

May 21, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 21, 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.

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

Cole 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.

Chad Miller, Otoe County Veteran Service Officer, presented the May 2024 Veteran of the Month honor to William J. Olmer. Chad Miller spoke of Mr. Olmer's military service and honors.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the subdivision plat of Connie Pietzyk-McDonald Subdivision, a 5.64+- acre tract located in part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & part of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, T.7N, R.11E as proposed by Connie J. Pietzyk-McDonald. The site is located at 2902 M Road. Dave Schmitz, Otoe County Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that this part of the original farmstead and that rural water is available. There was no public comment, and the public hearing was closed. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the subdivision plat of Connie Pietzyk-McDonald Subdivision, a 5.64+- acre located in part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & part of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, T.7N, R.11E as proposed by Connie J. Pietzyk-McDonald. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried

The public hearing to approve/deny a conditional use permit for a private dog kennel to exceed the four-dog limit located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, T.7N, R.10E, as proposed by John H. Jongebloed II and Gena Jongebloed, was tabled. The conditional use permit had been presented to the Otoe County Planning Commission on May 16, 2024, and it had been voted to table the item until the next meeting. The public hearing to be held during the Commissioners' meeting had been advertised, so it remained on the agenda and was tabled at the meeting.

There was discussion of the renewal rate of the health and dental insurance for the upcoming renewal year. The renewal rate for July 2024-June 2025 is 8.7%. Judd Allen, NACO Benefit Representative, was present, and explained how the NACO insurance pool had changed this year. The pool changed from providing a singular rate change for all participants to a varied rate for the participants based on claims, demographics, etc. Mr. Allen explained that there is a cap in place so that a county would not receive over a certain percentage of an increase per year. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve signing the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health &

Dental subgroup application. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to declare a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu as surplus. The vehicle has approximately 93,000 miles. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to adopt Resolution #5-21-24-13 authorizing Jerad Sornson to sell the 2012 Chevrolet Malibu as surplus. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to extend the conditional use permit for commercial/utility grade solar energy systems an additional three months, for a total of six months. Commissioner Crownover reported that the subcommittee had met, and that additional time would be needed for the moratorium to account for additional meeting(s) and time to work up any changes to documentation if needed. The Board of Commissioners had previously approved a three-month moratorium during the April 9, 2024, meeting and this would extend the moratorium an additional three-months to October 2024. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Johnathan Vodicka, Otoe County Mutual Aid Association President, was present to discuss issues with the county fire and rescue radios. He stated that they are not able to get replacement parts for radios currently being used as the manufacturer is no longer making parts. This is causing departments to buy new radios. He stated that the radio system needs to be upgraded as well. The estimated cost of replacing the radios for the fire and rescue departments of the county was estimated at \$1,368,538.12 and Mr. Vodicka stated that the departments would purchase the radios for their departments. The estimated cost of upgrading the radio infrastructure is \$1.2 million and there was discussion that this could be less expensive if simulcast was removed. There was discussion of a group forming to discuss ideas and options. Commissioner Cole volunteered to be part of the group. The group will be Commissioner Cole, Otoe County Emergency Management, Sheriff Colin Caudill, Johnathan Vodicka, Otoe Co. Mutual Aid Association President, and the Syracuse Fire Chief.

Jason Esser, representing OPPD, was present to request a letter of support for the OPPD Arbor Rail Line CRISI Application. He explained the Arbor Rail Line Enhancement Project. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve sending a letter to Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation, in support of the OPPD Arbor Rail Line CRISI Application for funding the Arbor Rail Line Enhancements Project. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson provided a road supervisor report.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to declare a 2004 Ford F250 Flatbed as surplus. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to adopt Resolution #5-21-24-14 authorizing Jerad Sornson to sell the 2004 F250 Flatbed as surplus. It was noted that the surplus would be sold on Big Iron. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to declare a 2011 Kenworth Truck Tractor as surplus. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to adopt Resolution #5-21-24-15 authorizing Jerad Sornson to sell the 2011 Kenworth Truck Tractor as surplus. It was noted that the surplus would be sold on Big Iron. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Interviewing applicants for the Highway Superintendent position was held during the open meeting. Two applicants were chosen to be interviewed, and one applicant was present. Mr. Jason Bevans answered questions and from the Board of Commissioners and a representative from Midwest Engineering. Mr. Bevans spoke of his qualifications, project knowledge, work history, etc.

At 9:21 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 21st day of May 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk