

May 9, 2023

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 9, 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. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole 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, Cole, 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, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to audit and sign payroll claims. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, 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 \$42,352.91 for the month of April 2023. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Chad Miller, Otoe County Veteran Service Officer, requested Terrance Springer to be approved to the Veteran Service Committee. The appointment would be to represent the Palmyra American Legion Post No. 195 and to fulfill the term of Mr. Harry Chaffin who passed away March 11, 2023. Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve Terrance Springer to the Veteran Service Committee as representative for Palmyra American Legion. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Beginning May 2023, Otoe County will honor a veteran as Veteran of the Month. Chad Miller, VSO, spoke on the military service and honors of Mr. Thomas Grooman. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve a proclamation to approve Mr. Thomas Grooman

as Veteran of the Month. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – None. Motion carried. Mr. Miller presented Mr. Grooman with his award.

There are invoices outstanding from a grant between the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Five Rivers RC & D for a weed control project. With the insolvency of Five Rivers, there was a need for the funding to be accepted and expended by an entity to complete the grant process. Otoe Co. Weed Superintendent, Jon Bebout, volunteered Otoe County as the fiscal agent at the Southeast District Meeting. At the time of the meeting there was no agreement but during discussion, it was noted that an agreement with the other eight counties that were part of the Five Rivers RC & D should be completed to approve Otoe County's authority to complete the grant. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve an agreement with Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture contingent with an interlocal with the other eight counties. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Jon Bebout announced that he will retire on June 1, 2023, after 31 years of service. Jon Brinkman announced that Jeff Walters will be the new weed superintendent.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the NACO VSP Vision Insurance Plan renewal for July 2023-2027. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman discussed the renewal rate of the health and dental insurance for the upcoming renewal year. The renewal rate for July 2023-June 2024 is 3.98%. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to authorize the clerk to sign the Blue Cross/Blue Shield subgroup application. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Makayla Vasser and Kobe Cavanon were present to request KENO funds to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. Both are students at the Nebraska City Middle School. Ms. Sherwin, NCMS teacher, was also present and spoke about the nomination process for the conference. Both applicants requested \$3,000 for tuition and travel expenses. The tuition cost is \$2,940.00 and there is a \$350.00 credit available; total tuition cost would be \$2,590.00. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve \$2,590.00 to each student with the stipulation that they return paid receipts for the tuition and return to a meeting in July with a report. The commissioners are requesting the report to hear the experiences the students had during the leadership conference. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chris Reece, Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court Coordinator, presented an update of the Adult Drug Court program. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve an interlocal agreement for Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court 2023-2024. The interlocal agreement involves the counties of Otoe, Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson, and Pawnee. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve the FY 23-24 Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court budget request of \$17,741.75. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was discussion of ARPA funds and possible expenditures.

Mike Holliday, John Roddy, and Michael Harms, property owners on N 60th Rd, were present to discuss the rock being used on N 60th Rd, commonly known as Goosehill Road. There has been a shortage of ¾" rock and the county has had to use 1 ½" rock on the road. Some of the concerns presented were the size caused traffic to slow too much and could slow rescue vehicles, dangerous for motorcycles, causing large mounds to pile on the sides and could pull vehicles to the ditch, and tire damage. Property owners questioned the availability of ¾" rock and why the size was changed. Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, explained that the ¾" rock is rarely available to the county and the 1 ½" is sometimes the option available. He also explained that the location of the quarry is also considered when hauling to locations due to cost and availability. One resident expressed that if the ¾" rock wasn't available that the residents would rather not receive any than to receive the 1 ½" rock.

Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, presented the road report: The county crews have done dirt work and shaping on CBMP Project (668); replaced culvert and dirt work, project M-1 at P & 24 South; ditching at N & 28 West. Both crews have been rocking 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 9:33 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 23, 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 9th day of May 2023.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk