



Merrick County Board Minutes



May 13, 2020

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 9:05 a.m. by teleconference due to the COVID 19 virus, with Kucera, Yrkoski, Dexter, Kreachbaum, Weller, Placke, 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 Dexter, second Kucera to approve the agenda for May 13, 2020. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2020 meeting as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Weller had a teleconference with Central District Health on Monday, May 11, 2020 and zoom meeting with Bader Park on Wednesday, May 6, 2020; Dexter had a zoom meeting with the Merrick County Economic Development Board on Friday, May 1, 2020 and a web ex with Blue Cross Blue Shield on Thursday, May 7, 2020 and Wiegert had a teleconference with Midland Area on Aging on Thursday, May 7, 2020 and an interlocal meeting with Hamilton County on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Official reports: Extension Educator Tammy Stuhr reported they just finished six weeks of programming online across the County and all 4H activities are virtual until June 15, 2020. County Court Clerk Magistrate Beth Pullen said that she had contacted the Court Administration Office in Lincoln and they requested that a professional cleaning company deep clean the area because it has been compromised because someone had tested positive for COVID. Treasurer Sharon Gilg said tax collections as of end of the April were down a little bit. Gilg also asked the board about putting plexi glass over the windows of some of the offices. Emily Triplett with Long Term Care said that financially they ended the year in the positive. Their current census is 32.

Midland Area on Aging: Casey Muzic, Midland Area on Aging Executive Director said their annual funding request is \$6,002.00 which is the same as last year. Muzic said the annual membership for Merrick County is fiscal year 2021 will remain at the current level of \$1,902.00. The membership fee is used in combination with federal and state funds from the Nebraska Health and Human Services Division of Aging Services for the operation of the Area Agency on Aging Administration Office. This fee also provides for regional services including Senior Legal Aid and Care Advocacy Services in Merrick County. Their funding request from the Merrick County Board for the Good Life Center in fiscal year 2021 remains at the current level of \$4,100.00. The allocation of these funds is to help the Good Life Center provide congregate meals, home delivered meals and social activities at the center.

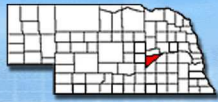
Blue Cross Blue Shield: Moved Dexter, second Kucera to continue the BC/BC health insurance rates that remained the same as last fiscal year with the same amounts paid by the county and the employee as last fiscal year and to have the Chairman sign the Sub Group Application for the 2020-2021 rates. Roll Call: All Ayes.

National Insurance Madison Life: Moved Placke, second Dexter to have the Chairman sign the National Insurance Madison Life LTD and Life Insurance renewal for three years for the employees that are on the Cash in Liu program. The rates did not increase and remained the same as fiscal year 2019-2020. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Bridge repair: Highway Superintendent Meyer said that the Prairie Creek Bridge on J Road between 2nd and 3rd is closed. He has a contractor that is in the area and they can do the work right away. The material will cost \$19,900.00 and the labor cost will be \$19,900.00. Meyer said that because the cost of the material alone and the labor cost alone were both under \$20,000.00 he didn't need the Board's approval but wanted to let the board know.

Adrian Smith: Jared Reimers, District Coordinator with Congressman Adrian Smith's Office in Grand Island gave the Board and update.

2020-2021 raises and budget requests: The Board discussed the flooding and COVID that has been going on that it would be in the best interest to be very frugal this next fiscal year. Assessor Myer said that valuations are down and so are ag valuations. Last year the employees were given a 3% raise and the budgets were allowed to increase by 1 ½%. Some officials said they would forgo their wage increases if they get one so that their employees could have raises but County Attorney Homolka said that by resolution if the CPI was at 0% or less the county official's salary would remain the same as prior year but if above 0% and to 2.5% they would get a raise no matter what along with their deputies. Extension Education Stuhr said she had her budget done and



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approved by the Extension Board and she gave her employees a 2.5% raise. The Board felt they needed to keep cost down. Moved Weller to set the employees raised to 0% and budget increases to 0%. Motion died for lack of second. County Board felt that they needed to keep their budgets as low as possible because of the economic hardship that the flooding and virus have created. Moved Weller, second Kucera to keep the employee raises at 0% and the budget increases at 0%. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2020-15: Moved Weller, second Yrkoski to approve and have the Chairman sign RESOLUTION 2020-15 for the Environmental Services Agreement – BK1701-002 which increases the total cost of the Palmer project by \$5,067.35 in which Merrick County receives a percentage of federal funds back. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-15 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

Bonds: The bonds the County has in place now are with D.A. Davidson. Brad Slaughter with Piper Sandler & Company, told the Board that the current bonds are at a 2.75% rate and they could be dropped down to 1.8 or 1.85. Slaughter had provided figures to the Board on what it would save. Andy Forney with D.A. Davidson went over rates regarding the bonds the county has and said the 4H Bond is not callable until October. Currently the County owes \$860,000.00 for the Courthouse bond and 1.6 million for the 4H Building Bond which is about 1.39% debt to assessed valuation. Forney said the County is in great condition to service any debt. Move Placke, second Dexter to get a disclosure from D.A. Davidson for the next meeting on May 26, 2020. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Region 3: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve the claim for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services in the amount of \$2,848.44 that is a special one-time match request to be used for behavioral health services in the Region 3 area. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2020-16: Moved Placke, second Dexter to direct the Treasurer to pay the Courthouse Bond payment on June 1, 2020 in the amount of \$6,247.50 from the Courthouse Bond Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-16 is on file at the County Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION 2020-17: Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to direct the Treasurer to pay the 4H Building Bond payment due on June 1, 2020 in the amount of \$19,348.75 from the 4H Building P & I Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-17 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

2020-2021 budget: Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve and sign the letter of acceptance to have Dana F. Cole do the 2020-2021 budget not to exceed \$4,590.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

4H arena: Moved Kucera, second Placke to reopen the 4H arena with guidelines being set by the Chairman of the Building Committee and Chairman of the County Board per request from Extension Educator Tammy Stuhr by Monday, May 18, 2020. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Bader Park: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to leave Bader Park open under the Platte Peer Group and County Board guidelines as of May 13, 2020. Roll Call: All Ayes.

COVID 19 expenses: Placke said that she had gone over the NACO guidelines and that the hand sanitizers, drop boxes, and sanitation expenses would be consider refundable COVID expenses. Clerk Magistrate Pullen said that she had contacted Paul Davis in Grand Island and they said that if you wipe and sanitize it is not disinfected unless they fog the air. They charge .60 a square foot plus 15% of that cost for PPE and chemical expenses. No one would be allowed in the building for 24 hours after it is treated. Pullen said this was requested by the Court Administrator's Office. Board said that if they did this, it would have to be the whole courthouse. Board felt that since they still allow people in the courthouse for court that this would need to be done every week. Moved Placke, second Kucera to not act on the Court Administrations request to have the court area deep cleaned by a professional company. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Weller absent at 12:24 p.m.

Windows: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to table the windows for the courthouse until the Board starts working on the budget. Roll Call: All Ayes.

April 2020 fees: Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the April 2020 fees as submitted from the Sheriff, Clerk of District Court, and County Clerk. Roll Call: All Ayes.

May 2020 claims: The May 2020 claims were presented for approval:

GENERAL



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STEVE ADLER	CELL PHONE	\$ 30.00
ZACH AMICK	CELL PHONE	\$ 120.00
ANDERSON CDJR OF GRAND ISLAND	VEHICLE	\$ 24,098.00
APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	SUPPLY/EQUIP	\$ 3,039.38
JAKE BAUER	CELL PHONE	\$ 120.00
AARON BENSON	CELL PHONE	\$ 120.00
PAT BENSON	CELL PHONE	\$ 120.00
BILL'S HOBBY SHOP	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$ 1,671.90
BOB BARKER COMPANY, INC	JAIL SUPPLIES	\$ 859.56
BRADLEY LAW OFFICE, PC	ATTORNEY FEES	\$ 484.50
CHRIS CARLSEN	CELL PHONE	\$ 120.00
CARPET PLUS	BLDG REPAIR	\$ 171.00
CENTRAL CITY MALL	FUEL	\$ 15.75
CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT	CONTRACT	\$ 2,378.40
CENTRAL TRUE VALUE	SUPPLIES	\$ 18.98
CENTRAL TRUE VALUE	REPAIR SUPPLY	\$ 9.99
CENTRAL TRUE VALUE	BLDG REPAIR	\$ 171.41
CITY OF CENTRAL CITY/ MINI BUS	MINI-BUS	\$ 365.83
CITY OF CENTRAL CITY/ UTILITIES	UTILITIES	\$ 2,533.14
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT/CC	COURT COSTS	\$ 329.05
JERRY CLINCH	ATTORNEY FEES	\$ 598.50
COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC COMPANY	BLDG REPAIR	\$ 171.73
CORNER DRUG	PRISONER MEDS	\$ 11.39
BRANDI COUFAL	CELL PHONE	\$ 120.00
CULLIGAN OF GRAND ISLAND	WATER SERVICE	\$ 243.00
DAS STATE ACCOUNT/CENTRAL FINANCE	TECHNOLOGY FEE	\$ 651.92
DES MOINES STAMP	SUPPLIES	\$ 114.65
REINY DICKHAUT	CELL PHONE	\$ 60.00
TIM DIERKS	CELL PHONE	\$ 120.00
DJ DRAMSE	PHONE/SUPPLIES	\$ 142.63
EAGLE BROADBAND INVESTMENTS, LLC	PHONE/INTERNET	\$ 1,756.23
EAGLE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS	IT SECURITY	\$ 123.49
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SUPPLIES	\$ 272.67
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	BALLOT PRODUCT	\$ 2,636.33
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY	CEM CONTRACT	\$ 500.00
GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY	EQUIPMENT	\$ 181.40
GARRETT TIRES & SERVICE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$ 703.51
SHARON GILG	SUPPLIES	\$ 38.31
GRAFTON LAW OFFICE	ATTORNEY FEES	\$ 988.00
GRAND ISLAND RADIOLOGY ASSOCIATES	PRISONER CARE	\$ 242.00
HEARTLAND DISPOSAL	TRASH DISPOSAL	\$ 192.00
LYNELLE HOMOLKA	MISC EXPENSES	\$ 190.00
HOST COFFEE SERVICE	SUPPLIES	\$ 45.99
JACKSON SERVICES	SERVICE SUPPLY	\$ 185.47
JACKSON SERVICES	SERVICE SUPPLY	\$ 182.54



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JENSEN PUBLISHING	PUBLICATION	\$	202.50
JENSEN PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES	\$	70.48
JENSEN PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES	\$	161.00
JENSEN PUBLISHING	PUBLICATIONS	\$	1,683.61
JENSEN PUBLISHING	PUBLICATION	\$	219.12
JENSEN PUBLISHING	PUBLICATION	\$	8.29
JENSEN PUBLISHING/P&Z	PUBLICATION	\$	151.51
KBL CONSTRUCTION INC	BLDG REPAIR	\$	651.14
KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	EQUIP REPAIR	\$	215.68
KAY LYONS	PHONE/MILEAGE	\$	48.51
MAXIMUS CONSULTING SERVICES, INC	CONSULTANT	\$	2,100.00
MCILNAY & CO	A/C REPAIR	\$	375.00
STEVE MELVIN	MILEAGE	\$	31.51
MERRICK CO. COURT	COURT COSTS	\$	220.00
MERRICK CO. HIGHWAY DEPT.	TRANSFER FUNDS	\$	110,341.07
MERRICK CO. TREASURER	MISC EXPENSES	\$	119.24
MERRICK MEDICAL CENTER	PRISONER CARE	\$	6,701.77
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC	EQUIPMENT	\$	35.00
MIDLAND TELECOM, INC.	EQUIP/LABOR	\$	354.68
MIDWEST CONNECT	POSTAGE	\$	290.00
MILLER TIRES & SERVICE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$	853.96
MIPS INC.	SUPPORT	\$	3,398.81
MIPS INC.	SUPPLIES	\$	209.43
	EMERGENCY		
NANCE COUNTY TREASURER	MGMT	\$	4,313.66
NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL	SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$	387.33
NE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	INSTITUTIONS	\$	465.00
NEBRASKA AIR FILTER, INC	SUPPLIES	\$	387.26
NORTHEAST NE JUVENILE SERVICE	INSTITUTIONS	\$	3,761.25
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$	47.43
OFFICENET	SUPPLIES	\$	59.99
OFFICENET	SUPPLIES/EQUIP	\$	235.93
OFFICENET	EQUIPMENT	\$	105.65
OFFICENET	SUPPLIES	\$	89.97
OFFICENET/P&Z	SUPPLIES	\$	49.75
OFFICENET	EQUIPMENT	\$	260.53
OFFICENET, INC.	CONTRACT	\$	196.12
PALMER JOURNAL	PUBLICATION	\$	2,384.63
PALMER JOURNAL	PUBLICATION	\$	36.75
PB & J FLOORING	BLDG REPAIR	\$	311.50
PERSONNEL EVALUATION INC	INVESTIGATIVE	\$	20.00
PINNACLE BANK CC	SUPPLIES	\$	106.07
PLATTE VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS	EQUIPMENT	\$	261.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	INTERNET SRVC	\$	50.08
KIMBERLY J QUANDT, AAL	ATTORNEY FEES	\$	784.00
REGION III BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH SERV	CONTRACT	\$	2,848.44



