

July 18, 2023

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on July 18, 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 Rick Freshman. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Parsons, Commissioner Crownover, and Commissioner Cole. Commissioner Sornson was absent.

Commissioner Freshman informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted to the right of the door of the courtroom. Additional copies are available upon request.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to accept the agenda as posted. Voting aye were Freshman, Crownover, Parsons, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons 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. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Crownover, Cole and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

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

Pursuant to State Statute 33-117, Vice-Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the quarterly report from the County Sheriff denoting the amount of certain fees collected, from whom and for what service. The total amount received in the second quarter of the year was \$11,640.85.

Vice-Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending June 30, 2023, of the petty cash accounts held by Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management; Teresa Johnson, Child Support Officer; Ruth Ann Weddle, Register of Deeds; Colin Caudill, Sheriff; Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney; Janis Riege, Clerk of the District Court and Dana Ritchheart, County Court Magistrate. Said reports will be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to State Statute 23-3115, Vice-Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of an annual surplus property sold report. Authority was approved to Chairman Sornson to sell surplus property at the February 14, 2023, Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Mike Ziskey, Otoe County Public Defender, was present to discuss the cost-of-living increases for hourly employees for fiscal year 2023-2024. He noted that the national cost-of-living increase has been averaging 5-6%. Chairman Freshman stated that amounts would be looked at during the budget process. No action was taken.

The lease for space rented for DHHS services expires August 1, 2023. The Nebraska City Center for Children and Families presented the Board of Commissioners with two renewal options. Option 1, is for a three-year period with a rate increase of \$1.00 per square foot for each of the three years, a shared cost of the annual monitoring and inspection of the fire alarm system, and an additional \$25 per month for internet services; Option 2, is for a one-year period with a rate increase of \$3.00 per square foot, a shared cost of the annual monitoring and inspection of the fire alarm system, and an additional \$25 per month for internet services. The amount of space being leased was noted. There was discussion that the Board would contact a DHHS representative to confirm if all leased space was necessary prior to approving the lease. Cole made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to table the lease agreement with NCCCF. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole, to adopt Resolution #7-18-23-21 to approve a tax refund to Steve Vollertsen for \$157.36. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to adopt Resolution #7-18-23-22 to approve a tax refund to Steve Vollertsen for \$160.66. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Douglas Rescue Squad submitted a KENO grant application in the amount of \$15,000 requesting a contribution towards the purchase of a new ambulance. Joe Moller, representing Douglas Rescue, presented information to the board about the departments need for a new unit. He stated that the cost of a new ambulance is approximately \$290,000 and they have received a grant from the State of Nebraska for \$150,000. Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the KENO grant application submitted by Douglas Rescue Squad for \$15,000. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Village of Otoe, Parks and Rec Department, submitted a KENO grant application in the amount of \$30,000 requesting a contribution towards constructing a half basketball court and pickleball court. Tom Kastens, representing the Village of Otoe, presented information to the board regarding the request. During discussion, it was expressed that there was a need for a place for the children and families to play safely and would be a great addition to the village park. Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the KENO grant application submitted by the Village of Otoe Parks and Rec Department for \$30,000. Voting aye were Cole, Freshman, and Crownover. Nay none. Parsons abstained. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to obligate \$55,300 of ARPA funds to replace office heating and air conditioning registers based on a service contract with Control Services, Inc. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Mikayla Vasser and Kobe Cavanzon attended the meeting to present their experiences of the Junior Leadership Conference they attended in June. A contribution had been made to each student from the KENO fund to assist with the tuition of the conference.

There was discussion of the annual renewal of liability and workers compensation coverage. The discussion included rate increase, addition of drone coverage, and the change from Bitco to Travelers for workers compensation coverage. The discussion also included other insurance options including NIRMA; bidding for the next renewal year will be scheduled. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to renew the liability and workers compensation insurance with Travelers Insurance for July 2023-July 2024. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve an agreement with CEDARS to provide the community youth coaching service to the Juvenile Diversion Program high-risk youth. The agreement period is July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, or when grant funds are no longer available, whichever is sooner. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve an agreement with P4OC to provide coaching services to the Juvenile Diversion Program low-risk youth. The agreement period is July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, or when grant funds are no longer available, whichever is sooner. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to adopt Resolution #7-18-23-23 certifying the completion of STWD-CBMP (4). Voting aye were Cole, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the road report: clean out ditches and rebuilding road at G & 36 East (672); trim trees and repair road at J & 58 West; remove bridge, set pipes, install the wing walls and begin dirt work at D & 14 South (609); replace plank at G & 34 South; close structure 23210 at P & 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, Vice-Chairman Freshman declared this meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on August 1, 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 18th day of July 2023.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk