

March 14, 2023

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 14, 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 Crownover, and Commissioner Cole. Commissioner Parsons 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 Crownover, to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, 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, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to audit and sign payroll claims. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Crownover. 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 \$56,280.82 for the month of February 2023. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the updated Economic Growth Grant Application. The first condition previously had the wording "matching grant" and that was removed. The grant will still require the applicant to provide proof of another commitment of equal or greater funds to the same project. The board will have the discretion to approve funding up to \$30,000.00. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to cancel check #23020107. The check was paid from a claim through inheritance tax in February in the amount of \$165.11. The amount of the check was found to be incorrect. A claim was presented for approval for the correct

amount. Voting aye were Freshman, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve additional licensed area for a Class I liquor license held by Pearson Entertainment, LLC: trade name Pearson's Pumpkin Place. The application is to add additional area to a current Class I license. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Sornson, to approve an agreement to provide sick leave accrual to Denise Thummel from her date of rehire. Denise Thummel was a county employee from December 2019 through September 2022. Miss Thummel left employment voluntarily for 8 weeks and was rehired November 28, 2022. The current policy requires 6 months of employment to begin sick leave accrual. The agreement is to override the policy and to begin accruals at her rehire date. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was discussion of the need to update the personnel policy and forming a committee to work on the project. Chairman Sornson appointed Commission Chuck Cole, Deputy Attorney Sarah Wiltse, County Assessor Christi Smallfoot, County Sheriff Colin Caudill, and County Clerk Jenny Bassinger to the personnel policy committee. The clerk will notify the members and schedule the meetings. The committee will work on updating the policy with a goal of completing the policy by the end of fiscal year.

Ben Jewell, new RPN Educator, was present to introduce himself. Mr. Jewell will be working out of the Otoe County Extension office in Syracuse.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve a contract with Midwest Engineering, Inc. for completing 2023 fracture critical bridge inspections. The total contract price is \$20,895.00 for 13 structures. Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc. also submitted a quote for the fracture critical bridge inspections of \$27,690.00 for 13 structures. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve a contract with Midwest Engineering, Inc. for completing 2023 routine bridge inspections. The total estimated cost is \$11,975.00 with an average cost of \$102.35 per structure. Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc. also submitted a quote for the routine bridge inspections of \$145.00 per structure. Voting aye were Freshman, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the following road/bridge report: The county crews have burned and buried brush piles at C & 12; worked on minor bridge repairs and tree trimming, sign repair and replacement; shop work and repaired equipment; getting ready for snow/ice events. The crews have started spotting in rock and grading roads.

Chairman Sornson announced that board members will visit the county jail facility upon adjournment per State Statute 47-109.

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 8:48 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on March 28, 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 14th day of March 2023.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk