

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 27, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of August, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th 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 8:30 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: Bridge repairs on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue east of highway 11 have started. The roads department is working on general maintenance jobs. Several roads were discussed.

**Road Applications**- Applicants were interviewed. Ms. Thomsen recommended that Lynn Brennick be offered employment with the road's department. Urbanski made a motion to approve offering employment to Lynn Brennick and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mail** – NIRMA Conference  
Update from NACO  
City of St. Paul Correspondence-Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan  
FEMA Declaration-August 20, 2024

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**County Roads Building**- Those present were Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson, and Rob Schultz. Rasmussen made a motion to accept the low bid from Mid Plains Construction in the amount of \$1,924,000.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Kathy Hirschman thanked the Roads Building Committee for their time on this project.

**Financial Information-Brad Slaughter-Northland Securities** –Brad Slaughter was present to discuss financing on the County Roads Building. Discussed were current interest rates, amount to be financed, length of a loan, etc. The Board was under the general consensus that additional funding would not be needed until near the end of the project. No action was taken.

**Surplus Equipment Sheriff's Department**-The Sheriff presented a letter to the Board stating that the St. Paul Police Department is interested in the wiring of the old camera equipment from the patrol units which are going to be sold at auction. They are willing to remove all of the old equipment from the units

in payment for the camera equipment. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve excess equipment be removed from surplus patrol units by the St. Paul Police Department as payment for the old camera equipment. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Set Date for Joint Public Hearing-Motion** -The Clerk is aware of only one political subdivision that may need to do a Joint Public Hearing. Urbanski made a motion to approve and seconded by Rasmussen to set the joint public hearing date for September 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., if needed. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Health Insurance Renewal -Svoboda Benefits Solutions** – Chad Svoboda and Kevin From with Svoboda Benefit Solutions Inc. were present to go over the health insurance renewal. There will be a 19% increase in premium for the same coverage that employees currently have. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the renewal of the Medica Insurance with the same coverage and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Svoboda and Mr. From would like to come out and visit with all County employees to make sure their policies are up to date. Dates will be set up with the County Clerk.

**County Inventories**- The Board reviewed the inventories of all the County departments. Urbanski made a motion to approve the inventories as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

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

**Set Budget Date and Time**- The Board discussed when to hold the public hearing for the budget. Rasmussen made a motion to set the public hearing for the budget on September 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 8/27/2024, and the minutes dated 8/13/2024, and BOE Minutes 8/13/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the payroll and claims dated 8/27/2024, General-\$254,669.03, and Roads-\$85,901.32, for a total of \$340,570.35, and minutes dated 8/13/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 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 September 10, 2024.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk