

July 1, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on July 1, 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.

Cole 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, Crownover 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 Parsons, 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 \$29,313.14 for the month of June 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 \$13,802.36.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending June 30, 2024, of the petty cash accounts held by Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management; 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.

The public re-hearing to approve or deny a conditional use permit for a private dog kennel to exceed the four-dog limit located on a 23.61+- acre tract in the NW ¼ of Section 10, T 7N, R10E, as proposed by John H. Jongebloed II and Gena Jongebloed was canceled. Chairman Sornson stated that the application for the permit had been withdrawn at the June Planning Commission meeting.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a conditional use permit for a commercial kennel to exceed the five-dog limit, if needed, located on a 23.61+- acre tract in the NW ¼ of Section 10, T 7N, R 10E as proposed by John H. Jongebloed II and Gena Jongebloed. The site is located at 1818 N Road. Steve Mossman, the attorney representing the Jongebloeds, explained that the private application had been withdrawn and that they were moving forward with the commercial application. The planning commission voted against the permit with a vote of 3 For and 4 Against. Speaking from the public at the hearing were Steve Mossman, John Jongebloed II, Chuck Campbell, Neal Stedman, Gena Jongebloed, Susan Royal, Janet

Campbell, and Paul Aufenkamp. There were concerns about the noise with continuous barking, location, traffic, and permitting requests being submitted after the fact. There was a suggestion to update the zoning regulations for future hunting conditional use permits to require the kennels to be located on site. Mr. Jongebloed stated that he and Gena work for Flower Mound Ranch, but the dogs belong to them, not Flower Mound Ranch. There was discussion of what owners had done to help with the noise. David Schmitz and Dan Hodges of the Otoe County Planning Commission were present. They stated that setbacks were met and that several conditions had been proposed at the planning commission for the conditional use permit, but the permit was not approved. Mr. Mossman stated that the Jongebloeds would agree to the conditions and to a yearly review if the permit were to be granted. A concern of setting a precedence for applying for a permit after the fact was discussed. Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, Otoe County Attorney, stated that they were allowed to have four dogs on the property without a conditional use permit and had been sent a letter. Chairman Sornson closed the public hearing. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to deny a conditional use permit for a commercial kennel to exceed the five-dog limit, if needed, located on a 23.61+- acre tract in the NW ¼ of S10, T 7N, R 10E, as proposed by John H. Jongebloed II and Gena Jongebloed. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to re-appoint Doug Delhay to the Otoe County Planning Commission for a three-year term. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to cancel check #24060073999 in the amount of \$279.90. The check was issued as a double payment to Amazon in error. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Julie Beach, representing Project Playground Committee, presented information regarding a KENO application submitted for playground equipment. She explained that the group has been fundraising to purchase and install playground equipment at Williams Park in Syracuse. The equipment would be handicap accessible and safe for all ages from toddler to middle school. The goal is to raise \$550,000 total. They have currently raised \$191,000 and hope to reach \$275,000 so they can apply for the Nebraska Game & Parks Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant. The grant application bid numbers included items such as removal of old equipment, purchase and installation of the new equipment and the dirt work. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve the KENO application submitted by Julie Beach, on behalf of Project Playground Committee – Syracuse, NE in the amount of \$30,000.00. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Candace Meredith, NACO Deputy Director, was present was the meeting to provide NACO updates. She informed the board that a tutorial video was being finalized for the salary study. NACO is adding a student loan forgiveness plan and expanding Medicare consulting services. She provided ARPA funding reminders and information on the NACO West building.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve and sign a contract with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. for archive module services for 2025-2030. The contract price is \$23,880.00 (\$3,980.00/process). Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Gregg Goebel presented information on tire recycling and household hazardous waste grants. He stated that Five Rivers is closed, and they had previously handled the grants. In his research, there are not many options for household hazardous waste grants. The tire grant will open on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He spoke to the board about processes in the grant that are required, and the board agreed to help with the implementation. The grant does not pay for employees to load the tires.

Chairman Sornson tabled the Road Supervisor report.

At 9:43 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 1st day of July 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger  
Otoe County Clerk