance road. Both, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen were present during the discussion.

**Mail** –

Central District Meeting-Registration  
Correspondence from Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission  
Legislative Update (Special Session)  
Verizon Tower  
Opioid Settlement Payments  
Broadband Updates  
Courthouse Front Steps Correspondence

**Unfinished Business** - None

**Open Bids-County Roads Building-** Those present during the opening of the bids were Stacy Spotanski, Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson Tim Aitken and Rob Schultz. Others present were Mid Plains Construction Company, Justin Moran - Chief Construction, Mathew McCarty – McCarty Construction, and Tanner Hackel – Hackel Construction. Base Bids received were:

McCarty Construction-\$2,195,750.00

Chief Construction-\$2,498,000.00

Hackel Construction-\$2,397,256.00

Mid Plains Construction-\$1,924,000.00

Following a discussion, Urbanski made a motion to table this item until the next Board Meeting on August 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-15-Annual Certification Of Program Compliance** – Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-15-Annual Certification of Program Compliance and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Bridge and Street Buyback-**Urbanski made a motion to approve the annual certification of the Bridge and Street Buyback, Street-\$232,637.59 and Bridge-\$495,532.06, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Amend Levy Request-Ag Society/Resolution 2024-16-Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision-**Urbanski made a motion to approve the Preliminary Levy Allocation Request received from the Howard County Ag Society on August 1, 2024, in the amount of \$49,329.13 and deny the late request received on August 9, 2024 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-16-Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Health Insurance Renewal -Svoboda Benefits Solutions-** Chad Svoboda and Kevin From with Svoboda Benefits Solutions were present along with several department heads to discuss the renewal of the health insurance policy for County Employees. Urbanski made a motion to approve the amendment of the Principal Dental Plan effective October 1, 2024, which will match the out of network benefit of the medical plan and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Region 3 Agreement-** Urbanski made a motion to approve the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Agreement as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Contryman & Associates-Engagement Letter-Budget-** Urbanski made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter with Contryman & Associates to assist the County with the 2024-2025 Budget and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**SDL-The County Cage-Kersten Kucera-** Rasmussen made a motion to approve the SDL Application received from Kersten Kucera on behalf of the County Cage for an event scheduled for September 14, 2024, at the Howard County Fairgrounds, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Budget-**The Board reviewed the budget.

**JEO Bill** –A billing invoice dated July 30, 2024, was received from JEO in the amount of \$4,432.50, for Project # R241612.00. None of the Board was aware of any contracts the County had with JEO. Urbanski made a motion to deny the claim to JEO and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski stated he would contact JEO regarding the billing invoice.

**New National Opioids Settlement-Kroger-**Urbanski made a motion to approve the New National Opioids Settlement-Kroger and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Lease Copier Contract-Clerk** – The five-year lease on the copier located in the book room of the Clerk’s Office will be up in January 2025. A proposal was received from the Capital Business Services to buyout the current lease and provide a new copier with the same features currently used with a decrease in monthly payments. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Capital Business Services Five Year Lease and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Interlocal Agreement-County/City-** Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman had met with St. Paul Police Chief, Dan Howard to review the interlocal agreement between the County/City for dispatch services. It was agreed that the City pay the County \$3,334.89 per month effective October 1, 2024, for dispatch services. This is an annual agreement. Urbanski made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement in the amount of \$3,334.89 monthly, effective October 1, 2024, and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Equitable Sharing Agreement-Sheriff’s Dept.-** Rasmussen made a motion approve the Equitable Sharing Agreement as completed by the Sheriff’s Department and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Executive Session-Personnel-Sheriff Hoff-**Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel at 12:16 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session at 12:16 p.m. to discuss personnel. Those present were Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Deputy, Malik Bear Heels, Deputy Trev Sharman, and Deputy Paul Tartaglia. Rasmussen made a motion to come out of executive session at 12:31 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve backpay for Deputy Bear Heels from March 12, 2024 through June 15, 2024 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 8/13/2024, and the minutes dated 7/23/2024, BOE Minutes 7/23/2024 and Special Meeting Minutes 8/1/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and

seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 8/13/2024, General-\$58,464.86, Roads-\$138,211.13, Canine-\$468.95, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$92,227.18, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$943.73, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$240.00 for a total of \$289,845.85, and minutes dated 7/23/2024, and 8/1/2024, and the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. 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 12:38 p.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 27, 2024.

Dated this 13th day of August, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:           Brenda Klanecky  
                          Howard County Clerk