



# Otoe County Board Minutes



September 13, 2022

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on September 13, 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, and Commissioner Crownover. Commissioner Thurman was 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.

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

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and not have them read as each member was furnished with a copy of same. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman to approve payment of the regular claims. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve payroll claims. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. 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 \$33,242.18 for the month of August 2022. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the application submitted by Jill Ford as member of the Otoe County Visitors Committee. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay- none. Motion carried.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a subdivision plat of Kreifels Heights Subdivision, a 3.01+- acre tract of land located in the NE ¼ of S 25, T 8N, R 13E as requested by Neal Niebruegge. The site is located 235' West of 60<sup>th</sup> & K Roads. The plat was approved by the planning commission. Sornson made a motion, seconded by Freshman to approve the Kreifels Heights subdivision plat as presented. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to set bond requirements at the minimum amount required by statute. It was noted that some elected officials' bond amounts are set by statute, and some have a minimum by statute but can be increased and set by the board. The ones to be set by



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the board by Statute 11-119 are: County Attorney, Clerk of District Court, County Clerk, County Treasurer, and Register of Deeds. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to terminate an agreement with Vogtscapes and award the contract to JJK for projects (587) and (662). It was noted that the projects listed on the agenda were incorrect and should have been listed as (587) and (662). Voting aye were Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to adopt Resolution 9-13-22-18 to increase the amount paid to local funeral homes for cost and removal of body bag and transfer of body to Douglas County for an autopsy. The fee would increase to \$300 per trip. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Dan Mauk, NCAEDC, was present to request \$300,000 for housing incentive in Otoe County. The proposed request would be to offer builders an incentive to build homes in Otoe County within the minimum required specs. The requirements and specs are not set at this time and a subcommittee may be formed to set and oversee the requirements of the project. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was discussion of ARPA funds. Freshman suggested offering applications to rural fire departments for funding assistance. The applications would work similar to those previously offered to the villages. The amount was not set at the meeting. Gregg Goebel, EMA Director, informed the board that a generator at the water tower on Hwy 2 needs to be replaced. NC Utilities also uses the generator and agreed to cover half of the replacement cost. Mr. Goebel also stated that the backup dispatch unit needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$56,000. The City of Nebraska City has agreed to pay for half of the expense. The county clerk will research another funding option in addition to ARPA.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve and authorize the County Treasurer to strike personal property taxes as presented. The parcels being stricken are 453203356; 000018500, and 453203373. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was a budget discussion to review the valuation, proposed operating budget, tax request and levy. Chairman Sornson noted that the county will be participating in the joint public hearing as part of LB644 on Monday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Fair Center in Syracuse, NE.

Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, presented the Highway Superintendent Report: Project (644) N & 24 South FEMA culvert – culverts have been installed and starting to backfill. Projects (587) P & 24 South and (662) B & 28 North – bridges to be replaced with box culverts. JJK going to start the week of Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. The county crews have replaced 48” crossover culvert at E & 10 East; worked on bridge 00610 abutment 1 at C & 10 East; removed old box culvert, dirt work, put culverts together, installed tile lines and drain field for Project (623) at P & 54 South; cleaned out ditch and installed drive at M & 44 South; cleaned out ditch and installed drive at N & 48 North; and cleaned out ditches at F & 40 North. Both crews have been grading and hauling rock.



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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 9:29 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on September 27, 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 13th day of September 2022.

Jennifer Bassinger  
Otoe County Clerk