



Otoe County Board Minutes



January 4, 2022

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on January 4, 2022, to audit and sign regular claims and payroll claims and to take care of such other matters as are on the agenda for this meeting. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Nebraska City News Press and posted in at least three public places, including the County's website. This meeting was open to the Public, and the agenda was kept current, and is on file for public inspection at the office of the Otoe County Clerk during regular business hours.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Jerad Sornson. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Parsons, Commissioner Thurman, and Commissioner Crownover; none absent.

Commissioner Sornson informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the meeting room. Additional copies are available upon request.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman Parsons, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and not have them read as each member was furnished with a copy of same. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, Crownover and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The meeting was turned over to the County Clerk for the election of a Chairman of the Board for year 2022. The Clerk called for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Parsons nominated Commissioner Jerad Sornson as Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Crownover made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to appoint Commissioner Jerad Sornson as Chairman of the Board for year 2022. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Thurman, Crownover, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The Clerk called for nominations from the floor for election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2022. Commissioner Sornson nominated Commissioner Rick Freshman as Vice-Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to appoint Commissioner Rick Freshman to be Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2022. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson made the following miscellaneous board appointments for year 2022:

SENDD (Southeast Nebraska Development District): Commissioner Thurman will serve as Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

NCAEDC (Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation): Commissioner Freshman will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Thurman named as alternate.

REGION V: Commissioner Crownover will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Parsons named as alternate.

RC & D (Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development): Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Crownover named as alternate.



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BRAAA (Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging): Commissioner Crownover will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Freshman as the alternate.

Southeast District Health: Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

Road & Bridge Committee: Commissioner Freshman and Commissioner Thurman will serve as representatives.

Commissioner Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crownover, to re-appoint Jon Brinkman as Otoe County Highway Superintendent. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to designate the Nebraska City News Press as the official means of providing public notices during the year 2022. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to designate the Otoe County Website as an official means of providing public notices during the year 2022. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crownover to appoint the following financial institutions as depositories for Otoe County in 2022: Arbor Bank, Premier Bank, American National Bank, Commercial State Bank, and First Nebraska Bank, all of Nebraska City; First Bank of Nebraska, Syracuse Branch; Countryside Bank of Unadilla; Farmers & Merchants Bank of Palmyra, Union Bank and Trust, and NPAIT (Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust). There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to audit and sign payroll claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-106.02, Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$24,518.90 for the month of December 2021. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-117 Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the quarterly report from the County Sheriff denoting the amount of certain fees collected, from whom and for what service. The total amount received in the fourth quarter of the year was \$12,258.48.



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Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending December 31, 2021, of the petty cash accounts held by Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management; Teresa Johnson, Child Support Officer; Ruth Ann Weddle, Register of Deeds; Colin Caudill, Sheriff; Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney; Janis Riege, Clerk of the District Court and Cindy Cich, County Court Magistrate. Said reports will be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve Resolution #1-4-22-1, to set the salaries for elected officials for 2023-2026. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Thurman and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve and submit the recommendation for a Class C Liquor license for Pin High Clubhouse, LLC. Amanda Hotsenpillar was present at the meeting and submitted a copy of the temporary operating permit. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, Crownover and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Otoe Co. and the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs. Chad Miller, Otoe County Veterans Service Officer, explained that the MOU allows the county to use the VetraSpec database for Veterans' Services and outlines use, conduct, and access. The duration of the MOU is January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. The annual fee is \$900.00. Voting aye were Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crownover to enter into a service agreement with Maximus US Services, Inc. The service agreement is for development of a Central Services Cost Allocation Plan. The agreement is effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026. Voting aye were Parsons Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to sign a Declaration of Disaster for Otoe County. The declaration is due to the weather events on December 15, 2021. Gregg Goebel, Otoe County EMA Director, stated that OPPD has incurred more than \$300,000 worth of damages. The declaration is required for any federal funding. Voting aye were Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to authorize the Chairman to complete and sign a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form for NEMA. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Craig Bolz discussed bridge issues with the Board. He inquired about how the order is determined for fixing or replacing bridges in the County. The Chairman and Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, discussed timing, budget, additional funding, location, and traffic count. The bridge located on N 6th Road between VanDorn and B, is currently on the plans for next year.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve Resolution 1-4-22-2 certifying the completion of CBMP projects C00660140, C006610270, and C006653860. Otoe County will receive approx. \$168,000 in reimbursements for the projects. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.



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Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the following road/bridge report: Project (665) C Road Paving – grading continues. The county crews have been working on culvert inventory; removing beaver dams; storm clean-up; installed driveways at B & 6 N and C & 6 E; installed a crossover culvert at M & 16 E; backfilled a culvert at B & 20 N; and backfilled a ditch at B & 32. Both crews have been doing minimal grading and hauling rock for projects only.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and since all items on the agenda have been disposed of, Chairman Sornson declared this meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 18, 2022.

I, Jennifer Bassinger, County Clerk of Otoe County, do hereby certify that the above minutes were taken by me, and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I therefore set my hand and affix the county seal this 4th day of January 2022.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk