

Merrick County Board Minutes



May 25, 2021

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Yrkoski, Dexter, Kreachbaum, Placke, Weller, and Wiegert present. County Attorney Shokoski 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 Placke to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 with the correction of Placke attended the tour of the hospital and Long Term on May 10, 2021. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Weller attended the Central District Health meeting on May 17, 2021 and the Bader Park meeting on May 18, 2021; Dexter had a zoom meeting on May 13, 2021 with the Institute of Excellence; Dexter and Wiegert attended on May 18, 2021 the safety meeting with Terry Baxter from NIRMA on May 18, 2021; Dexter, Wiegert, and Placke attended the Budget Workshop in Columbus on May 14, 2021; Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, attended Jake Bauer's promotion reception on May 17, 2021; Dexter, Yrkoski, and Kreachbaum attended a meeting with the Union on May 17, 2021; Yrkoski attended the Central Nebraska Action Partnership in Loup City on May 18, 2021 and the Long Term Care meeting on May 19, 2021; Kreachbaum attended the Mid Plains Behavioral meeting on May 19, 2021 and on May 24, 2021 he attended a meeting with the Emergency Manager for the budget request.

Official's report: Veteran Service Officer Tom Reimers reported that more people have come in for help. He had three new veterans that came in for help in the last quarter and seven that either passed away or moved. Reimers told the Board that LB 261 is now including the National Guard to be eligible for grave markers. Reimers said this will affect the County because it will add more expense to his budget. LB508 is still in hearing but it would provide motor vehicle tax exemptions for certain veterans and spouses. Highway Superintendent Meyer said he is waiting for another bid for the demolition of the Chapman Shop. Denise Ziemba, Emergency Manager had been nominated for Emergency Manager of the Year. She was also nominated by PET to attend an international emergency management meeting in Michigan. Ziemba will also come to the courthouse on Thursday, May 27, 2021 and take pictures and information for identification badges for all Merrick County employees and officials between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. because there are several employees with expired badges and some that do not have badges. Ziemba said that she had applied for a grant and it will be received in July that would cover the cost of an identification printer for the County that has been discussed.

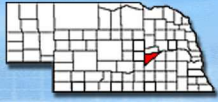
Long Term Care: Emily Triplett reported that Long Term Care is financially on budget. The health insurance cost for employees has increased by \$17,000.00 to \$18,000.00 along with an increase in cost of supplies, and fire door inspection. The census today is 29 with two referrals. Her Board approved \$10,000.00 to purchase a smaller handicapped van. Diane Reeves is moving to Columbus and her last meeting was last week. She approached Judy Ritta about being on the Board. Triplett will check on their by-laws about appointing someone to their Board that does not live in the County, but owns property in the County.

District Court surplus: Moved Placke, second Kucera to have the District Court Clerk dispose of two office chairs as she see fit that no longer are useable. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Noxious Weed report: The Board would like the noxious weed report on the next meetings' agenda

Vontz contract: Moved Kucera, second Placke to approve and have the Chairman sign the Vontz contract for the 2021 overlay on the Ormsby. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Grand Island Area Clean Community System: Moved Placke, second Dexter to receive the Grand Island Area Clean Community System tax request for the 2021-2022 fiscal year for \$1,000.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.



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CPNRD: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to receive the Central Platte NRD co-sponsored project amount for the fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$1,111.45. Roll Call: All Ayes.

District 5 Probation: The District 5 Probation budget request for fiscal year 2021-2022 for \$17,363.66 was presented to the Board. This is an increase of \$351.28 from last year. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to table this until the June 8, 2021 meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes.

2021-2022 budget: Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to allow a 2% increase for wages and a 0% increase for expenses for all County offices and if they request more, the official must defend their reason to the Board. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Hospital and Long Term Care: Dexter said when they did the tour of the hospital and Long Term Care, Long Term Care wanted to put a firewall up between the hospital portion and long term care. There are also major repairs that are needed for heating and cooling. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to table until after the ARPA fund spending discussion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The County Board would like to sell the property to Good Samaritan because they would like to keep Long Term Care. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to authorize to begin negotiations for the transfer of Long Term Care to Good Samaritan. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ARPA Funds spending: County Attorney Shotkoski said that there are four things that the ARPA funds can be used and they are health care (jail heating and air, nursing home heating and air, jail infection control), premium pay (to employees that had to be on the job during COVID), congregate care, and broadband (to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access. Some of the Board thought the money should be used on something that would benefit the whole County. County Attorney Shotkoski said the boards are encouraged to have a public meeting on how the funds should be used and this is a public meeting. Dexter said at the Budget workshop, they were told not to spend the money right away because there would be more information coming out. If you spend the money on health care, premium pay, or congregate care you have less time to spend and with broadband you are given more time so that you can get contracts lined up.

Handbook: Moved Placke, second Yrkoski to adopt the new handbook with the correction of the introduction period being changed from three months to six months, new date on the cover page, and the deletion of the sentence that says that regular full time benefits will be given after the introduction period because new employees receive benefits when they start working. Roll Call: All Ayes.

County Clerk pledge securities: Moved Placke, second Kucera to approve the security pledge from Pinnacle Bank for the County Clerk accounts. Roll Call: All Ayes.

McInay & Company quote: Moved Dexter, second Kreachbaum to approve the quote from McInay & Company to service twelve A/C units for \$960.00 in the spring and twelve furnaces for \$540.00 in the fall. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Budget contract: Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to have the Chairman sign the contract with Dana F. Cole & Company to do the 2021-2022 budget not to exceed \$5,100.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Executive session: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to go into an executive session at 11:47 a.m. with respect of potential litigation. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to go out of executive session at 12:03 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Executive session: Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to go into executive session at 12:04 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to go out of executive session at 12:50 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Village interlocals: Moved Dexter, second Kucera to enter into Interlocal Agreements with the Village of Chapman Village, Village of Silver Creek, and Village of Palmer to provide Planning and Zoning services for \$1,400.00 for each village. Roll Call: All Ayes.

May 2021 payroll: The May 2021 payroll was presented for approval: General: Gross: \$153,606.24 Net: \$106,938.85, Roads: Gross: \$54,557.44 Net: 39,024.49 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$6,263.33 Net: \$3,992.57. Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve the May 2021 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to adjourn at 1:05 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk



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