



# Merrick County Board Minutes



**August 25, 2017**

The Merrick County Board of Equalization met Tuesday, August 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Carlson, Weller, Helgoth, and Wiegert present. County Attorney Homolka was also present. Kreachbaum and Graves were absent.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil and The Palmer Journal and 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 9:00 a.m.

Moved Kucera, second Carlson to convene as Board of Equalization at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes  
Helgoth led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Agenda:** Moved Kucera, second Helgoth to approve the agenda. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Budget:** Mitchell Inman with Dana F. Cole, CPA for Merrick County, told the board their budget was up 4.6% and the levy was a little over 24 cents and last year's levy was a little over 22 cents or actually 23.6. Helgoth wanted to stay at last year's levy and Inman said they would have to cut \$65,500,000.00 from the budget in order to do that. Board looked at the Road Fund and the \$75,000.00 budgeted for pickups could be cut to \$35,000.00, the \$175,000 for a dump truck could be cut to \$155,000.00 per Mike Meyer, Highway Superintendent, \$8,000.00 will be cut from the County Attorney's shared clerk line item. \$8,320.00 will be added to the Sheriff's budget for a shared clerk, the part time position in Planning & Zoning will be cut to \$472.77 and the official's line item will go to \$18,909.78, \$1,418.31 will come out of the part time line item in the Planning & Zoning and be added to the clerk line item in the Assessor's budget so that amount will be \$28,228.31. Inman said with the cuts and additions the levy would be 22.49%. Board would like to have their budget hearing and adopt their budget at their September 12, 2017 meeting.

**Ag Society:** Moved Helgoth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weller to approve the tax asking of the General Fund only and zero for Capital Improvements tax asking for the Ag Society. Kucera would preferred to have the funds voted on separate and Carlson agreed with Kucera because he feels they need some in capital improvement. Wiegert would like to vote on them separate also. Roll Call: Ayes: Weller and Helgoth. Nays: Kucera, Carlson, and Wiegert

**Ag Society General Fund:** Moved Kucera, second Carlson to approve the General Fund tax asking of \$59,437.38 from the Ag Society. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Ag Society Capital Improvement:** Moved Carlson, second Kucera to deny the Ag Society's Capital Improvement tax asking in the amount of \$150,000.00 as requested and instead approve \$80,000.00 with the recommendation of using up to \$30,000.00 on paving, up to \$40,000.00 for a wash rack building, up to \$5,000.00 for grounds lighting, and up to \$5,000.00 for driveway rock. Kucera would rather see \$4,000.00 for livestock panels, paving, and driveway rock because they are important. Wiegert was thinking \$20,000.00 and Kucera was thinking \$50,000.00. Roll Call: Ayes: Carlson. Nays: Weller, Helgoth, Kucera, and Wiegert.

Moved Kucera, second Carlson to deny the Ag Society's Capital Improvement tax asking in the amount of \$150,000.00 as requested and instead approve \$50,000.00 with priority being grounds lighting, driveway rock, livestock show panels and paving. Roll Call: Ayes: Carlson and Kucera. Nays: Weller, Helgoth, and Wiegert. Kucera said that lighting is important for safety, panels for 4H kids and rock for parking for the convenience of fair goers.

Moved Kucera, second Carlson to deny the Ag Society's Capital Improvement tax asking in the amount of \$150,000.00 as requested and instead approve \$25,000.00 with priority being lighting, panels, rock, and no dollars spent from the Capital Improvement Fund on the old 4H Building. Roll Call: Ayes: Carlson and Kucera. Nays: Helgoth, Weller, and Wiegert.

Moved Helgoth, second Weller to deny the \$150,000.00 Capital Improvement tax asking from the Ag Society and approve zero. Kucera feels they have to give something. Roll Call: Ayes: Weller and Helgoth. Nays: Carlson, Kucera, and Wiegert.

Moved Carlson to deny the Ag Society's Capital Improvement tax asking in the amount of \$150,000.00 as requested and instead approve \$14,000.00 and recommend up to \$5,000.00 grounds lighting, up to \$4,000.00 on panels and up to \$5,000.00 on rock and recommend they put zero dollars into the old 4H Building out of the Capital Improvement Fund. Roll Call: Ayes: Kucera, Carlson, and Wiegert. Nays: Helgoth and Weller. Motion carried.

**Tax Asking Fire Districts and Townships:** Moved Helgoth, second Weller to approve the tax asking of all of the Fire Districts and Townships in Merrick County. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Helgoth, second Weller to adjourn at 2:07 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk



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