

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 12, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12th day of November, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 6th day of November, 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, Absent. 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: the Road's Department has almost completed hauling clay for the new road's maintenance building. They are also hauling the last of the gravel. The Bridge Match Program was discussed. One proposal per County. They will pay up to \$500,000.00, on projects. The County is checking into applying on the bridge located at 12th and Rose Avenues as well as a bridge located on 9th Avenue, west of Highway 11. Both bridges would be replaced with box culverts. Both bridges have ratings below legal limits. Another bridge located on 8th Avenue between Hardy and Inman Avenues was also discussed. Hirschman stated we would have buyback funds available for the County portion. Various other roads were also discussed. Thomsen stated she has a phone call scheduled with FEMA tomorrow for the June flooding.

Mail –

NMC Correspondence

Big Iron Settlement Sheet-2015 Chevy Tahoe-\$5900.00 and 2003 Ford Ambulance-\$5100.00.

NACO Conference

Hamilton Communications Monthly Report

NIRMA Meeting Minutes and Copy of Dividend Check in the amount of \$7333.00.

2025 NACO Events Email

Unfinished Business – None.

Extension Update – Doug Anderson was present to discuss updates. Mr. Anderson stated he is retiring and his position has opened up this week. The process was explained to the Board. Mr. Anderson recommended Justin Wells for extension board representative. This would be his second term. Board members are allowed to serve two terms. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Justin Wells for

extension board representative and seconded by Hirschman. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Contryman Associates-Letter of Understanding of Services-The letter to be signed for Contryman Associates was reviewed by the Board. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the signing of the letter of understanding of services for the audit and seconded by Hirschman. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

County Burial Application –The Board reviewed a county burial application for Kenneth Pflapsen. The Clerk contacted his daughter to see if she was coming to the meeting. Current financial information was obtained. Rasmussen made a motion to deny the burial application and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

County Roads Building-Change Order- Updates on the building project were discussed. The change order is for the County to do the crushed concrete which would take \$41,500.00 off the cost of the building project. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the change order to have the County take care of the crushed concrete which would subtract \$41,500.00 off the cost of the building project and seconded by Hirschman. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Region 26-Wausa Tower- Those present to discuss the tower were Howard County Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen, Region 26 Coordinator, Alma Beland, Sherman County Sheriff, Joel Bergman and Sherman County Commissioner, Tom Bandur. Region 26 has had problems with communication in the Ashton and Rockville areas. Platte Valley did a coverage study on the Wausa tower to see if installing equipment on the tower would provide better coverage and if there was room on the tower for Region 26 equipment. Platte Valley stated installing equipment on the tower would take care of the coverage issue and there was room on the tower. Mr. Wilshusen stated fire Chiefs in the County were in agreement that this would help with communication coverage between the counties for mutual aid calls. The question presented was what all is currently on the tower. The commissioners would like to have Platte Valley check what other equipment is on the tower. It was agreed between the Howard and Sherman County that there would be no charge to Sherman County as it was a mutual benefit. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Region 26 communications equipment for Sherman County (the equipment will be paid for by Sherman County) to be installed on the Wausa Tower and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

2009 Ford Pickup-Surplus Transfer to Weed Dept. – The Weed Department expressed an interest in the 2009 Ford Pickup which had previously been placed in surplus in July 2024. Approximately \$2,000.00 was spent on repairs for the 2009 pickup. Rasmussen made a motion to transfer the 2009 Ford Pickup from surplus to the Weed Department and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 11/12/2024, and the minutes dated 10/22/2024 and special minutes dated 11/5/2024, and Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to approve the claims dated 11/12/2024, General-\$102,804.00 Roads-\$175,283.68, Canine Fund-\$2,190.20, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$2,850.00, Inheritance Tax Fund- \$178,370.94, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$838.25 and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$3,027.30, for a total of \$465,364.38, minutes dated 10/22/2024 and special minutes

dated 11/5/2024, and Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be November 26, 2024.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk