

January 2, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on January 2, 2024, 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.

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

The meeting was turned over to the County Clerk for the election of a Chairman of the Board for year 2024. The Clerk called for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Freshman nominated Commissioner Jerad Sornson as Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover to close nominations and appoint Commissioner Jerad Sornson as Chairman of the Board for year 2024. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Cole, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The Clerk called for nominations from the floor for election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2024. Commissioner Cole nominated Commissioner Rick Freshman as Vice-Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole to close nominations and appoint Commissioner Rick Freshman to be Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2024. Voting aye were Commissioners Cole, Sornson, Freshman and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The meeting was returned to the Chairman of the Board.

Chairman Sornson made the following miscellaneous board appointments for year 2024: SEND (Southeast Nebraska Development District)/ RCEDD River County Economic Development District: Commissioner Cole will serve as the Otoe County representative and Commissioner Sornson will serve as the alternate.

NCAEDC (Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation): Commissioner Freshman will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Cole will serve as the alternate.

REGION V / APACE: Commissioner Crownover will serve as the Otoe County representative and Commissioner Parsons will serve as the alternate.

BRAAA (Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging): Commissioner Crownover will serve as the Otoe County representative and Commissioner Freshman will serve as the alternate.

Southeast District Health: Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative and Commissioner Cole will serve as the alternate.

Road & Bridge Committee: Commissioner Freshman and Commissioner Sornson will serve as representatives.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to re-appoint Jon Brinkman as Otoe County Highway Superintendent for 2024. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The Nebraska City News Press was acknowledged as the designated newspaper for 2024. There was a public concern that some of the online newspaper content is behind a paywall. The county is required by statute to designate a newspaper in general circulation.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged the County's website as an official means of publication for 2024.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to appoint the following financial institutions as depositories for Otoe County in 2024: American National Bank, Nebraska City, Commercial State Bank, Nebraska City, First Nebraska Bank, Nebraska City, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Palmyra, NPAIT (Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust), Riverstone Bank, Arbor Bank & Trust, Nebraska City, Countryside Bank, Unadilla, First Bank of Nebraska, Syracuse, Premier Bank, Nebraska City, Union Bank & Trust, and Nebraska CLASS Trust as financial depositories for 2024. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were 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.

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

Jerad Reimers was not present at this time, Chairman Sornson moved to the next agenda item.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve a proposal of audit services from Lengemann & Associates, P.C. for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. The proposal amount of \$28,500 is for a regular annual audit and a single federal audit. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to adopt Resolution #1-2-24-1, to deposit and/or release pledged securities with First National Bank for Premier Bank of Nebraska City, NE. First National Bank holds the securities for Premier Bank and one security matured and one security renewed. Voting aye were Freshman, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to adopt Resolution #1-2-24-2 to authorize the opening and reviewing of bids for road project C-66(693) prior to the January 16, 2024, Board of Commissioners' meeting. The resolution authorizes and appoints Jon Brinkman as an agent for Otoe County to open and review the bids on January 11, 2024. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the following road/bridge report: Project (678) located at E & 22 West, bridge removal/replacement- bridge is complete, still needs more rock and needs to be seeded. The county crews have dug out old culvert (crossover pipe), installed new culvert and backfilled, tree removal, dug up driveway culvert and installed new driveway culvert and removed fence at C & 10 North. There was 5+ inches of snow in the SW corner of the county, blades were out south of Highway 2 and west of Highway 50. Crews worked on signs, rocking, and tree trimming.

Jerad Reimers, District Coordinator for Adrian Smith, Nebraska Congressman, arrived and presented the board with an update board on case work, constituent assistance, and trade committees.

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 9:02 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 16, 2024.

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 2nd day of January 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk