

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 24, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 24th day of September, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th day of September, 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- Chairman Hirschman stated that now is the time to mow county road right of ways and that she appreciates all those that have.

County Road Discussion –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Jon Kuck were present to discuss a contract with Jon Kuck. After review of changes made after the last meeting, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Agreement with Jon Kuck and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Executive Session -Urbanski made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:42 a.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into Executive Session at 8:42 a.m. to discuss personnel. Those present in Executive Session were Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski, Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson and Ray Hurt. Urbanski made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Ms. Thomsen gave a Road's update to the Commissioners on Hardy and 14th, Wausa and 12th, and 10th and Denton as well as the Bridge updates. Discussion on various other Howard County Roads also took place. Repairs on the bridge located on 8th Avenue have been completed. The crew has begun work on the bridge located on Kimball Road. Ms. Thomson placed a Notice in the Phonograph Herald regarding landowners mowing road ditches. Ms. Thomson stated that Howard County had 24 bridges eligible for the County Bridge Match.

Mail –

Correspondence from NDEE regarding Mamot Feed Lot

McKinsey Subdivisions Opioid Settlement Distribution

NIRMA Conference-October, 2024

Invitation-Contryman Associates

Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes

NACO Conference in December

Invitation to Contryman's

Unfinished Business – None.

County Government Day-October 21, 2024-Chuck Schmid-Chuck Schmid was present to discuss setting the date for County Government Day on October 21, 2024. Rasmussen made a motion to approve holding County Government Day on October 21, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Emergency Manager Updates –Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present along with Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith to update the Board on 911 signage. Currently, seventeen hundred 911 signs would be needed for the rural areas. The estimated cost is \$54,816.00. Mr. Wilshusen will check into a grant. Also discussed, was who would install, maintenance and repairs. Mr. Wilshusen also spoke about an EMPG Grant he has applied for, security cameras, an active shooter exercise to be held at Centura Schools, Code Red and badges for new employees.

Special Designated License-The County Cage-Kersten Kucera- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Special Designated License for the County Cage for Kersten Kucera on October 19, 2024, at the Howard County Fairgrounds Annex Building from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Special Designated License-Bootlegger Inc.-Tiffany Fousek- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Special Designated License for Bootlegger Inc. for Tiffany Fousek on October 12, 2024, at the Howard County Fairgrounds Annex Building from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sanctuary Jurisdictions for Immigrants - Commissioner Urbanski spoke to the commissioners regarding Sanctuary Jurisdictions for Immigrants. This topic had come to the attention of the commissioners that Howard County has been listed as a Sanctuary County for Immigrants by the Center for Immigration Studies. Mr. Urbanski is working with Lincoln County, Nebraska, to get Howard County officially removed from of the list. Sheriff Hoff is helping the county to get off of this list. The commissioners wanted it noted in the minutes that Howard County is not designated as a Sanctuary County for Immigrants and never has been.

Roads Maintenance Building – The commissioners reviewed the building contract. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the contract as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Commissioners looked at color samples for the outside of the building. Urbanski made a motion to approve Polar White for the roof and trim and Fox Gray for the walls of the building and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Budget –The budget was reviewed. The budget hearing is set for September 30, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

ARPA Funds- The Chairman estimated the remaining balance in the ARPA funds account s \$148,514.80. The remaining balance will need to be designated by December 31, 2024.

911 Center Expansion-Chief Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton and Sergeant, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the possibility of dispatching for two additional counties (Nance and Merrick). Currently, Ms. Paxton is looking into costs and other information to see if this is a possibility. They are looking at a consulting service to put all of this information together. Discussed were additional work stations in the current building as well as additional equipment. The commissioners agreed that Ms. Paxton continue to pursue this issue. Ms. Paxton will keep the commissioners updated on this subject.

Planning and Zoning Update Blasé-This item was removed from the agenda due to not being received in time to appear on the agenda.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 9/24/2024, and the minutes dated 9/10/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 9/10/2024, General-\$235,090.08, Roads-\$70,090.42, for a total of \$305,180.50, and minutes dated 9/10/2024. 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 11:30 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 October 8, 2024.

Dated this 24th day of September, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
 Howard County Clerk