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SACK LUMBER	BLDG REPAIR	\$	302.44
SACK LUMBER	SUPPLIES	\$	29.93
SAFELITE FULFILLMENT, INC	CAR REPAIR	\$	711.61
SHERRY SIWINSKI	MILEAGE	\$	15.32
STEHLIK LAW FIRM PC, LLO	ATTORNEY FEES	\$	703.00
THE HOME DEPOT PRO	SUPPLIES	\$	20.29
THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	LAW LIBRARY	\$	358.05
TIME KEEPING SYSTEMS, INC	SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$	395.00
TOP QUALITY GLOVES	JAIL SUPPLIES	\$	145.00
TOTAL AUTO BODY	CAR REPAIR	\$	1,384.44
TRAV'S USAVE PHARMACY	OFFICE SUPPLY	\$	161.81
TROUBA LAW OFFICE	ATTORNEY FEES	\$	142.50
U.S. BANK	CONSULTANT	\$	779.81
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (NEOPOST)	POSTAGE	\$	20,000.00
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	POSTAGE	\$	366.00
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN	SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$	13.83
US FOODS DIVISION #2365	JAIL SUPPLIES	\$	1,319.98
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	SUPPLIES/EQUIP	\$	907.70
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	SUPPLIES/EQUIP	\$	973.72
WELLS FARGO VENDOR FIN SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	\$	110.00
JOHN WESTMAN	CELL PHONE	\$	120.00
WEX BANK	FUEL	\$	1,451.55
MARCIA WICHMANN	MILEAGE/PHONE	\$	58.75
WOODHOUSE AUTO FAMILY	VEHICLE	\$	13,299.00
TOTAL		\$	236,623.03

ROADS

AKRS EQUIPMENT	EQUIP REPAIR	\$	151.70
AURORA CO-OP ELEVATOR CO.	FUEL SUPPLIES	\$	1,518.88
BAUM HYDRAULICS	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$	369.09
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	GAS SERVICE	\$	120.75
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	GAS SERVICE	\$	122.77
BOMGAARS	SUPPLY/REPAIR	\$	249.29
BOSELMAN INC/ROADS	OIL/DIESEL	\$	3,188.04
BUTLER COUNTY LANDFILL	MAINTENANCE	\$	40.00
CENTRAL CITY AUTO PARTS/ROADS	REPAIR/SUPPLY	\$	103.56
EAKES OFFICE PLUS INC/ROADS	OFFICE SUPPLY	\$	13.29
FILTER CARE	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$	71.95
FRONTIER COOPERATIVE	FUEL/GREASE	\$	845.64
GROSSHANS, INC./ROADS	EQUIP REPAIR	\$	56.10
HAMILTON TELECOMMUNICATIONS	TELEPHONE	\$	34.95
HERK'S WELDING SHOP	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$	44.51
BUCKY HERMAN	LAND RENTAL	\$	120.00
ISLAND SUPPLY WELDING CO.	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$	61.95
JACKSON SERVICE/ROADS	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$	70.40
JENSEN PUBLISHING/ROADS	PUBLISHING	\$	16.84



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MERRICK CO. TREASURER	ROADS-POSTAGE	\$	23.60
MIPS INC.	SUPPORT	\$	124.68
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT	EQUIP REPAIR	\$	187.16
NEBR. MACHINERY CO.	EQUIPMENT	\$	520.27
NEBR. TRUCK CENTER, INC.	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$	596.76
LEE NEEL	UTILITIES	\$	75.00
NT&T/SHOP	TELEPHONE	\$	58.99
OAK CREEK ENGINEERING	ENGINEER FEES	\$	6,926.00
OFFICENET	OFFICE SUPPLY	\$	76.28
OVERLAND SAND & GRAVEL	GRAVEL	\$	22,994.06
PALMER SERVICE CENTER	FUEL	\$	615.00
PALSER SERVICE/ROADS	TIRE REPAIR	\$	18.00
POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DIST	ELECTRICITY	\$	67.00
SAPP BROS. PETROLEUM	FUEL	\$	8,399.47
SOUTHERN POWER DISTRICT	ELECTRICITY	\$	597.85
VERIZON CONNECT NWF, INC	EQUIPMENT	\$	213.85
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE/EQUIP	\$	108.33
VILLAGE OF CHAPMAN	ELECTRICITY	\$	85.50
VONTZ PAVING INC	GRAVEL	\$	45,271.73
XEROX CORPORATION	OFFICE SUPPLY	\$	120.23
ZEE MEDICAL SERVICE CO.	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$	117.55
TOTAL		\$	94,397.02

LODGING

ABC CLUB	VISITOR PROMO	\$	300.00
BADER PARK-PEER	VISITOR PROMO	\$	500.00
CC AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	VISITOR PROMO	\$	2,000.00
CENTRAL CITY AIRPORT	VISITOR PROMO	\$	500.00
CHAPMAN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOC	VISITOR PROMO	\$	300.00
CLARKS BUSINESS PEOPLE'S ASSOC	VISITOR PROMO	\$	300.00
JENSENS PUBLISHING	PUBLICATION	\$	3.45
LONE TREE LITERARY SOCIETY	VISITOR PROMO	\$	150.00
MERRICK CO. HISTORIC SOCIETY	VISITOR PROMO	\$	1,750.00
PALMER COMMERCIAL CLUB	VISITOR PROMO	\$	300.00
RIVER RATS JEEP JAMBOREE	VISITORS PROMO	\$	150.00
TOTAL		\$	6,253.45

JUVENILE DIVERSION

MERRICK CO. TREASURER	JUVDIV-POSTAGE	\$	23.50
TOTAL		\$	23.50

K-9

COUNTRYSIDE VETERINARY CLINIC	K-9 CARE	\$	25.88
TOTAL		\$	25.88

INHERITANCE

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD	FLOOD PROJECT	\$	158.71
TOTAL		\$	158.71

E911 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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CENTURY LINK	TELEPHONE	\$	271.72
CENTURYLINK	TELEPHONE	\$	223.02
CITY OF G.I. UTILITIES DEPT	UTILITIES	\$	12.00
	EQUIP		
DAS STATE ACCOUNT/CENTRAL FINANCE	AGREEMNT	\$	132.00
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS	TELEPHONE	\$	64.17
GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS	TELEPHONE	\$	215.10
VERIZON	CELL PHONES	\$	400.10
TOTAL		\$	1,318.11

4H BUILDING BOND

CITY OF CENTRAL CITY	UTILITIES	\$	1,191.84
SECURITY EQUIPMENT INC	SECURITY	\$	32.00
TOTAL		\$	1,223.84

Moved Yrkoski, second Kucera to approve the May 2020 claims as submitted. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 1:35 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk