

July 30, 2024

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

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to audit and sign payroll claims. Voting aye were, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Melanie Stormer, District 1 Chief Probation Officer, presented a state budget analysis to the board. At a previous meeting, questions arose to why Otoe County's funding requirement was higher than other counties with more individuals. Ms. Stormer provided information on the services provided. She stated that the cost could vary and that a county could have a higher population, but less money spent as it depends on the needs and services of the individuals. A budget analysis will be provided annually.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the Fleischman 3rd Subdivision, a 3.00+- acre tract located in the NE ¼ of Section 1, Township 9N, Range 9E as proposed by Daren L. Fleischman and Valoris J. Fleischman. The site is located at 1667 N 12th Road. Dave Schmitz, Otoe County Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the subdivision was approved by the planning commission contingent on an approved water test. The water test has passed. Mr. Schmitz stated that the second half of the real estate taxes have not been paid and he would not be able to sign off until those are paid. There was no public comment, and the public hearing was closed. Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the Fleischman 3rd Subdivision, a 3.00+- acre tract located in the NE ¼ of Section 1, Township 9N, Range 9E as proposed by Daren L. Fleischman and Valoris J. Fleischman contingent on the taxes being paid. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve an updated meal reimbursement policy. The new policy allows a maximum of \$65.00 per day. The recommended amounts for each meal are Breakfast \$15, Lunch \$20, Dinner \$30. Expenses incurred for meals that were included with registration or other fees will not be reimbursed. Alcohol will not be reimbursed. There are guidelines for the travel mileage and length of stay. A complete copy will be available in the Clerk's office. Voting aye were Freshman, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Rex Nelson presented information regarding a KENO application submitted by the City of Nebraska City for the Fort Kearney Lookout Pavilion. He stated that there is an area in the Kearney Hill area that overlooks the river. A

neighborhood group was formed, and they would like to build the pavilion as an addition to the neighborhood and for families to enjoy. The estimated cost is \$50,000 and the application request is \$8,000. The group is working with the City of Nebraska City to submit the application. There was discussion that paid receipts would need to be remitted to the clerk for the project. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve the Keno Fund application submitted by the City of Nebraska City in the amount of \$8,000.00. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried. Commissioner Sornson stated that the county had advertised for bids for hauling aggregate for August 1, 2024-July 31, 2025, and acknowledged that no bids were received.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve sustaining the FY24-25 Region V budget request at the FY23-24 level vs the statutorily required amount for the fiscal year. Crownover is the county representative on the Region V board and explained that the Region V budget had been cut by 20%. At the May Region V meeting, there was discussion of the effects of the budget cuts, including layoffs, and the representatives were asked to sustain the previous year’s budget request instead of the statutorily required amount that was lower. Mr. Crownover stated that the other county representatives agreed to sustain the budget requests. There was discussion that Otoe County would sustain their budget this year but next year would need to be reviewed. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the FY24-25 budget request from Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging in the amount of \$27,857.52. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Sornson, to approve the FY24-25 budget request from SENDD in the amount of \$8,428.00. Voting aye were Freshman, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to authorize Chairman Sornson to sign a letter of engagement for audit services of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, between Otoe County and Lengemann & Associates, P.C. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson opened and presented quotes that had been received for the 2025 Scrap Tire Management Program.

Vendor	Price per ton
Butler	\$160.00 per ton
River City	\$140.00 per ton
United Recycling	Provided a per tire price; not per ton price as requested
Champlin	\$169.00 per ton

Gregg Goebel, EMA Director, informed the board that the waste tire grant stipulates that the lowest bid be used, or the county pay the difference. The projected tonnage for the grant is 600 tons. There was discussion of what the companies do with the tires. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to accept a quote proposal from River City Recycling for \$140 per ton for the 2025 Scrap Tire Management Program for waste tire recycling. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to deny a settlement agreement for a workers compensation claim. Jenniffer Panko-Rahe stated that the settlement may have been filed with the assumption that the county was self-insured and that is not accurate. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve and sign a contract with ACE/Eaton Metals for the project “Otoe County Culverts” in the amount of \$117,918.00. The bid had previously been awarded at the June 4, 2024, meeting and this is the contract with that project. Voting aye were Freshman, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve using Sourcewell pricing to purchase a dump/plow truck from Mack for \$290,766.24. There was discussion of several different options. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson provided a road supervisor report.

Public comment is required as part of the Open Meetings Act effective July 19, 2024. There was no one in the public to speak at today's meeting. There was discussion of how to hold the public comment section. A sign-in sheet will be provided at the entrance of the room for the public to print their name, address, and subject. A set amount of time will be provided at the end of each meeting for public comment. A maximum amount of time will be allotted to each speaker. If there are multiple speakers, the time allotment will be pro-rated to fulfill the public comment time.

At 9:22 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 30th day of July 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk