

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

October 8, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 8th day of October, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 2nd day of October, 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 updates on the roads and bridges. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been completed. The bridge on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been opened up. They are waiting on materials to install guard rails on the bridge. Bridge repairs on Kimball Road are completed. Waiting for equipment to be removed by the company so dirt work can be completed. Ms. Thomsen is in the process of ordering a front mount grader mulcher out of Canada. The price is less than what was previously quoted. The Roads Dept. is working with FEMA. Status of various roads, bridges and ditches were discussed.

**Windshield Claim-Max Mageria** – Ms. Thomsen received a windshield claim from Max Mageria on September 18, 2024. The estimate for a new pickup windshield was \$846.56. The County truck he was following on September 16, 2024, was loaded with clay from the landfill. Ms. Thomsen recommended the claim be denied. Rasmussen made a motion to deny the windshield claim and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Bridge Inspection Contract** – Ms. Thomsen presented an Agreement for Professional Services with Oak Creek Engineering to do routine bridge inspections. Oak Creek Engineering is charging the same rate as last year. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Agreement for Professional Services with Oak Creek Engineering as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

### **Mail** –

NIRMA Conference-October, 2024

Invitation-Contryman Associates

Letter from Medica

NACO Conference in December

**Unfinished Business** – None.

### **Planning & Zoning Discussion re: Blasé Farm Feedlots/Vet Processing Facility-**

Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the Vet Processing Facility located on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Planning and Zoning Board reviewed the Vet Processing Facility. They are recommending that the owner work on having better fly control. Ms. Klinginsmith updated the Board on the number of cattle kept in the pens and the dates. The amount of dust in the air was another complaint. Howard County is an ag community and with harvest and dry conditions, this can be expected. The Planning and Zoning Board is requesting a quarterly report from the owner starting in December 2024. The property is zoned industrial and animal clinics are allowed. The Planning and Zoning Board does not feel that this is a feedlot. Commissioner Urbanski asked to check into 300 head rule. Ms. Klinginsmith also updated the Board regarding the Blasé Farm Feedlots. The feedlots located at Denton Road and Hwy 92 are currently being worked on. That possibly two of the pens may be abandoned. Also discussed was cleaning the manure out of the ditches.

**County Roads Building** – Ms. Hirschman provided the Board with updates on the building project. The groundbreaking should take place soon. Janet Thomsen is working on the building permit with Matt Helzer.

**Special Mitigation Funding**- The Board received a letter from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources on September 25, 2024, regarding special mitigation funding opportunity for flood-prone properties in Nebraska. One property in Howard County might be eligible. Ms. Klinginsmith contacted the property owner. After review, it was determined they would not be eligible. Others were contacted that might be eligible but they did not meet the criteria.

**Approve signing Howard County Med Center license renewal letter**- Urbanski made a motion to approve the signing of the Howard County Med Center license renewal letter and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Setting of Tax Levies-Resolution 2024-19** – Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-19 regarding the setting of tax levies in the county as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**NACO Election Procedure** – The County Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman is designated as the voting delegate for Howard County. Hirschman made a motion to appoint Jessie Urbanski to be the alternate voting delegate for Howard County at the NACO Officers election held during the NACO Conference and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Nebraska Historic Tax Credit** –The Clerk received paperwork from Attorney, David Levy who is working on submitting the Historic Tax Credit documents to the Nebraska Department of Revenue. Urbanski made a motion to approve Kathy Hirschman to sign the Power of Attorney to allow David Levy to represent Howard County on the tax credit proceedings with the Nebraska Department of Revenue and also a change order form dated in 2021, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve changing the change order date to November 15, 2021 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**National 4-H Week-** Jennifer Ostendorf was present to talk about 4-H with the Board. She talked about current activities and how they are working to get new members. Hirschman thanked Ms. Ostendorf for all she does to promote 4-H.

**Approval for Sealed Bids-2013 Dodge Charger-Sheriff's Dept.**-Sheriff Hoff was unable to attend the meeting as he was at a conference. Two of the vehicles, the 2003 Ford Ambulance and 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe, listed as surplus have been consigned with Big Iron, previously approved by the Board. The Sheriff would like to sell the third vehicle a 2013 Dodge Charger, by sealed bid. Rasmussen made a motion to sell the 2013 Dodge Charger by sealed bid and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Maximus-Certificate of Cost Allocation Plan** - The Countywide Cost Allocation Plan by Maximus based on actual costs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, for fiscal year 2025, was presented to the Board. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Cost Allocation Plan as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Uncollected Distress Warrants** – Treasurer, Sara Roy presented the Uncollected Distress Warrants to the Board. Informational only, no action required by the Board.

**First Concord** - The Clerk had received a renewal from First Concord for the Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Deductible Buy Down Plan. The Clerk is currently waiting for additional information on this item. Urbanski made a motion to table the First Concord item until the next meeting and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 10/8/2024, and the minutes dated 9/24/2024 and 9/30/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 10/8/2024, General-\$82,604.20, Roads-\$89,458.15, Canine Cost-\$5,122.82, Hwy Safety Fees-\$27.00, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$1,434.73, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$1,297.99 for a total of \$435,519.89, (a claim in the amount of \$255,575.00 to Norfolk Contracting is approved and will be paid when funds are approved to be transferred into the account at the next meeting), and minutes dated 9/24/2024 and 9/30/2024. 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 10:36 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 22, 2024.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk