



# Merrick County Board Minutes



**August 25, 2020**

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, August 25, 2020 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, 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 Kreachbaum, second Dexter to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

**Minutes:** Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020 as published. Roll Call: Ayes: Kreachbaum, Yrkoski, Weller, Dexter, Kucera, and Wiegert.

Nays: None. Abstain: Placke.

**Meeting reports:** Weller attended a Bader Park meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 and interview applicants for Building & Grounds with Kucera and Wiegert on Monday, August 17, 2020; Yrkoski had a Community Action Partner meeting in Loup City on Monday, August 17, 2020 and a Long Term Care meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020; Kreachbaum attended the Mid Plains Behavioral meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020; Wiegert went over applicants for Building & Grounds on Friday, August 14, 2020.

**Official's reports:** Treasure Gilg said that she is looking into the 4H Building Bond, Courthouse, Inheritance and 4H P & I Funds going back to 2015 because some figures do not make any sense. She has been in contact with the State Auditor's Office and they agreed that those funds during that time are very confusing. She has also talked to Pat Bolte and Clerk Wichmann. Gilg said that there is no money missing, so there is no fraud but wants to make sure that the monies are where they should be and if there is any monies that need to be paid back from another fund and to make sure there is enough budgeted to make the principal and interest payments for the bonds. Planning & Zoning Lyons said there has been meetings with the subcommittee on wind energy and hopefully present a proposal to the planning commission in September and to the County Board in October. Lyons said she is not getting a lot of new home permits and currently has 76 permits on file and lot of pending permits for other things. Highway Superintendent Meyer said they are finishing up the asphalt this week and will have the bill by next week and will probably need to transfer money from the Inheritance Fund to cover all of that expense. Attorney Homolka had a County Attorney Board meeting they have switched all of their meeting to virtual. She is also on the legislative board and told the Board that if they had any questions on any legislature regarding her offices to let her know.

**Weed Superintendent:** Weed Superintendent Koziol said he has spent a lot of time on phragmites. He said they are working on trying to get a helicopter survey to see if a helicopter can get in there to spray on the Prairie Creek and Wood River. The Platte is constantly being sprayed. Koziol said he did spray north of Silver Creek on June 26, 2020 but got there too late as it should have been done in May. Koziol said he has been sending out letters to people and if nothing happens, he then sends out a 10 day notice. With a 10 day notice they have 10 days to take of the weed problem and if they have not done anything in those 10 days, the County can go and spray and charge the people for it. The charge is double is the County sprays. Koziol said that he gets better results with 10 day notices. Board told Koziol to just send out 10 day notices and if nothing gets done to go and spray and charge the people. Koziol will work with the road graders is finding problem spots.

**Bonds:** Andy Forney with D.A. Davidson said the interest rates have continues to move in favor of the County. Right now looking at a 1.1 to 1.2 % interest rate. RESOLUTION 2020-29 is authorizing the redemption of the County's series 2015, and 2016 limited tax bonds and issuance of limited tax refunding bonds series 2020 & 2021 for the purpose of interest cost savings. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2020-29 authorizing the redemption of the County's series 2015 and 2016 limited tax bonds and issuance of limited tax refunding bonds series 2020 & 2021 for the purpose of interest cost savings. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-29 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.



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**Preliminary tax requests:** Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve the preliminary tax requests for Platte Valley Rural Fire for General Fund \$22,500.00 and Sinking Fund \$22,500.00, Clarks Rural Fire General Fund \$23,000.00 and Sinking Fund \$34,000.00 and Central City Fire General Fund \$85,000.00 and Bond Fund \$125,000.00 for fiscal year 2020-2021. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Planning & Zoning appointment:** Moved Weller, second Kucera approve the appointment of Rick Harrahill to the Planning and Zoning Commission to represent Palmer. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Building & Grounds:** The personnel committee had seven applications submitted for the Building & Grounds position and interviewed four of them. They decided on Doug Maw. They also need to set a beginning wage. The County Board felt that a starting wage of \$17.50 and after probation a raise to \$18.00. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to set a beginning wage of \$17.50 for the Building & Grounds position and to increase it to \$18.00 after the probation period and to hire Doug Maw for the Building & Grounds position. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Inventories:** Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to sign and approve the 2020 Building & Grounds and Extension Inventories. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**RESOLUTION 2020-28:** Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2020-28 to place the question of elimination of office of elected County Surveyor on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-28 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

**Email service:** Moved Kucera, second Dexter to go with Applied Connective for email service for a total quote of \$804.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**August 2020 payroll:** The August 2020 payroll was submitted for approval: General: Gross: \$163,557.11, Net: \$114,232.62, Roads: Gross: \$58,694.19, Net: \$42,288.71, Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$6,016.69, Net: \$3,805.68. Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to approve the August 2020 payroll as submitted. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**2020-2021 budget:** Mitch Inman with Dana F. Cole presented a draft of the 2020-2021 budget to the County Board. Inman said that the levy was down from last year. The levy last year was 0.245969 and this year it is 0.245902 and the cash reserve was in good shape. The County Board asked Inman if the levy would change if they were to approve a 1.5 % raise for the employees and Inman said that Clerk Wichmann figured it would be about \$25,000.00 more for the budget and that could be taken out of the cash reserves so it would not affect the levy. Clerk Wichmann will email all of the official's and have them do a 1.5% increase on wages for their employees for 2021 and have the figures to Inman by Thursday a.m.

**Adjourn:** Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to adjourn at 11:48 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk