

November 19, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on November 19, 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 the 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, Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, 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.

Susan Boyd with Headstart was unable to attend the meeting. The presentation of the annual report will be rescheduled for December 3, 2024.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to authorize the cancellation of check #24110052999 payable to WexBank in the amount of \$75.00. This amount is a portion of the original claim/check. A late fee of \$75.00 had been assessed and credited back to the county so the funds were not needed. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was discussion of the proposed OPPD ash disposal site. Speaking from the public were: Carol Crook, Allen Jeanneret, and Chris Meeks, representing OPPD. One concern from the previous public hearing was where the ash would be coming from. OPPD provided a letter to the Board of Commissioners stating that the ash would be exclusively from the Nebraska City plant. There was a suggestion from the public to work with archeologists during the dig to preserve any artifacts that may need to be saved and preserved. Sornson made the motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the application for the ash disposal site proposed by OPPD at the NE ¼ and the N ½ of the SE 1/4 , Section 35; also, a parcel of land located in the W ½ of the NE ¼ and the SW ¼ lying West of the Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of Way, located in Section 36, except government lot 56; also, a parcel of land laying South of the center line of county road "L" in the SE ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 26, all in Township 8N, Range 14E, of the 6th P.M., Otoe County, Nebraska. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to authorize Chairman Freshman to sign the Certificate of Compliance with Local Siting Requirements consistent with the approval of the application for the ash disposal area. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The agenda item to declare Sheriff vehicles and adopt a resolution to sell the surplus vehicles was tabled.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to authorize the issuance of a county credit card to the Emergency Management Department. The card will have a \$5,000 limit and single purchases over \$2,500 will require pre-authorization from the board. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the initiation and funding requirements of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS). Gregg Goebel, Otoe County EMA Director, explained that the UAS device to the board. He stated the cost of the equipment is \$13,884.00 and that \$12,700.00 in federal grant funds would be used. The remaining funds will be paid through the EMA budget. There will be an interlocal agreement created for other PET region entities requesting use of the equipment and that all operators will be required to have training/license. Insurance and maintenance of the UAS will be an additional expense. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cole discussed service training days for county employees for tornadoes, fire, active shooter, etc. Chairman Sornson stated that the training proposal would not need board approval and that the training could be scheduled.

The board discussed the expended and future ARPA fund expenses. The ARPA funds need to be expended or contractually obligated by the end of 2024 and dispersed by 2026.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole, to increase the volume of county paid life insurance for employees through National Insurance Company (NIS) to \$10,000.00. Currently, the employee paid life insurance policy is \$6,000.00. The increase in coverage will increase the annual premium by approximately \$1,500.00 per year. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Brian Briley, Road Lead Supervisor, presented a road report.

There was no public comment.

At 10:04 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 on this 19th day of November 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk