

May 23, 2023

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 23, 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, and Commissioner Cole. Commissioner Crownover was absent.

Commissioner Sornson informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted on the outside door of the courtroom. 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, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

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

Patrick Kreifels, Region V Systems, Regional Administrator, presented the board with an annual report and program update. Mr. Kreifels also provided information about the upcoming FY23-24 budget and the county matching funds.

Talmage Rural Fire Protection District/Talmage Volunteer Fire Department submitted a KENO grant application to request \$3,499.20 for a permanent back-up generator. The generator would be used to provide reliable 24/7 power to the Talmage Fire and Rescue Hall. The application states that the protection district applied for a FEMA/NEMA grant. The total cost of the generator is \$34,992.00 and the grant funding would provide 90% of the project, \$31,492.80. The request of \$3,499.20 is the remaining 10%. Dianne Bohlken, President of the Talmage Fire Board was present to provide information to the board. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the KENO grant application in the amount of \$3,499.20. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

David Schmitz, Otoe County Surveyor and Zoning Administrator, presented a Planning Commission Application submitted by Chad Neubauer. Mr. Schmitz stated that the planning commission voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Neubauer to the Board of Commissioners for approval at the May 18, 2023, planning commission meeting. Mr. Schmitz said there was question as to the application stating that the applicant must own real estate and reside in Otoe County, but the planning by-laws state that the applicant must reside in Otoe County. Future applications will be updated to match the by-laws. The term of the appointment is three years. Cole made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the appointment of Chad Neubauer to the Otoe County Planning Commission. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a subdivision plat of Darin Sornson, a 4.00+- acre tract located in the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of S 26, T 8N, R 13E of the 6th P.M, Otoe County, as proposed by Bradley J. Homeyer, Successor Trustee of the William Homeyer Revocable Trust dated June 1, 2001. The site is located at the intersection of South 58th and L Roads. It was noted that the original description provided for the agenda and plat were listed as 50th and L Rds in error. Dave Schmitz, County Surveyor and Zoning Administrator, presented information to the board and stated that the site has been approved for the water permit. An easement will be acquired from the Schomerus property. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve the subdivision plat of Darin Sornson Subdivision. Voting aye were Parsons, Cole, and Freshman. Abstain – Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was discussion of the reporting of the amount of real estate taxes paid by certain owners prior to the end of 2022. The receipting of taxes paid was done correctly, however, there was a server error that caused information to not be uploaded to the Nebraska Department of Revenue to be used in the Property Tax Look-up Tool. The error involved approximately 240 parcels and the County Treasurer sent letters to the involved owners. The error may have caused an owner to not have received the total refundable income tax credit to which they were entitled. The discussion ended with it not being the county's responsibility or fault as upload is for a tool to use for the credit.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve an interlocal agreement between Otoe County and the City of Syracuse for the replacement of Walnut St. bridge located at South 1st St., Syracuse, Nebraska. The interlocal defines the responsibilities of each party for Project (682). The City of Syracuse will pay for the materials, not to exceed \$49,480 and the County will provide the labor, equipment, supervision and oversight of construction and will determine and obtain all permitting for the project. Parsons inquired about the timeline and Brinkman stated that the materials are estimated in August or September and then weather could determine if it is completed in the fall or spring. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, presented the road report: Project (648) P & 46 South – Contractor has moved in to start bank stabilization. The county crews have completed Project (668) at M & 38 West and finished the ditching and driveway culverts; replaced culvert and dirt work to complete Project M-1 at P & 24 South; dug up and relay culvert and ditching at O & 22 East; ditching was completed 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 9:21 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on June 6, 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 23rd day of May 2023.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk