



Merrick County Board Minutes



March 23, 2021

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Yrkoski, Dexter, Weller, Kreachbaum and Wiegert present. Placke was absent. Deputy County Attorney Kunz 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. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to rescind the motion to approve the agenda and make the correction of adding official's reports and meeting reports. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kucera, second Weller to approve the agenda with the corrections. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

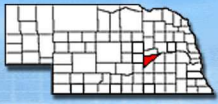
Meeting reports: Dexter attended the safety meeting on March 17, 2021, NACO Central District meeting on March 18, 2021 and Lynelle Homolka's swearing in on March 19, 2021; Weller attended the NACO Central District meeting on March 19, 2021; Yrkoski attended the Central Community Action meeting on March 16, 202, Long Term Care meeting on March 17, 2021 and Lynelle's swearing in on March 19, 2021; Kreachbaum attended the 4H Building Overseers meeting on March 15, 2021, and the 4H pancake feed on March 14, 2021; Kucera attended the Mid Nebraska Individual Services meeting on March 17, 2021, Lynelle's swearing in on March 19, 2021, and 4H pancake feed on March 14, 2021, and Wiegert attended the 4H Building Overseers meeting on March 15, 2021, NACO Central District meeting on March 18, 2021, and Lynelle's swearing in on March 19, 2021.

Official's reports: Assessor Myers told the Board that has been taking the professional academy courses from NACO. It is a 16 week course and she said she is advocating that other officials take this course. Clerk Wichmann told the Board that the County received \$223,829.35 for the COVID relief and will be getting an estimated 1.5 million from the American Rescue Plan and Merrick County would receive the first half payment of \$750,000.00 in May. This qualified Merrick County for a federal audit.

Long Term Care: Emily Triplett said the census is at 29 today and they will be collecting two locals from the Fullerton center, so after this week the census will be at 31. They are currently looking for two night nurses, one day nurse and one CAN. They are currently have a four star rating and looking at going to a five star rating. They did wage increases of 3.5% because there were no raises in 2020 because of COVID. Merrick County is currently at a green status for COVID so they can have indoor visiting, but masks are required, they must stay six feet apart but they can touch.

Board meeting date change: Moved Weller, second Yrkoski to move the last meeting in April to Monday, April 26, 2021 instead of Tuesday, April 27, 2021 because of the Arbor Day Holiday interfering with payroll. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Midland Area on Aging: Casey Muzic with Midland presented their 2021-2022 annual funding request in the amount of \$11,002.00. Muzic said the annual membership for Merrick County in 2022 will remain at the current level of \$1,902.00 and 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 administrative office. This fee also provides for regional services including Senior Legal Aid and Care Advocacy Services in Merrick County. The funding for the Good Life Center in fiscal year 2021 remains at \$9,100.00. This amount reflects an additional \$5,000.00 that was previously paid to the City of Central City for the public transportation local match. The allocation of these funds is to help the Good Life Center provide congregate meals, home delivered meals, social activities, and public transportation at the Center. Midland will lease the buses from the City of Central



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City for the public transportation and will be opening up for hair appointments and grocery runs beside the medical runs. They are hoping to reopen the Senior Center on May 1, 2021.

Pipeline agreement: Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve and have the Chairman sign the Irrigation Pipe Line Agreement between Merrick County and John Hovie to bury an irrigation pipe between Sections 33 and 34, Township 12, Range 8. Roll Call: All Ayes.

County Attorney contract: The personnel committee met and interviewed Dale Shotkoski for the County Attorney position. Mr. Shotkoski has been a County Attorney for Merrick County before. Mr. Shotkoski took a lot of time going around the courthouse to make sure this was something he wanted to do. The personnel committee thought that \$90,000.00 a year with no increase for 2 years would be a good offer and have put that into the contract. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to offer a contract to Mr. Dale Shotkoski for the County Attorney position and have the Chairman contact Mr. Shotkoski today after the meeting and offer the position to him. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2021-5: Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera approve and have the Chairman sign RESOLUTION 2021-5 authorizing the County Treasurer and County Clerk to establish a COVID American Rescue Plan Fund (2580) created for the purpose of receiving and expending monies for the COVID American Rescue Plan. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2021-5 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

RESOLUTION 2021-6: Treasurer Gilg told the Board that RESOLUTION 2021-6 would not be needed today because they had a good day of collections yesterday so she does not need to transfer any funds.

Drainage: Lonny Duennerman of 498 2nd Road, told the Board that there was a drainage issue that they have been dealing with for a few years now. Duennerman said there is a hole in the culvert and the willows need to be cleaned out of the ditches. Mr. Duennerman passed around pictures that he had taken. Some of the Board members were going to drive over to where this drainage problem is and take a look. Highway Superintendent Meyer said he was going to take a look also.

March 2021 payroll: The March 2021 payroll was presented for approval: General: Gross: \$147,299.56 Net: \$103,456.33, Roads: Gross: \$53,914.89 Net: \$ 38,483.93, Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$5,779.42 Net: \$ 3,635.69. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve the March 2021 payroll as presented.

Adjourn: Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to adjourn at 10:43 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk