



Merrick County Board Minutes



July 27, 2021

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 9:08 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Kreachbaum, Yrkoski, Placke, Dexter, Weller, and Wiegert present. County Attorney Shotkoski and Deputy County Clerk Strobel were 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 given 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 9:08 a.m. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:08 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

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

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve the minutes from July 13, 2021 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Meeting Reports: Meeting attendance for the Supervisors are as follows: Weller-CDHD July 19; Dexter-Extension July 19; Yrkoski-Long Term Care July 21; Kreachbaum-4H Building Committee July 14 & Mid-Plains Behavioral July 26; Wiegert-4H Over-Seers July 19.

Officials Reports: Veteran Service Officer Reimers handed out the Quarterly Report for the board's viewing. Treasurer Gilg informed the board of a new employee, Bailey Krieger, for the position in her office.

Long Term Care Board Approval: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to appoint Courtney Retzlaff to the Long Term Care Board. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

BOE/BOS Meetings: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve moving the Tuesday, August 10th Board of Equalization and Board of Supervisors meetings to Monday, August 9th. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Contract Approval: Moved Kucera, second, Yrkoski to approve the contracts with Central Plains Valuation LLC for Maintenance and Residential Village and City Improvements. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Distress Warrant Report: Treasurer Gilg submitted the Distress Warrant Report for approval of the board. Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the Distress Warrant Report. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Semi-Annual Report: Treasurer Gilg presented the board with the Semi-Annual Report.

Updated Pledged Securities: Treasurer Gilg submitted the Updated Pledged Securities to the board for approval. Moved Kucera, second Placke to approve the Updated Pledged Securities as submitted. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Cody's Computers: Cody Lawson emailed an explanation of a managed cloud backup service to prevent any data loss to the county's computers. Due to the increased risk of ransomware attacks, Cody explained what the protection would entail including an estimate of approximately \$50-\$65 per department. The county would be exempt from any service, setup or recovery fees as part of the current contract. Moved Kucera, second Weller to approve the county to have Cody's Computers provide a managed cloud backup service for the county offices. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Surplus Items: Deputy County Clerk Strobel spoke with Cody Lawson, beforehand, regarding surplus items, such as monitors, computer towers, keyboards, etc. Cody's Computers would make sure everything is secured before taking them on to a recycling center. There would be no charge for the service as this is included in the current contract. Mike Meyers told the board there is a 1968 Chevrolet Flatbed he would like to surplus. Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve the surplus items as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried

9:45 Conference Call: Jared Reimers, Congressman Adrian Smith's District Coordinator based out of the Grand Island office gave an update via conference call. He reminded the board his office is used primarily to provide congressional case work assistance to any entity that resides within the 3rd District.

He stated at this time, there is "no clear direction" from the administration on how the money is to be spent the counties received from the American Rescue Plan Funds. Congressman Smith is opposed to 30x30. The main reason being, as far as The House is concerned, they have not received any information from the Executive Branch with the exception of a basic proposal. The House has not received much information since the original Executive Order in January.

L Road: Dick Johnson approached the board with continued concerns for not only himself, but other residents at Grigsby Estates regarding L Road. There is continued growth of traffic and he would like to see it set as a priority to get the road fixed because he believes there will be an accident. The dry conditions make the dust worse & the road is in less than desirable condition.

CDHD: Teresa Anderson with Central District Health Dept. gave an update on COVID-19 and close contact investigation. The board questioned why Hamilton County does not help fund the CDHD, but yet gets the same services as Merrick County. Merrick County pays \$28,521.25 a year as requested by the CDHD. Anderson said they send out the



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same budget request to Hamilton County, however, she will address the matter again to see if they would be willing to help with the funding this year.

Weed Superintendent: Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to accept Dean Hartwig's application for employment as the Weed Superintendent. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Vehicle: The board decided to look into a vehicle purchase for the Weed Superintendent position until purchase is made, the Weed Superintendent would be paid mileage. The budget for the vehicle purchase would be \$20,000 to \$25,000.00. Wiegert and Myers will speak with Hartwig to decide what style of pickup he would like to use in order to perform the weed management.

Emergency Management: Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to go into Executive Session at 11:31 a.m. for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried. Moved Dexter, second Placke to go out of Executive Session at 12:08 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Entities: Budget requests that were received in the Clerk's office were presented to the board for review.

FY 2021-2022 Budget: The board reviewed the Estimated Budget Worksheets presented by Deputy County Clerk Strobel. General Budget needs to be increased by \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the purchase of a vehicle for the Weed Superintendent, as well as the cloud backup service from Cody's Computers as discussed.

July 2021 Payroll: The July 2021 Payroll was presented for approval: General Gross: \$165,958.94, Net: \$115,446.91; Roads Gross: \$62,687.97, Net: \$45,022.11; Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$7,278.43, Net: \$4,927.28. Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve the July 2021 payroll as submitted. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried.

Adjourn: Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 12:47 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion: Carried
/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, Deputy County Clerk