

August 22, 2023

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Dexter, Jarecke, Placke, Kucera, Wiegert, Weller, County Attorney Kunz and County Clerk Strobel present.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil, 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 9:04 a.m.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:04 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
Moved Jarecke, second Kucera to approve the agenda with the amendment of County Surveyor contract to be Bridge Contract. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the minutes August 8, 2023 as published with the correction of Board of Supervisors instead of Board of Equalization. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Dexter-Long Term Care, August 16; Placke-Senior Center August 15th, Long Term Care August 16th; Jarecke-Nebraska Community Action Partnership August 15th; Kreachbaum-Long Term Care and Mid Plains Center August 16th, Emergency Management workshop August 17th, and NE Board of Compliance and Standards August 18th and 4-H Building Committee August 21st; Wiegert-4-H Building Committee August 21st.

Treasurer Gilg reported that \$50,000 was received from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund was received. Gilg also spoke with the State Auditors regarding District Courts outstanding balance of \$30,500.00 dating back to 1995. Surveyor past due accounts letters have been mailed with Townships and Highway Department past due accounts going out later today. A check was received from the Opioid Settlement and Gilg is looking into whether this would be able to be used toward mental health budget requests. Emily Soll, Extension Educator, provided a quarterly update. Brent Kunze, Highway Superintendent discussed with the board possible equipment needs as well as succession planning for employees. Kunze also stated Rod Bergmark retired August 21, 2023. Pivot violations were also discussed with County Attorney Kunz saying he would send out letters to those violators. Brent Kunze stated he began as Highway Superintendent on August 14th after the retirement of Mike Meyers on July 31, 2023.

9:30 a.m. Public Hearing: Moved Placke, second Dexter to open the Public Hearing at 9:32 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Planning & Zoning Administrator Scott Stuhr appeared before the board to discuss a Conditional Use Permit application for a gunsmith business located on a tract in SW1/4NW1/4 and E1/2SW1/4 Section 28, Township 12 N, Range 8W, