



Merrick County Board Minutes



October 26, 2021

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Kreachbaum, Yrkoski, Placke, Dexter, Weller, and Wiegert. County Attorney Shotkoski 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 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 9:05 a.m. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:52 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Agenda: Moved Dexter, second Placke to approve the agenda as presented with the correction of the spelling of Royal. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Kucera to approve the minutes from October 12, 2021 as published. All Ayes.

Meeting Reports: Weller attended the NIRMA Conference on Thursday, October 21, 2021; Dexter, Placke, Kucera, and Wiegert attended the NIRMA Conference on Thursday, October 21 and Friday, October 22, 2021 in Kearney & Yrkoski attended the Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership in Loup City on October 18, 2021 and the Long Term Care meeting on October 19, 2021.

Official's reports: Sheriff Westman said they are have a pumpkin decorating on Friday, October 29, 2021 for all courthouse personnel at 2:00 p.m. This is something where all of the employees, including night shift employees could come and get to know each other. They are already getting a lot of names for Santa Cop. Jenna Clark, the new Emergency Manager introduced herself to the Board and told them that she had worked for NEMA and had obtained her degree from UNO for Emergency Management. She informed the Board that she is working on an active shooter drill at the hospital in December and that the first phase of the mitigation plan for Merrick County with the Central Platte NRD. Extension Educator Stuhr said the 4H Achievement Party is Sunday, October 30, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. with a costume party at 2:00 p.m. County Clerk Wichmann told the Board that she will be out of the office for medical leave starting November 5, 2021 for about 2 ½ weeks.

Fire alarm monitoring: Extension Educator Stuhr presented a contract changing the Fire Alarm Monitoring System to Electronic Systems, Inc. The current contract was signed in 2016 for a five year commitment with SEI. That contract says the County has to give a thirty day notice to terminate. The new contract would save the County \$7.00 a month. With the new contract the techs would come out to work on the system and there will be no middle of the night calls from them. Currently, Stuhr has to call SEI and give them the OK to work on the system. Moved Dexter, second Kreachbaum to with SEI a thirty day notice to terminate the current contract. Roll Call: All Ayes. Stuhr presented an agreement with Electronic Systems to set up an account to have USA Central Station monitor the fire alarm system at the Merrick County Youth & Agriculture Education Center. Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to sign the new contract with Electronic Systems. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Long Term Care: Emily Triplett was unable to attend the meeting to give the Board an update but had provided information in their packets.

Long Term Care Appointment: Moved Kucera, second Yrkoski to appoint Mary Santin to the Long Term Care Board. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Special Liquor License: Moved Kreachbaum, second Weller to approve and have the Chairman sign the Special Designated Liquor License for Prairie Creek Vineyards LLC for the Christmas Market on November 27, 2021 at Wild Roots Greenhouse & Market. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Opioid Litigation: Attorney Shotkoski said that there was a two nationwide settlements with a manufacturing company and the distributors in July 2021 for prescription opioid drugs. In the settlement agreements, each Nebraska County is listed as a participating subdivision to receive funds. Shotkoski said that Merrick County will receive more funds that what they can use because right now Merrick County does not have an opioid problem. The funds will only be able to be used for certain things which have not be outlined as of yet. The County is eligible to receive its direct share and be eligible to receive additional funding from the state's Opioid Recovery Fund only if the County signs on to these settlements. The County has three options: sign on to the settlement agreement which the Attorney General has helped negotiate and become eligible for a direct share of the settlement proceeds; sign on to the settlement agreement and contribute the county's direct share for use within the Behavioral Health Region; or elect not to sign on to the settlement agreement. Shotkoski said that



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option three is not a good option at all. If the county decides on option one, the funds would be put into a separate fund and monitored by the county. Moved Kucera, second Weller to sign option one and to have the County Treasurer and or County Clerk set up the fund and monitor the receiving and spending of the funds.

Roll Call: All Ayes.

Concrete bids: Four bids were received to replace the concrete on portion of the parking lot behind the courthouse that measures 110'x12'x7" because there have been several people that have fallen because of this strip of concrete that is in bad shape and the safety committee asked for the bids. Bids were from the following: DDK Construction for \$7,630.00, Rocksteady Concrete Construction for \$8,448.00, Welch Concrete for \$7,150.00, and KBL Construction, Inc. for \$7,920.00. Dave Lewis with KBL Construction was present to explain his bid. The Road Department will remove the old concrete. Moved Kreachbaum, second Weller to accept the KBL Construction bid of \$7,920.00 because he was the only one to show up and explain his bids and the work that needs to be done. Roll Call: All Ayes. The board was also given a list of broken or raised concrete areas that need to be repaired in the future that was made by the safety committee. Board suggested the finance committee put together a wish list of things that needs to be done to the courthouse and grounds.

Hearing on closing of alley and street: Moved Placke, second Dexter to open the hearing at 10:08 a.m. to close the North 150 feet of the alley in Block 18 and the north end of Crawford Street between Block 13, and Block 14 in Archer. Roll Call: All Ayes. Highway Superintendent Meyer said he sent out certified letters and never received any feedback. The all alley is not being used as an alley and the street is by Dean Hartwigs' place and it is not being used as a street. Moved Placke, second Dexter to close the hearing at 10:12 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2021-18 to closed the South Crawford Street between Blocks 13, and 14 and the North 150 feet of the alley in Block 18, Original Town of Archer, in the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4), Section Twenty (20), Township Fourteen (14) North, Range Seven (7) West of the 6th P.M., Merrick County, Nebraska. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2021-18 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

Supervisor Districts: The new Supervisor District maps created by gWorks because of the census were presented to the County Board for approval. A legal description with a resolution will be provided next month. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve the new Supervisor District maps created by gWorks. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Electrical agreement: Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve and have the Chairman sign an electrical agreement between Merrick County and Greg Royal for an irrigation well approximately 1320 feet east of the southwest corner of Section 33 & Section 4, Township 13, Range 6. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Courthouse windows: The courthouse is needing new windows in the original portion of the courthouse. The windows are very drafty and some are storm windows are falling out. Placke suggested that instead of taking bids to do a requests for proposals and Shotkoski said that proposals would be a better idea. Dave Lewis with KBL Construction offer to write up the specs for the windows and bring back to the board. The County Board will further discuss at their next board meeting.

October 2021 payroll: The October 2021 payroll was presented for approval: General: Gross: \$163,956.03 Net: \$113,575.88, Roads: Gross: \$57,545.18 Net: \$41,462.39, Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$5,636.24, Net: \$3,761.78. Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve the October 2021 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to adjourn at 11:06 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk