



Merrick County Board Minutes



December 22, 2020

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, December 22, 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 Placke, second Yrkoski to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Kucera, second Weller to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 with the correction of Kreachbaum voting nay to the Interlocal between Merrick County and the City of Central City for dirt work, snow removal among other things. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Weller helped with Santa Cop on December 20th and 21st; Dexter has a SCEDD meeting on December 10 and a safety meeting on December 15; Yrkoski had a Long Term Care meeting on December 15; Kreachbaum helped with Santa Cop on December 21st; Kucera helped with Santa Cop on December 18th, 20th, and 21st and Wiegert had a zoom meeting with NACO on December 10 and helped with Santa Cop on December 18th, 20th, and 21st.

Official's reports: Assessor Myers said Merrick County is a test County for the homestead exemption application process and that her office sent out the personal property schedules a week ago. Veteran Service Officer, Tom Reimers presented his third quarter report and said his numbers were down in the third quarter but they are going up in the fourth quarter and he continues to get new veterans. Extension Educator Stuhr said the new 4H Council starts on January 4, 2021 and they will have two new members. The Extension Board starts on January 6, 2021. They are starting spin clubs that can meet virtual or in person. They also need rifle and pistol instructors. January 28, 2021 is Ag Day and pesticide training is in January also which you have to pre-register for. March 9, 2021 is County Government Day with an alternative date of March 2, 2021. Stuhr also introduced her and Steve Melvin's Supervisor, Hilary Maricle. Maricle said her official office is in Boone County and she is getting University resources out to students. County Attorney Homolka and County Clerk Wichmann helped with Santa Cop.

Long Term Care: Emily Triplett said that at their meeting there was a concern regarding email communications between the facility, the visitation policy at the facility and concerns of isolation. Triplett said the positivity rates by CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a division of the Federal Government) is 23.4%. If the positivity rates gets below 10% they are prepared for indoor visits. Kucera said the rate was 18.6% but Triplett said that was by the Health Department rate which is different. Long Term Care is still a red facility and they are governed by CMS. Triplett says they have a new program call ever sound that people can use to visit with patients and they can take residents out to necessary medical visits. Kucera asked about tents and heaters for visits and said that she knew a family would that would pay for it and Triplett said they had looked into that but you have to find a heater that the State Fire Marshall will approve. Kreachbaum will call the Fire Marshall and see what kind of heater would be approved. They do allow hospice into the facility and vaccinations will be given December 28th or January 4 but they are not required.

Extension Board Members: Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to appoint Lori Cave and Nathan Carlson to the Extension Board. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Snow blade: Chairman Wiegert said that he and Dexter had talked to Building and Grounds Doug Maw and Maw said that what he found for blades for the mower were after marks and he would have to drill holes in the mower, so he thought it would be better if they wait and looks later for a snow blade for the mower.

RESOLUTION 2020-46: Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to approve and have the Chairman sign RESOLUTION 2020-46 Amended Interlocal for the replacement of a timber bridge between "AA" Road and Cushing Road between Merrick County and Howard County with 80% of the cost paid by a federal grant and



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Howard and Merrick paying 10% each for the remainder of the costs. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-46 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

Crane truck: Highway Superintendent Meyer asked the Board's permission to advertise for a special purchase and to invite any bids for a crane truck. He would like to replace a 1984 boom truck. Meyer said he needs to advertise five days ahead of meeting. Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to give permission to Highway Superintendent Meyer to advertise for a special purchase and invite any bids for a crane truck. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2020-47: Highway Superintendent Meyer said this was for \$6,690.00 and that amount was for the extra environmental services they did for Project No. BRO-7061(2) and will be added on to amount from a previous agreement. Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve and have the Chairman sign RESOLUTION 2020-47 for an Environmental Services Supplemental Agreement No. 3 between Merrick County and Felsburg Holt & Ullevig for Project No. BRO-7061(27), Control No. 42335 for Palmer Northwest. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2020-47 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

Resolution extension: Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to renew Resolution 2020-12 for employee accommodations related to Coronavirus Pandemic, subject to guidelines previously established by the Department of Labor regarding the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, notwithstanding the expiration of the same. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Dispatching: County Attorney Homolka had drafted an Amended Interlocal Agreement between Merrick and Hamilton Counties for dispatching. In the amended version, Merrick County shall pay to Hamilton County on an annual basis beginning January 1, 2021 the sum of \$165,000.00 in return for Hamilton to provide the services, subject to an increase annually of 2% to account for operating costs increases for so long as the agreement remains in effect. The payment shall be remitted to Hamilton County on a quarterly basis every year upon receipt of an invoice. The Sheriff of each respective county shall meet monthly, together with Dispatch Administrative personnel to review call volumes and dispatch protocols and refer any request for modification to this agreement to the Joint Committee referenced herein, which shall meet and report any requested modifications to the respective County Board of Supervisors not less than ninety days prior to the fiscal year ending. The Public Service Commission funds are not called service system funds. Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to approve and have the Chairman sign the Amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Dispatching of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services between Merrick County and Hamilton County and send it to Hamilton County for their approval. Roll Call: All Ayes.

December 2020 payroll: The December 2020 payroll was presented for approval: General: Gross: \$159,103.70, Net: \$111,208.37 Roads: Gross: \$56,198.09, Net: \$40,115.38, Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$6,314.43, Net: \$4,025.18. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve the December 2020 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk