

June 4, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on June 4, 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.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Freshman, 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 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, 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.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$32,321.18 for the month of May 2024. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Christi Smallfoot, Otoe County Assessor, presented an estimate from Central Plains Valuation, LLC for commercial revaluations for 2025 values. The estimate for the service is \$36,000. Ms. Smallfoot stated that she had looked into several companies and found availability and capability to be issues as some companies were booked into 2030. Central Plains Valuation, LLC can do the scope of work that is necessary and is available for the timeframe needed. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the estimate provided by Central Plains Valuation, LLC for commercial revaluations for 2025 values. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Vanessa Sherman, Juvenile Diversion Coordinator, presented the 2025 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Grant. The grant award amount is \$48,852.00. She explained that the document presented is the acceptance of the grant award and special conditions of the grant. Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve and sign the Acceptance of Grant Award & Special Conditions for the 2025 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Grant. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Tom Farrell, Miller-Farrell Insurance, was present for the property and casualty insurance bid presentation. Bids were due and opened on Friday, May 31, 2024, by Tom Farrell and County Clerk, Jenny Bassinger. One bid was received; the bid was from the renewing company, Travelers. Mr. Farrell stated that EMC declined bidding due to the age of the buildings and NIRMA declined bidding due to having the low bid two years ago and not receiving the award. Mr. Farrell presented a breakdown of the bid costs and the total of \$400,513.00. He stated that there was an increase in rate and statement of values. The deductible buydown and cyber coverage were not to the specifications that were requested, and he would like to look into additional coverage or plans for those. There is a municipality piece to Travelers insurance that may be beneficial to the county. Mr. Farrell would like to set up a

meeting with the managers of each department to discuss these services to ensure that all are aware of what is available. He requested to return to a future meeting after having time to look at the buydown and cyber coverages, and to put together information for the managers. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to award the bid to Travelers Insurance for \$400,513 with the option of additional cyber and deductible buydown coverage, and having a point of contact for the Sheriff. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Dan Mauk, NCAEDC Executive Director, presented an economic development activity report and updated the board members on the use of ARPA funds for childcare. Mr. Mauk stated that Otoe County has advantages based on railroads, highways, and location. The county has good capacities of electric power, water, wastewater, and natural gas. There has been project interest throughout the county with interest being shown in: Palmyra, Syracuse, Dunbar, Talmage, Nebraska City, and rural areas along Arbor Line rail. With the funding provided federally after the pandemic, two commercial daycare centers were opened, and they have been able to assist with home daycare facilities also. The contracted part-time coordinator has been beneficial. The grant that was provided for the coordinator position was scheduled to expire earlier this year, but was extended to August, so Mr. Mauk stated that they have not yet used the ARPA funds that were allocated to the project. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Mauk announced his plan to retire. He expects to continue working until a replacement is found for his position.

Melanie Stormer, Chief Probation Officer, was listed on the current agenda in error. Ms. Stormer had requested to be on the June 18, 2024, agenda for a presentation. No presentation or action was taken.

Bids for Otoe County Inventory Culverts were publicly opened on May 31, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. This bidding was for inventory pieces for the county shops to use for projects. County Commissioner Jerad Sornson, County Commissioner Rick Freshman, and County Clerk Jenny Bassinger were present at the bid opening. One bid was received from:

| Vendor    | Bid          |
|-----------|--------------|
| ACE/Eaton | \$117,918.00 |

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to award the bid for supplying Otoe County inventory culverts to ACE/Eaton Metals in the amount of \$117,918.00. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Parsons abstained. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson provided a road supervisor report.

Chairman Sornson announced that board members will visit the county jail facility upon adjournment per State Statute 47-109.

At 9:09 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 4th day of June 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger  
Otoe County Clerk