

April 9, 2024

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

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

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

Parsons 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.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$80,291.21 for the month of March 2024. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Chairman Sornson 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 first quarter of the year was \$11,335.38.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending March 31, 2024, 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.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to adopt Resolution #4-9-24-12, authorizing the collection of fees by the Otoe County Clerk's office for specified services. The resolution outlines a fee schedule for fees that could be collected within the Otoe County Clerk's office. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parson, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a Class I liquor license application submitted by The Acreage. There was no public comment, and the public hearing was closed. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the Class I liquor license application submitted by The Acreage. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion approved.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the subdivision plat of Peterson Heights Subdivision, a 3.20+- acre tract located in the South ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 26, T 9N, R 13E as proposed by

Randall S. Peterson and Brenda S. Peterson. The site is located on U.S. Highway 75 (N 58th Rd) 415+-' north of the East ¼ Corner of said Section 26. Dave Schmitz, Otoe County Planning and Zoning Administrator stated that the subdivision plat was unanimously approved by the planning commission. There were no public comments, and the public hearing was closed. Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the subdivision plat of Peterson Heights Subdivision, a 3.20+- acre tract located in the South ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 26, T 9N, R 13E as proposed by Randall S. Peterson and Brenda S. Peterson. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the issuance of a conditional use permit to the Nebraska City Utilities to allow the application of bio-solids on various farm sites in Otoe County. There was a discussion of the application sites. The public hearing was closed. Sornson made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the conditional use permit to the Nebraska City Utilities to allow the application of bio-solids on various farm sites in Otoe County. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the issuance of a conditional use permit to the City of Omaha (Missouri River Treatment Plant and Papillion Creek Treatment Plant) to allow the application of wastewater sludge on various farm sites in Otoe County. Wayne Beal, representing the City of Omaha, was present and joined the brief discussion of the application process. Dave Schmitz noted that the organization notifies him prior to hauling on county roads. The public hearing was closed. Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the conditional use permit to the City of Omaha (Missouri River Treatment Plant and Papillion Creek Treatment Plant) to allow the application of wastewater sludge on various farm sites in Otoe County. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Erin Eby, NIS Insurance representative, presented information about supplemental life and short-term disability insurance. Chairman Sornson stated that a visit would be allowed to discuss options with employees. The products presented would be optional and paid for by the employee.

Chad Miller, Otoe County Veteran Service Officer, submitted a KENO grant application requesting a contribution for the purchase of bronze grave markers for veterans. The amount requested is \$9,011.03. During discussion it was stated that Veteran Affairs provides the original grave marker, but the replacement cost is a requirement of the county by state statute. Cole made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the KENO application submitted for a contribution to purchase bronze grave markers for veterans. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the placement of an air monitoring station. Gregg Goebel, Otoe County EMA Director stated that the health department has requested an air monitoring station to be installed. He explained that the device is not large and will need to be located 6' off the ground, be accessible to power and wi-fi and the device will be at no cost to the county. The implementation of the device stems from the fires in Iowa and the particulates in the air. Several locations around the exterior of the courthouse are being looked at and one will be determined. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to enter a three-month moratorium on applications for conditional use permits for commercial/utility grade solar energy systems until the commissioners have an opportunity to receive a report from the solar energy system zoning review committee regarding the current zoning regulations. Commissioner Crownover stated that he felt three months would be enough time for the committee to review the current solar energy regulations. If more time were needed, an extension of the moratorium may need to be presented. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the road report: Project (693) OPPD Hwy; contractor is making great progress on the tree removal project; Project (610) B & 56: Dixon Construction has moved in, the bridge is out, the shoe fly is in, and started driving test pile. County crews have finished and seeded Project (695) at S & 48 East; cleaned out ditches at B & 22 North, E & 14 South, and M & 8 West. Crews have been hauling rock and grading roads.

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 March 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk