



Merrick County Board Minutes



October 22, 2019

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 9: a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Kreachbaum, Yrkoski, Placke, Weller, and Wiegert present. Dexter was absent. 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 Kreachbaum, second Kucera to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Agenda: Moved Weller, second Placke to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Kucera, second Placke to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2019 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Weller attended the Bader Park meeting on October 15, 2019; Yrkoski attended the Central Nebraska Action Partners meeting on October 15, 2019 and the Long Term Care meeting on October 16, 2019; Kreachbaum attended the Mid Plains Behavioral meeting and the 4H Overseers meeting on October 21, 2019 and Wiegert attended the Midland Area on Aging meeting on October 10, 2019 and the 4H Overseers meeting on October 21, 2019

Official's reports: Clerk Wichmann brought up the fund raising for the NACO Convention and that the Merrick County was going to have all the officials contribute money instead of doing a fund raiser. Wichmann asked if the amount could be set at \$10.00 per official and all Board members thought that was fine. The funds raised by all of the counties will be presented to Paul Younes at the NACO Convention in December.

Long Term Care: Emily Triplett gave the Board a brief update on Long Term Care saying the census today is at 33 and by the end of the week will be at 34 and then they will only have one bed available. Staffing has become a need because of the higher census and they are a four star now and are hoping to go to a five star. They did lose money last month because of some large expenses for repairs, medications and lab costs. Amy Middleton is the new regional vice president effective November 1, 2019. The Long Term Care Board approved a new flat rate of \$222.00. The Wonder Guard system on the doors is obsolete and they are looking into a new Wonder Guard system for \$18,000.00. This alerts the facility when someone is leaving the building. They will get a \$250.00 credit per door and they have seven doors, so the system would be \$16,000.00. Triplett did not think there were grants available for this because it is not a requirement for Long Term Care but she will double check. They need to do a whirlpool change because theirs is not working properly and the scale is also not working properly. They are looking at a new whirlpool from Penner's in Aurora for \$18,750.00 and a scale for \$4,000.00. They are also going to move the whirl pool rooms to the beauty shop.

Applied Connective: Placke said that she and Dexter, who are the Security Board recommend the Premium Level for a yearly cost of \$2,880.00 for the Managed Security Service and Maintenance Agreement with Applied Connective for the County security cameras because there are cameras that need to be replaced. Placke said that from her understanding there would be no other charges. Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to approve the Managed Security Service & Maintenance Agreement from Applied Connective for the County Security Cameras for the Premium Level for a yearly cost of \$2,880.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Lone Tree Township: Katrina Benner and Katie Reeves both submitted written statements to the County Clerk stating they wanted to be appointed to the Lone Tree Township Board after talking with Kucera. Moved Placke, second Weller to appoint Katrina Benner and Katie Reeves to the Lone Tree Township Board. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Johnson Controls: Moved Weller, second Placke to approve the Commercial Sales Agreement between the County and Johnson Controls with changes proposed for maintenance of the panic buttons for a period of five years for an annual fee of \$535.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

2018-2019 Annual Road report: Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski approve the Chairman signing the NBCS/1A for the 2018-2019 annual road, street, and highway report to be sent to Lincoln. Roll Call: All Ayes.



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Room bookings: Clerk Wichmann the County is exempt when it comes to taxes and Placke had submitted a motel room with taxes and it was paid but not the taxes. The Clerk said the auditor said that it was up to the Board to decide if they want to pay the room tax and then to set a policy. When booking rooms they should say they want it direct billed to the County and if no direct bill has been set up to have the form sent to the County Clerk and she will fill out and return it to get it set up. If taxes are paid on rooms and it is brought up by the auditors, she is the one that has to explain why it was paid. Placke said she had used Expedia to save the County money and used her own credit card and didn't think she could have used direct bill. Wichmann said she would do whatever the Board wanted. Attorney Homolka said by setting a policy the Board could not do case by case because sometimes there are taxes charged like for meals. Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to resubmit Plackes bill due to lack of policy for tax exempt rooms. Roll Call: Ayes: Kreachbaum, Weller, Yrkoski, Kucera, and Wiegert. Nays: None. Abstain: Placke. Board would like clarification from the State Auditors as to meals and other purchase as far as taxing. Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to table setting a policy until they get clarification from the auditors. Roll Call: All Ayes.

October 2019 payroll: The October 2019 payroll was submitted for approval: General: Gross: \$155,146.28 Net: \$108,150.33 Roads: Gross: \$58,335.32 Net: \$41,966.20 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$6,166.08 Net: \$4,020.26. Moved Placke, second Kucera to approve the October 2019 payroll as submitted. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Placke, second Yrkoski to adjourn at 10:24 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk