

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

February 25, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of February, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of February, 2025. 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 8:57 a.m. Roll Call: Kirt Lukasiewicz, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

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:

Condition of Roads Notification Protocol-Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was also present during this discussion. Commissioner Lukasiewicz was concerned that the schools were not getting proper notification on the conditions of county roads. Ms. Thomsen explained that at the beginning of the school year she sends out a letter to each of the three schools located in Howard County to provide the Road's Department with a copy of their bus routes. She includes her contact information for the schools to contact the Road's Department 24/7. Mr. Wilshusen explained that the County has the Code Red alert to contact the public in case of emergencies. The National Weather Service puts on a webinar on the weather to the schools and several other organizations usually the day before inclement weather.

Review Employee Applications-Urbanski made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:13 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz to review employee applications. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in executive session were the Commissioners and Janet Thomsen. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session to review employee applications at 10:13 a.m. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:03 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to have Thomsen and Hirschman perform interviews and bring recommendations back to the Board, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Late Gravel Bid Approve/Deny – The County Clerk received a late gravel bid from Central Sand and Gravel on February 19, 2025. Urbanski made a motion to deny the bid due to the bid being received late and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –

Letter from NDEE regarding Lukasiewicz Feeding Operation

Central District Meeting Draft Agenda

(2) Letters from NIRMA

Update on Blase Livestock Pens

Unfinished Business – None.

SCEDD Update-Sharon Hueftle- Executive Director of SCEDD, Sharon Hueftle was present to give the Board an update and review on the SCEDD 2024 Annual Report, re-development Information, broadband updates, housing, and Home NE Learning Network were among the topics discussed.

County Attorney Position-Recommendation by Interview Committee- Sheriff Hoff, Heather Sikyta, Josh Salter and Kathryn Harouff were present during the discussion. Sheriff Hoff and Jessie Urbanski were on the interview committee. Mr. Hoff recommends that the Commissioners appoint Heather Sikyta to the position of Howard County Attorney. Mr. Urbanski agreed.

Possible Appointment of County Attorney – Urbanski made a motion to approve appointing Heather Sikyta as Howard County Attorney and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman thanked Sheriff Hoff and Mr. Urbanski for their work on the interview process. Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson administered the oath of office for Heather Sikyta as Howard County Attorney during the meeting.

Sheriff Dept. – Evidence Guns Sale- Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss surplus evidence guns. Ms. Sikyta and her staff have researched the process of disposing of the guns. Mr. Hoff stated most of the guns would probably need to be destroyed per State Statute.

Brennan’s Lawn Care Inc.-Fertilizer Estimate – Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve Brennan’s Lawn Care Fertilizer Bid in the amount of \$1,550.00. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

West Door Courthouse Estimates- Pat Koperski was present to discuss the estimates received from Island Glass. Urbanski made a motion to approve Estimate W17016 for \$1,161.00, to install a panic bar in the current door and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Audit – Urbanski made a motion to approve the Audit for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

SDL-Rotary Club – The Board reviewed the Special Designated License application for the Rotary International of St. Paul, Nebraska to be held on March 21-22, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. each night at the Howard County Fairgrounds in the Annex Building. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Point C Funding-Bank Change Request- The Clerk had received a Bank Change Request from Point C. Currently, a custodial account is located at one bank and Point C would like to move it to another bank. The County has two options. Option 1- The County would have complete control of a bank account and funding and Point C would pull funds from the account. Option 2- The County would send a check as we currently do and it would be deposited in a holding account in the County’s name to fund claims as we currently do. Urbanski made a motion to approve Option 2 and authorize the County Clerk to sign the

Client Banking Election Form and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Review Catastrophic Illness Donation— The Clerk has received information from several Clerks regarding their policies on catastrophic illness donation. The Board discussed items they would like to have included in the policy and the limitations. The Board agreed to have the Employee Handbook Committee meet and put together a policy, have it reviewed by the County Attorney, and bring back to the Board for the March 11, 2025, Commissioner Meeting. This amendment to the policy would also need to be approved by the Union.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 2/25/2025, and the minutes dated 2/11/2025. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 2/25/2025, General-\$241,387.82 and Roads-\$69,111.63, for a total of \$310,499.45, and minutes dated 2/11/2025, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be March 11, 2025.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk