

May 7, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 7, 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, and Commissioner Crownover. Commissioner Cole was absent.

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, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover 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, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to audit and sign payroll claims. Voting aye were Crownover, 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 \$22,370.43 for the month of April 2024. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Chris Reece, Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court Coordinator, presented an annual report of the adult drug court program. Ms. Reece discussed the total FY24-25 budget request of \$34,575.00 with Otoe County's share being \$10,858.33. Ms. Reece also presented an updated interlocal agreement for 2024-2025 between Otoe, Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson, and Pawnee Counties outlining the SE Nebraska Adult Drug Court program terms between the counties. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the FY 24-25 Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court budget request of \$10,858.33. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve an interlocal agreement with Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Melanie Stormer, District 1 Chief Probation Officer, presented an annual report, update of services, and a proposed FY24-25 budget. Ms. Stormer stated that the state funding of the budget had been decreased by ten million dollars. Otoe County's share of the proposed budget is \$14,885.55, a decrease of \$1,337.93 from last year. Ms. Stormer stated that a finalized budget request would be presented in the future but did not anticipate a large change to the request. In reviewing the numbers, the budget request was questioned by the board on how the funding amount is figured. Another county had similar case numbers but would be paying less. Ms. Stormer explained the formula does include population, so Otoe County's share may be higher based on population but would also put together a report of services provided for review and comparison. No action was taken.

Michaela Valentin, OPPD Community Relations Manager, introduced Chris Meeks, Government and Community Relations Strategist. Mr. Meeks joined the OPPD team in February 2024. Ms. Valentin provided a brief general update on solar farms and new projects for OPPD.

The Otoe County Visitors Committee is requesting a list of lodging members in Otoe County and the Nebraska Department of Revenue requires a letter of request from the Board of Commissioners. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Sornson, to approve requesting a letter from the Department of Revenue for the list of lodging members in Otoe County. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The air conditioning unit for the jail is not working. There was discussion that this would be an emergency project. The unit needs to be in working order as the weather changes, or the inmates would need to be housed in another county. This could be costly to the county with per day charges and transport time. Control Services, Inc. provided a quote of \$127,417.00 to replace the unit. The quote does not include the electrical work. The electrical company that works with Control Services, Inc. had not submitted their estimate at the time of the meeting. Theresa Sullivan, Building Maintenance, spoke with a local vendor and they do not handle this type of project. There was discussion of the project and a concern of approving without knowing the estimated electrical cost. There was also concern about timing. If not approved, it could delay the ability to start before the weather is hot and air conditioning is needed. The option of repairing the unit instead of replacing the unit was discussed. Control Services, Inc. had estimated the repairs at approximately \$12,000.00. After further discussion, it was decided that the unit should be repaired. No action was taken.

Bids 2024 Culverts, Projects (483)(654), and (655) were publicly opened on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. County Commissioner Jerad Sornson and County Clerk Jenny Bassinger were present to represent the county. Also present were Mark Mainelli, Jr. representing Mainelli Wagner Engineering, and Tom Bokenkamp, representing ACE/Eaton Metals. The following bids were received:

| | Project (483) | Project (654) | Project (655) | Total | Estimated Delivery |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|---|
| ACE/Eaton | \$51,294.50 | \$36,332.10 | \$53,559.30 | \$141,185.90 | (483) 8-14 wks (654) 10-16 wks (655) 12-18 wks |
| Contech Engineered Solutions | \$64,600.00 | \$39,940.00 | \$61,520.00 | \$166,060.00 | 12-14 weeks on all projects |
| Metal Culverts, Inc. | \$59,921.60 | \$44,348.25 | \$65,729.90 | \$169,999.75 | 12-16 weeks on all projects |
| Midwest Services | \$66,166.00 | \$64,815.86 | \$84,324.78 | \$215,309.24* Bid total equals \$215,306.64 | (483) Aug. 2024 (654) Sept 2024 (655) Aug. 2024 |

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve awarding the bid for Otoe County 2024 Culverts Project to ACE/Eaton for \$141,185.90. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons discussed road condition concerns at H Road and Highway 50. He stated that the road has high banks and water does not drain. The road would need to be rebuilt and is not on the One- and Six-Year Plan. This road goes into a subdivision in the area and repairs would need to be done in phases for accessibility. There was discussion of current projects and the possibility of completing this project in the near future. No action was taken.

Sornson provided a road supervisor report. Crownover had a concern with a tube near the soccer fields in Syracuse. He stated that the tube is not in good condition and needs to be dug out. This would cause less issues on the North side of the road.

At 9:45 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

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 7th day of May 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk