



# Merrick County Board Minutes



**May 24, 2022**

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Kreachbaum, Yrkoski, Placke, Weller, and Wiegert present, Dexter absent. County Attorney Shotkoski and 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 9:05 a.m. Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

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

**Minutes:** Moved Kucera, second Weller to approve the minutes from May 9, 2022 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Meeting Reports:** Weller-Central District Health Department meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>; Placke-Budget Workshop May 12<sup>th</sup> in Norfolk; Yrkoski-Central Action Partners May 17<sup>th</sup>; Kreachbaum-4-H Building Overseers May 16<sup>th</sup>, Mid Plains Center May 18<sup>th</sup>; Wiegert-Budget Workshop in Norfolk May 12<sup>th</sup>, 4-H Building Committee meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>; Yrkoski, Weller and Placke attended a John Deere Presentation on the road grader on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Officials Reports:** Treasurer Gilg filed the Annual Compliance Fund in April and applied for the next installment on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Veteran Service Officer Reimers handed out the quarterly report. Highway Superintendent Meyer stated that the paving on Gunbarrel has started and will start advertising for a maintainer. Assessor Myers informed the Board the office has been working on the Property Evaluation notices and there are approximately 7700 active parcels with 5806 notices that were printed and will be mailed out next Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Clerk Strobel wanted to thank Keith Brown and Theresa Hartwig for volunteering for the Primary Election and to Judy Helgoth and Karen Senkbile for being on the Canvassing Board. Merrick County had a 51% turnout which was an 18% increase over the last Non-Presidential Primary Election held in 2018.

**Public Comment:** Deena Speer, Jordanne McNeff and Shawnee Williams came before the Board to express the importance for the expansion of the Child Care Development Center and to ask the Board to consider using the county ARPA Funds. Katie Benner informed the Board they have received \$600,000 of the \$900,000 needed for the expansion. The City of Central City gave them \$100,000 from their COVID funds. Benner explained once they receive the remaining \$300,000, they would be able to start breaking ground.

**Long Term Care:** Emily Triplett appeared to give an update on Long Term with the census at 33 and two more potential residents. Triplett introduced Melissa VanDewalle as the new interim administrator. Triplett also stated the Long-Term Care Board is asking for a decision from the County Board regarding the county owned Long Term Care building with any ARPA Funds that may be made available. The priorities being HVAC, plumbing and disposal. Tyson Benner stated the main priority is the heating due to the fact the boiler is outdated.

**Prochoska & Associates:** County Attorney Shotkoski stated Prochoska & Associates submitted a proposal for bid specs to do the electrical, boiler and generator work for Long Term Care. The quote also included the construction oversight services to make sure the work was done according to the specs. \$22,500 for electrical, relocation of generator \$5500, boiler replacement \$30,000, construction phase services \$15,060 with a total of \$73,060. Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to proceed with Prochoska & Associates quote for the bid specs. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**BC/BS Insurance:** Judd Allen with BC/BS Insurance informed the Board rates would be increasing 17.4% with the combination of inflation going up to costs increasing and shock claims throughout the organization. The deductible will go from \$1000 to \$1100 for the employee and \$2200 for the family with the effective date being July 1, 2022. Allen also stated if there is any change to the percentages paid by the county on the Subgroup Application that was signed on May 9, it can be corrected.

**ARPA Funds:** Sheriff Westman approached the Board for possible county ARPA funding for police vehicles and police equipment.

**SCEDD:** LeAnn Jochum, Deputy Director with South Central Economic Development District presented an overview of the work they had done throughout the year.

**Budget Request:** Moved Kucera, second Weller to accept the proposed budget requests from Midland Area on Aging, District 5 Probation and the county libraries. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Masonry:** Moved Kucera, second Weller to accept the Masonry Restoration proposed estimate for repair to mortar and bricks on the courthouse. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Dana F. Cole & Company:** Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to approve the Chairman to sign the engagement letter with Dana F. Cole & Company for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. Roll Call: All Ayes.



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**4-H Insurance & Rental Contract:** Kreachbaum and County Attorney Shotkoski informed the Board the new contract removed repetitive language and corrected the medical insurance to change from \$50,000 to \$5,000. Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve the updated Insurance/Rental Contract for the 4-H Building. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Amendment:** Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to approve a Retroactive Rental Agreement for anyone who had previously signed the 4-H Building Contract to receive the new contract amendments. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**May 2022 Payroll:** General Gross: \$155,084.13, Net: \$107,585.64, Roads Gross: \$56,612.87, Net: \$41,593.22, Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$5,597.10, Net: \$3,721.16. Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to approve the May 2022 Payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Adjourn:** Moved Kreachbaum, second Yrkoski to adjourn at 11:57 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk