

February 27, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on February 27, 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 Parsons, Commissioner Crownover, and Commissioner Cole.

Commissioner Sornson informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was located near the door of the courtroom.

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

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

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

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the road vacation study of a section of county road located in the West ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 3, Township 8N, Range 9E of the 6th P.M., Otoe County, Nebraska. Speakers from the public were Cody Beecham, Glen Royal, Susan Royal, James Beecham, and Craig Bolz. There was discussion of property lines, easements, county board authority of setting new property lines, etc. The public hearing was closed. Determination of the vacation will be scheduled for the March 12, 2024, meeting.

Bids were accepted for a stand alone wash bay building and to replace the insulation and sidewall tin on the existing road shop until February 27, 2024, at 8:15 a.m. Sornson opened the bid the was received:

Bidder	New Wash Bay	Existing Building	Total
CJS Construction	\$206,457.00	\$92,000.00	\$298,457.00

A complete copy of the bid will be on file in the clerk's office. Following discussion from the board members of what the bid included and extra expenses such as utilities, the agenda item was tabled, and the bid was not awarded at today's meeting.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the 2024 One-and-Six Year Road Plan. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to adopt Resolution #2-27-24-5 approving the 2024 One-and-Six Year Plan. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion approved.

Two proposals were received for completing bridge inspections in 2024. Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc.'s proposal was for a total fee of \$13,485.00 and Midwest Engineering, Inc.'s proposal was for a total of \$13,885.00. There are a total of 122 routine and 2 critical bridge inspections to be completed for 2024. Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the agreement with Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc. for completing 2024 fracture critical bridge inspections. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parson, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve the agreement with Mainelli

Wagner & Associates, Inc. for completing 2024 routine bridge inspections. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the road report: Project (678) located at E & 22 West; Bridge removal/replacement: bridge is complete, still needs more rock and to be seeded; Project (693) OPPD Hwy; contractor will begin tree removal 3-4-2024. County crews have been removing beaver dams, replacing bridge planks, grading and rocking roads.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the 2024 Southeast Nebraska Planning, Exercise Training (SE-PET) Region revised interlocal agreement. Gregg Goebel, Otoe Co. EMA Director explained that the interlocal has a five-year expiration and this interlocal is a complete revision. The agreement allows the fourteen participating counties to work together with resources, grants, etc. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to adopt Resolution #2-27-24-6 directing the County Attorney to institute foreclosure on county owned tax sale certificates. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons.

Kim Tanner, Cooper-Nuclear – Emergency Preparedness Offsite Coordinator, presented a quarterly report to the board. She discussed topics of the plant transitioning to IPAWS as of Jan. 1, 2025; continued emergency training; and signing a 20-year license extension through 2054.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a conditional use permit for a proposed 245-foot self-support cell tower with a 100-foot x 100-foot fenced compound and lease area located in part of the North ½ of the NW ¼ of S19, T8N, R11E as proposed by Andrew Dewhirst, Powder River, agent, on behalf of Tillman Infrastructure, located on the Douglas and Lori Carlson property. The site is located at 2466 J Road. Speaking from the public were Adam Charleston on behalf of Tillman Infrastructure, Zach Williams, representing Powder River, and Ryan McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh presented a letter to the board in opposition to the cell tower. Proponents of the cell tower stated that different locations were looked at, but the proposed site was the best due to the location of the existing utility hook ups and the landowner would lose the least amount of farm ground. Opponents request another area of the property be considered for use. There was discussion of a home needing to be demolished and removed from the proposed site. Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve the conditional use permit of a 245-foot self-support cell tower with the stipulation of the home being demolished and removed. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, and Crownover. Nay – Freshman. Abstain – Parsons. Motion approved.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Sornson, to approve a request for proposal (RFP) for liability, property, auto, & workers compensation insurance for the July 2024 – July 2025 period and appoint Tom Farrell, of Miller Farrell Insurance as broker of record to prepare and compare the bid proposals. It was discussed that the bidding processed had been completed two years ago previously had been completed every three years, but it could be the commissioners' discretion to do it more frequently. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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 27th day of February 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk