

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 26, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 26th day of November, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 20th 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, 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 for road discussion. The work plan timeline was discussed.

Executive Session Personnel- Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session at 8:32 a.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated to those in attendance that the Board was going into executive session at 8:32 a.m. to discuss personnel. Those present in executive session are Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt and Jerry Thompson. Rasmussen made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:29 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Mail –

Mid-American Benefits, LLC

Union Bank & Trust

Hall County Comprehensive Development Plan

NIRMA Board

NACO Misc. Information

Comprehensive Youth Service Plan

Unfinished Business – None.

County Credit Card-Janet Thomsen – The current county credit card has a \$1,000.00, credit limit. Ms. Thomsen asked if this amount could be raised to \$2,000.00? Urbanski made a motion to raise the credit limit from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman,

Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Also discussed was a county credit card policy. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

Update on Comp Plan-Planning and Zoning- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith stated a town hall meeting between Marvin Planning and Associates and the public has been scheduled for January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the St. Paul Library Community Room, with a snow date of January 21, 2025.

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit for Private Airstrip Field –Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss a conditional use permit for a private airstrip at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the Lowell Poland application of a conditional use permit for a private airstrip. Mr. Poland owns three lots in the Rolling Hills Subdivision located in the SE ¼ of Section 14-T14N-R9W. A signed consent from Mr. Poland and Howard Greeley RPPD was received on October 17, 2024. The Nebraska Department of Transportation and Dan Vech have no concerns. Also discussed was the difference between a private and a personal use airstrip. The Board agreed that the term “private use” be added to the CUP application prior to approval. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:46 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Lowell Poland as presented with the additional verbiage of “private use”, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Update on Blasé Feedlot- Those present for the discussion were Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen, Planning and Zoning members, Jeff Christensen and Daryl Anderson, Jim Gdanitz, and attorneys, Brandon Connick and Gunner Buchhammer of Smith, Johnson, Allen, Connick & Hansen. The Planning and Zoning Board had voted 8-0 to revoke all farm feedlots owned by Adam Blasé, Allen Blasé, Eric Blasé and Lisa Blase due to non-compliance with NDEE as outlined in a letter dated November 21, 2024. Several items were discussed among those present.

Executive Session-Possible Litigation- Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session for possible litigation at 10:26 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation at 10:26 a.m. Others present in executive session were Cherri Klinginsmith. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:44 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken. Discussion regarding the Blasé Feedlot continued. Hirschman stated to those in attendance that after further review there really isn't a planning and zoning rule that has been broken, however, the Blasé owners do need to comply with NDEE. She also stated that the county would enforce that the manure would be cleaned out of the right of way ditches. Mr. Gdanitz stated that he had several of the ditches already cleaned out and would continue to clean them all.

Change Meeting Date for first meeting in November 2025- The meeting date falls on Veteran's Day. The courthouse is closed for Veteran's Day. Rasmussen made a motion to change the meeting date to November 12, 2025 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

ARPA-Updates-Board Chair Hirschman and County Clerk Klanecky participated in a webinar on November 25, 2024. ARPA Funds are required to be obligated by December 31, 2024. Hirschman recommended to the Board that remaining ARPA funds be used to pay for the county road building by December 31, 2024. This will make the reporting to the IRS simpler. The County Clerk agreed. Urbanski made a motion to approve spending all of the remaining ARPA funds by December 31, 2024 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Building Updates- Hirschman and Janet Thomsen stated that the footings will be poured today or tomorrow. Also, after the recent rain, a ditch was cleaned out to prevent standing water.

Oath of Office-Date- The oath of office is set for January 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Windows Update and Review- During the replacement of the courthouse windows, there was damage to the concrete and lawn. Urbanski will contact Aaron Rasmussen.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 11/26/2024, and the minutes dated 11/12/2024. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 11/26/2024, General-\$254,775.82 and Roads-\$93,533.26 for a total of \$348,309.08, and minutes dated 11/12/2024. 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 11:28 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 December 10, 2024.

Dated this 26th day of November, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk