



Merrick County Board Minutes



August 27, 2019

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Kreachbaum, Dexter, Yrkoski, Placke, Weller, and Wiegert present. County Attorney Homolka was also present.

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 9:05 a.m.

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

Agenda: Moved Placke to move the budget discussion to 2:00 p.m. Motion died for lack of second. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve the agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Kreachbaum, Yrkoski, Weller, Dexter, Kucera, and Wiegert.

Nays: Placke

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve the minutes of August 13, 2019 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Weller attended the Bader Park meeting on August 20, 2019; Yrkoski and Wiegert came to courthouse when Chief Justice Heavican visited on August 16, 2019; Yrkoski attended the Central Nebraska Community Action meeting on August 20, 2019 and on August 21, attended the Long Term Care meeting and Kreachbaum attended the Mid Plains Behavioral meeting on August 19, 2019.

Official's reports: Clerk Wichmann said that she needed some direction from the Board in regards to whether or not they wanted to renew their contract with Johnson Controls who now handles the panic buttons. Wichmann had received a bill and called Johnson about it because it seemed very high. Wichmann said she was not sure who was in charge of the security cameras in the courthouse anymore and that the contract with Johnson Controls had expired and there was no maintenance contract to her knowledge with Applied either. Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to table this until the security committee looks this over and reports back to the County Board at the next meeting on September 10, 2019. Roll Call: All Ayes. Clerk Wichmann reported that the County had received a refund of \$34,526.35 from Bryan Merrick Medical Center for General Assistance patient that was now on Medicaid. Deputy Jake Bauer reported that a new E citation program was mandated if there were over 500 traffic citations issued and they had more than 500. The sheriff's office had a grant which paid for 47% of the project. The Campos family who husband, father, grandfather was killed in a traffic accident donated \$5,300.00 to update safety equipment for the Sheriff's Office because of the actions of Deputy Jake Bauer extended to their family. Sheriff Westman said they honored the kids that saved a child from drowning at Covenant Cedars that were from Kansas. Sheriff Westman said that Pinnacle Bank had initiated a fund raiser at the Pinnacle Bank in Central City and the proceeds were to be split between the City and the County. Westman said they had a very large left between Silver Creek and Clarks that involved two males and one female and they were very well known by the Kansas authorities. Westman has hired two new correction officers to replace two that are no longer there. Westman said there are no NO Parking signs at Bader Park for pedestrian traffic. Westman has increased patrol and that has helped. Highway Superintendent Meyer and Westman will work together and then the Board has to approve recommendation and direct the direct Meyer and Westman as to what they would like done. Westman said they are no longer offered lower rates at the hospital anymore for inmates. Westman also said that inmates are complaining about how they are being defended by appointed attorneys. The costs for defense attorneys is very high and maybe the Board would want to look into a public defender. Westman said the Jail has been very busy. The Sheriff's sale that was to be on August 22, 2019 was cancelled due to the person coming in and paying the money they owed.

Long Term Care update: Emily Triplett was unable to stay but told Clerk Wichmann that they had received \$36,000.00 that had put Long Term into the black.

Vontz Paving Agreement: Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve of the Chairman signing the Agreement & Notice of Award from Vontz Paving for the 2019 overlay project. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Special Designated Liquor License: Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to approve and have the Chairman sign the Special Designated Liquor License for Banana Rams LLC for a wedding reception at the 4H Building on September 28, 2019. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Extension Board appointment: Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to appoint Kerry Stuhmer to the Merrick County Extension Board. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2019-17: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2019-17 determining the final allocation of levy authority to the County's political subdivisions. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2019-17 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.



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Johnson Controls: Kreachbaum recommended the Board get copies of a breakdown for services from Johnson Controls for the panic buttons and back door and Sean with Applied Connective was present and presented a contract and breakdown of services for the cameras and other IT services before any contracts or agreements were considered. Clerk Wichmann will contact Johnson Controls.

Jail repairs: Sheriff Westman presented pictures of repairs such as flooring, plaster coming off ceilings and walls, black mold on ceilings, evidence room, bathrooms, and showers, rust around toilets and in showers. Board asked Westman to get estimates and bring to the next Board meeting.

Special Designated Liquor License: Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to approve and have the Chairman sign the Special Designated Liquor License for Nitecrawlers Bar and Grill for a wedding reception at Riverside Pavilion on September 28, 2019. Roll Call: All Ayes.

2019 inventories: Moved Placke, second Kreachbaum to approve and sign the 2019 inventories from the offices. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Township discussion: Clerk Wichmann told the Board that there are three townships that no longer have boards. A lot of townships have no one file for townships at election time and a lot were elected by being write in's. Legislature has changed and write in's will no longer count unless they file as a write in. So there may be a lot townships that will not have boards in three years. Moved Placke, second Dexter to hold a public hearing on terminating township boards for Vieregg, Lone Tree, and Midland at the September 24, 2019 meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Budget discussion: Mitchell Inman, CPA with Dana F Cole informed the Board that the tax rate for the new budget is .268279 and last year it was .224987. Inman said they would have to reduce the budget by \$800,000.00 to get the tax rate down to where it was last year. There really was no place to make that much of a cut. Inman said that they move \$400,000.00 from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund and that would bring the tax rate to .245969.

Moved Placke to move the \$40,000.00 budgeted for the Sheriff's extra transport position to the Building & Grounds budget. Motion died for lack of second. Placke then said that she would be in favor of moving the \$400,000.00. Moved Kreachbaum, second Weller to move \$400,000.00 from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund as a permanent transfer to bring the tax rate down to .245969. Roll Call: Ayes: Dexter, Kucera, Yrkoski, Weller, Kreachbaum and Wiegert. Nays: Placke.

August 2019 payroll: The August 2019 payroll was presented for approval: General: Gross: \$152,974.03 Net: \$107,464.42, Roads: Gross: \$62,880.18 Net: \$45,588.06 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$5,891.19 Net: \$3,446.10. Moved Yrkoski, second Weller to approve the August 2019 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to adjourn at 1:13 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/MarciaWichmann, County Clerk