

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

December 26, 2024

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

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th day of December, 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 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

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 underground permits. Ms. Thomsen will check into updating the current underground permit application. The NIRMA insurance coverage on the Road's Department equipment was discussed. The Clerk will get additional information from NIRMA. Ms. Thomsen also stated she was checking into a different company to provide random drug and alcohol testing.

Mail –

New Requirement for Open Meetings Notices
Letter from State of Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects
Letter from NDEE
Letter from Regional Planning Commission of Hall County NE
Copy of NIRMA Check and Receipt-Totaled Vehicle
Invoice from Mid Plains Construction Co.
Information from Elaine Menzel regarding holidays
Letter from CASA
Safety Short from NIRMA
NIRMA Assist Letter
New County Board Member Orientation
County Chair Workshop

Unfinished Business – None.

ARPA Account Closed –Deputy Treasurer, Mykenna Sorgenfrei presented a Deposit Slip from Citizens Bank & Trust in the amount of \$987,713.28, dated December 17, 2024, to zero out the ARPA Fund. The account has been closed. All monies have been spent.

NIRMA Insurance Renewal- The Board wanted clarification on what is covered under the blanket policy. The Clerk was unable to obtain the information prior to the meeting due to the holidays. This will be brought up at a future meeting.

Crime Commission Enhancement Grant-Connie Holmes – Connie Holmes was present to discuss the Enhancement Grant. This grant is to support the school interventionist wages and payroll taxes paid to Livewell in the amount of \$14,766.00. Livewell employs the school interventionist. This grant would start on July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. This money is the result of leftover grant funds which were forfeited or not used. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Nebraska Crime Commission FY2026 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid (EB) Application and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Howard County Ag Society-Possible Snow Removal-Jerry Thompson was present on behalf of the Howard County Ag Society to discuss possible snow removal by the County from Hwy 281 to the first building at the fairgrounds known as the extension building. The school is using the building for girl's wrestling practice. Urbanski made a motion to approve the County clearing the snow from Hwy 281 to the Extension Building at the fairgrounds when needed and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Executive Session-Employee Evaluations- Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to go into executive session to discuss employee evaluations at 9:36 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session to discuss employee evaluations at 9:36 a.m. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:41 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 12/26/2024, and the minutes dated 12/10/2024. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 12/26/2024, General-\$238,891.04 and Roads-\$73,73669, for a total of \$312,627.73, minutes dated 12/10/2024, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, Hirschman stated that she would like to thank Gary Rasmussen for his 12 years of service as a County Commissioner. She also wished him a happy retirement.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 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 January 14, 2025.

Dated this 26th day of December, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk