



Merrick County Board Minutes



September 27, 2021

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Monday, September 27, 2021 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Yrkoski, Dexter, Kreachbaum, Weller, and Wiegert present. Placke was absent. 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 Kreachbaum, second Dexter to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Yrkoski to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Weller attended the Bader Park meeting on September 21, 2021 and they hired a new director, Hannah Clark; Dexter attended the hospital meeting on September 16, 2021 and on September 21, 2021 had a safety meeting; Dexter, Kucera, & Wiegert attended the Central District Meeting in Kearney on September 16, 2021; Dexter & Wiegert met with the new Emergency Manager on September 17, 2021 to discuss the NRD mitigation; Kucera attended the MNIS meeting on September 15, 2021, Kreachbaum visited with the new Emergency Manager; and Wiegert met with Patrick Avila regarding the new hospital.

Official's reports: There were no official's reports.

Long Term Care: Emily Triplett said that the census was at 29 today and they were in the black financially. Triplett said they had a pretty solid month. They had a fire panel that was struck by lightning and the total cost to repair will be \$25,000.00. After insurance, the hospital will pay \$3,500.00 for the repair. Triplett said that Merrick County is now the color red for COVID and that all of their staff and residents are fully vaccinated.

Long Term Care bid: Tyson Benner said that a new bid had been prepared and given to the County Attorney to look over. County Attorney Shotkoski had asked for more language in regards to what services would qualify for COVID funds. The new bid is for \$20,000.00. Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to accept the bid from Prochaska & Associates for \$20,000.00 and use the COVID funds for the preliminary engineering design and planning services for the renovation and replacement of the Litzenberg Long Term Care facility mechanical & electrical systems. Roll Call: All Ayes.

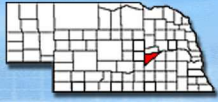
Broadband: Noah Luebbe said he just wanted to come to the Board and just try to get a ball rolling on broadband for the rural areas. Jim Ediger and Pat Shaw with Hamilton Communications were also present. Ediger & Shaw said they were there mainly to listen and said they would like to be part of the solution. Ediger said that Century Link and LTD are the only two providers currently in Merrick County. Shaw said that the cost for 1 mile of fiber is \$15,000.00 to \$17,000.00 and that was for the infrastructure along the road. Carly Johnson also was present and both Johnson & Luebbe said that they are without broadband for at least a week a month. They both have LTD.

Wholeness healing: Brenda Branstiter with Wholeness Healing EAP said their main office is in Grand Island. They offer traditional counseling and holistic. EAP stands for employee assistance program. They offer telehealth and face to face. The cost to the county is based on the number of employees. Branstiter said that one session would normally cost \$165.00, but based on sixty employees, the cost would be \$50.00 per employee. The Board asked Branstiter to write up a proposal for them.

Special Designated Liquor License: Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to approve and have the Chairman sign the Special Designated Liquor License for the Eagles Club #3795 for a wedding reception at the 4-H Building on November 13, 2021. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Pledge securities: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve the pledge securities presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: All Ayes.

2021 Inventories: Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to approve and sign the 2021 inventories from the Assessor, Building & Grounds, Clerk, Election Commissioner, Juvenile Diversion, District Court, District 5 Probation,



Merrick County Board Minutes



Treasurer, Attorney, Veteran Service, Region 44 Emergency Manager, Highway Superintendent/Surveyor, & Sheriff. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Rubber tire excavator bids: Bids were received from Murphy Tractor and Nebraska Machinery Co. for rubber tire excavators. The bid from Murphy Tractor was for the 2021 rubber tire excavator at \$291,750.00 less \$40,000.00 for a trade in for a 2009 Cat. M315D Wheeled Excavator plus \$11,000.00 for a 2D controller for a total bid of \$262,750.00. The delivery date of September 2022 for a 2022 and they have a 2021 in stock. The bid from Nebraska Machinery was \$308,800 for a 2022 wheeled hydraulic Caterpillar excavator less trade in of \$36,575.00 for the 2009 Cat. M315D Wheeled Excavator for a net bid of \$272,225.00. Moved Kucera, second Weller to accept the bid from Murphy Tractor for a bid of \$291,750.00 less trade in if \$40,000.00 plus \$11,000.00 for 2D control. Roll Call: Ayes: Yrkoski, Dexter, Weller, Kucera, and Wiegert. Nays: Kreachbaum.

gWorks: Clerk Wichmann said this tab Clerk/Election Commissioner tab help make redistricting better for her office. Wichmann said that the Election tab was added for just the basic service, but now that legislature had made everything harder and with more of a time constraint, plus the fact that at some point all entity maps will have to be digitized, Wichmann said it would save a lot of time and gWorks also told Wichmann they could save her money on ballots. The cost to implement this tab is a onetime fee of \$3,500.00 and an annual fee of \$4,500.00. The annual cost for this year would be prorated. They will provide training upon completion, and five hours of support yearly. Moved Dexter, second Kreachbaum to approve and sign the contract for the implementation of a Clerk/Election Commissioner WebGIS tab. Roll Call: All Ayes.

September 2021 Payroll: The September 2021 payroll was presented to the Board for approval: General: Gross: \$170,578.35 Net: \$118,622.98 Roads: Gross: \$67,969.74 Net: \$48,821.03 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$3,950.40 Net: \$2,405.25. Moved Dexter, second Yrkoski to approve the September 2021 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk