



Merrick County Board Minutes



September 22, 2020

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, September 22, 2020 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Yrkoski, Dexter, Kreachbaum, 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 Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Minutes: Moved Yrkoski, second Dexter to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Weller attended the Drug Court Graduation on September 14, 2020; Dexter attended the Merrick County Economic Board on September 11, 2020; Yrkoski attended the open house for Central Action Partners on September 9, 2020, the zoom meeting on September 15, 2020 with Central Action Partners, and the Long Term Care meeting on September 16, 2020; Kreachbaum sat on the Central City City Council meeting last Monday, and Kucera attended the Mid Nebraska meeting on September 16, 2020.

Official's reports: County Attorney Homolka said the County Attorney Association continuing education meetings will all be virtual. Homolka said the dispatch interlocal meeting scheduled for yesterday was cancelled. They have received a response from Hamilton County and will be negotiating with Hamilton County on their response. Assessor Myers said they have four TERC hearings Thursday, September 24, 2020 at the Law Enforcement Center in Grand Island and have two cases that were filed against this year's valuation.

Long Term Care: Emily Triplett said they have an admission today and one tomorrow. New admissions have to be quarantined for fourteen days because of COVID. They have an opening for a night nurse and cook and have hired a new maintenance person. Their financials were a negative \$10,363.00 because they have had a lot of maintenance costs for about \$8,000.00 and it cost \$975.00 for one box of test kits. They have to test their employees every week. They have received funding for the kits but it is not reflected in the reports given to the County Board. They have approved a 3% room increase and are still competitive.

Electric Agreement: Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to approve and sign the Electrical Agreement between Merrick County and Deen and Caron Albert to install power for a house and out buildings between Sections 29 & 32, Township 14, Range 5. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Electric Agreement: Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve and sign the Electrical Agreement between Merrick County and Steve Hameloth in Section 33, Township 15, Range 8 to bury an electrical line from SPPD pole to new garage at 2515 3rd Road, Palmer, NE. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Wellness Partners: Kucera asked the Board if they wanted to continue the Wellness Partner clinic at the courthouse and it was decided that they would. It will be in November.

RESOLUTION 2020-32: Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2020-32 directing the County Treasurer to transfer \$254,035.28 from the 4H Building Fund to the 4H Building P & I Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-32 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

Parcels: Moved Kucera, second Placke to have the parcels that did not sell at the public tax sale go to the County tax sale. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2020-33: Moved Placke, second Dexter to approving the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Road Fund in twelve payments for fiscal year 2020-2021. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-33 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

RESOLUTION 2020-34: Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approving the transfer of \$5,654.00 from the General Fund to the Juvenile Diversion Fund for the budgeted 2020-2021 fiscal year. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-34 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.



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Central Plains LLC contracts: Assessor Myers presented a contract for maintenance and one for rural revals with Central Plains LLC for property appraisals. The maintenance contract is for \$125.00 per hour per man up to a total of \$25,000.00 and for an additional \$3,00.00 for miscellaneous and \$4,000.00 for TERC and the rural reval is for \$125.00 per hour per man, up to a total of \$10,000.00. Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to approve and sign the maintenance and rural reval contracts with Central Plains LLC for property appraisals

Hearing 10:00 a.m.: Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to open the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. regarding the proposed issuance by the County of its revenue bond, in a principal amount to not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 for the benefit of Merrick Medical Center. Roll Call: All Ayes. Mike Rogers with Gilmore Bell said that the reason for these bonds is so that the Merrick Medical Center can get a tax exempt bond because they are a 501C3. The City of Central City is also helping with this project in the same role. The payments will be up to Bryan Health and not the County. This will not require any tax money. These bonds means Pinnacle Bank, the lender, will not have to pay taxes on the interest. Patrick Avala, the new administrator at Merrick Medical Center said it will be a benefit for the county because the \$10,000,000.00 will stay in Central City. They have a lot specialist that have contacted them about coming to the new center. Avala said the new center will improve access to medical needs, behavioral health needs, and wellness programs. Dr. Tracy Diechmann said the new hospital will have six inpatient beds, seven universal care rooms, two large emergency rooms, one operating room, and special clinic rooms. The new hospital will be built so that it can be expanded. The money will help purchase medical equipment that specialist will need to work here. There will be no obstetrics. Dr. Sam Krug said his children were born in Hastings and that he was very glad they went to a doctor that specializes in obstetrics because both deliveries were very risky and he was thankful that they went to a doctor that does obstetrics day in and out and that is all they do. Moved Placke, second Dexter to close the hearing at 11:14 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2020-35: Moved Dexter, second Placke to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2020-35 authorizing the issuance of Revenue Bonds, Series 2020, in a principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 for the purpose of making a loan to Merrick Medical Center, authorizing the execution and delivery of certain documents with the issuance of such bonds, and approving related matters. Roll Call: Ayes: Kreachbaum, Kucera, Yrkoski, Placke, Dexter, and Wiegert. Nays: Weller. RESOLUTION 2020-35 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

August 2020 fees: Moved Placke, second Yrkoski to approve and sign the August 2020 fees from the Clerk of District Court, Sheriff, and County Clerk. Roll Call: All Ayes.

September 2020 payroll: The September 2020 payroll was presented to the Board: General: Gross: \$159,624.05 Net: \$112,319.64 Roads: Gross: \$59,113.91 Net: \$42,535.41 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$6,374.64 Net: \$4,069.51. Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve and sign the September 2020 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk