January 31, 2023

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on January 31, 2023, 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 Crownover, and Commissioner Cole.

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 Sornson, Freshman Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. 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. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Crownover and Sornson. Commissioner Cole abstained. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons to audit and sign payroll claims. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson appointed Commissioner Chuck Cole as the SENDD representative and as the Southeast District Health alternate representative.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments on new zoning regulations on commercial/utility grade wind energy systems, sections 8.08, 8.08.01-8.08.06, #18 and section 4.04, land use categories, use category- public/private utilities and communication services, use type-wind energy conversion systems-commercial/utility grade, to be allowed by CONDITIONAL USE in the AG-1 District, only. There was discussion of the changes. Ann Boellstorf spoke from the public attending. Jenniffer Panko-Rahe discussed a couple of suggested language changes: 1) Landowner, participating: An individual or group of individuals involved, directly or indirectly, in overall project via land leases, easement, release, authorization or other such areas; 2) Property line: defined points that mark the end of one owner’s property and the beginning of a neighbor’s; 3) 8.08.04 Aggregated Projects – 4. WEC
turbines shall be limited to no more than two WECS per participating landowner within a one (1) mile radius of the participating property line. Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons to approve the new zoning regulations as presented and to include the suggested changes of the County Attorney. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Cole abstained. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve an interlocal agreement between Otoe County and Neb. City Utilities for the purchase and install of a new generator. The generator will be located at the Otoe County Rural Water Districts 1 and 2 water tower near North 55th and I Road in Otoe County. The entities will share the cost of the purchase of the generator equally. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding for Nebraska Courtroom Technology Transfer of Ownership between the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation and Otoe County. Joe Chaney, IT Manager, explained that the equipment will become the property of Otoe County after two years and the county would then be responsible for maintenance. Jenniffer Panko-Rahe stated that the project is to make courtrooms statewide consistent with equipment and technology. There was discussion about set-up and install. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to adopt Resolution 1-31-23-2 to authorize a tax refund to Sat Tech dba K7 Inspections. The refund amount is $45.26 for tax year 2021. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to declare a Katolight generator as surplus. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to adopt Resolution 1-31-23-3 to authorize Jon Brinkman to sell the surplus generator. The generator was going to be repurposed at the Neb. City Road shop but was too big. The generator will be sold by competitive bidding through Big Iron and the funds received will be used to purchase a new generator for the Neb. City shop; if enough funds, a generator may be purchased for the Syracuse shop as well. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to declare miscellaneous road shop items as surplus. The items include: 1) pickup fuel tank – “Contico” brand, 100 gallon, L-shape, white; 2) pickup fuel tank – “Martel Box by BCI”, 50 gallon, L-shape, toolbox/fuel tank; 3) Westinghouse fuel pump; 4) Fill-rite fuel pump; 5) Fill-rite fuel pump; 6) 1-Fill-rite meter/filter/hose; 7) drag bucket/lift arm for motor grader; 8) Hiniker 8 foot, V plow for pickup truck with bracket ID 1851-Z2804971; 9) pickup box topper, fits Ford short bed truck, black; 10) 4 rims and tires, size 7.00 x 15.00 for trailer. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.
Parsons made a motion, seconded by Cole, to adopt Resolution 1-31-23-4 to authorize Jon Brinkman to sell the miscellaneous road shop items. The items will be sold through Big Iron. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the following road/bridge report: Project (587) P & 24 South: road is rocked and open, seeding needs to be done. The county crews have burned a brush pile at D & 20; installed cupboards/cabinets in storage room; worked on minor bridge repairs and tree trimming; shop work and repairs on equipment; getting ready for snow/ice events. The crews have started spotting in rock and grading roads.

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 8:57 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on February 14, 2023.

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 31st day of January 2023.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk