



# Merrick County Board Minutes



## May 23, 2017

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Graves, Kreachbaum, Carlson, , Kucera, Weller, and Wiegert present. Helgoth was absent. Deputy County Attorney Kunz was also present.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil and The Palmer Journal and on the Merrick County website. Proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's Office. Copies of the agenda were mailed to each Supervisor and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

Chairman Wiegert declared the meeting was preceded by publicized notice and having acknowledged and identified the location of the posting of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act, called the meeting to order and in open session at 9:05a.m.

Moved Graves, second Weller to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Agenda:** Moved Carlson, second Graves to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Minutes:** Moved Kucera, second Weller to approve the minutes as published from May 9, 2017. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Meeting reports:** Carlson & Wiegert attended the Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance meeting in Lincoln on May 10, 2017; Graves attended the hospital meeting on May 10, 2017, long term care meeting on May 8, 2017, and a safety meeting on May 18, 2017; Weller attended the Bader Park meeting on May 16, 2017 & Kreachbaum attended the Mid Plains Behavior meeting on May 15, 2017.

**Officials report:** Planning & Zoning Myers handed out corrected pages for the zoning regulations and copy of permits for the 2017 year. Sheriff Westman reported that his new deputy started May 15, 2017, Sargent Abold's last day will be June 29, 2017 and Kim Campbell has resigned. Sheriff Westman will be advertising for the office manager position and is going to work on putting together a presentation on human trafficking.

**Public comment:** Julie Murray with Litzenberg Hospital said the hospital board voted to change the name from Litzenberg Hospital to Litzenberg Long Term Care beginning July 1, 2017. The hospital is hoping to close their transaction on June 21, 2017 and take effect on July 1, 2017.

**Midland Area Agency on Aging:** Colleen Clayton representing Midland Area Agency on Aging presented their 2017-2018 budget request of \$6,002.00 which is the same amount as last fiscal year. Clayton also gave the Board a short report of activities.

**Liquor license:** Moved Carlson, second Weller to approve the Special Designated Liquor License for the American Legion Lone Tree Post #6 for a June 17, 2017 wedding reception at the new 4H Building. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Liquor License:** Moved Kucera, second Carlson to approve the Special Designated Liquor License for Don't Care Bar & Grill Inc. for a June 24, 2017 wedding reception at Riverside. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Liquor License:** Moved Kucera, second Carlson to approve the Special Designated Liquor License for Don't Care Bar & Grill Inc. for a July 14, 2017 wedding reception at Riverside. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**RESOLUTION 2017-12:** Moved Graves, second Carlson to approve and have the Chairman sign RESOLUTION 2017-12 to cancel 6 warrants as they were turned over to the State Treasurer in the amount of \$1,193.32. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2017-12 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

**Health insurance:** Moved Kucera, second Graves to approve the new Blue Cross Blue Shield rates as follows: Employee/single \$1,172.96 with the County paid the full amount of \$1,172.96; Employee/Spouse & Employee/Children \$2,354.58 with the County paying \$1,980.47 and the employee paying \$374.11 & Employee/Family with the County paying \$2,138.85 and the employee paying \$554.91. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Executive session:** Moved Kucera, second Graves to go into executive session for job performance evaluations at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kucera, second Weller to go out of executive session at 11:03 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Communications study:** Emergency Manager Tom Smith reported that they had been a meeting in December to discuss the communication system and Platte Valley Communications had provided a study to the Board. Ed Meedel with Platte Valley Communications gave the Board fifteen recommendations to the Board based on the information they obtained. Based on the study results, Nance County would be the recommended location for the consolidation of communication offices because of their location and reception and this was recommended by Platte Valley Communications and the Public Service Commission. Tom Smith said that Nance County would entertain the idea of the consolidation at their location and if Merrick County is in favor he asked that two Board members be a part of a working group to work out the details on May 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Nance County Courthouse. Howard Nispel, owner of Platte Valley Communications and Adam Schmidt with Motorola were also present to answer questions. Kreachbaum and Weller agreed to attend.

Kreachbaum was absent at 12:30 p.m.



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**Cash in Lieu:** Jim Daubert from 1<sup>st</sup> Concord went over and explained to the Board how the cash in lieu worked. This would offered to all the employees and a set amount gets pay to any employee that does not take the County's insurance but is on their spouse's plan, medicare, or has veteran insurance and they must provide proof that they are covered. If the County decides to go with the cash in lieu, Daubert will provide a resolution clarifying this program and will meet with the employees. Moved Weller, second Kucera to go with the cash in lieu plan in the amount of \$500.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**RESOLUTION 2017-11:** Moved Graves, second Weller to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2017-11 to approve rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2017-11 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

**Economic Opportunity Program Application:** Moved Kucera, second Graves to approve and sign the Economic Opportunity Program Application Form for Preferred Popcorn. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Determination of Level of Review:** Moved Kucera, second Graves to approve and have the Chairman sign the Determination of Level of Review which is part of the environmental review process for Preferred Popcorn. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Employee appreciation gathering:** The County Board will hold a picnic for employee appreciation at 6:30 p.m. at Bader Park on July 19, 2017. The County will pay for the employee and the employee will need to pay for spouse and children.

**Budget:** Moved Kreachbaum, second Graves to approve a 2% increase for raises and 2% increase for expenses on each office's budget requests for fiscal year 2017-2018. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Statewide radio equipment:** Moved Weller, second Graves to install the XTL5000 State provided mobile radios in the Sheriff's vehicles for \$6,600.00 at Platte Valley Communications. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Third floor:** Drawings were presented to the Board from Sack Lumber for the possible Sheriff/Attorney Offices on third floor. The drawing will go to Dave Lewis and John Lesiak so they can resubmit their bids.

**Executive session:** Moved Kucera, second Graves to go into executive session at 1:47 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kucera, second Graves to go out of executive session at 2:19 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**May 2017 payroll:** May 2017 payroll presented: General: Gross: \$130,504.25 Net: \$89,563.78 Roads: Gross: \$50,127.69 Net: \$35,096.13 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: 4,784.06 Net: \$3,453.45.

Moved Kucera, second Graves to approve the May 2017 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Adjourn:** Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to adjourn at 2:20 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk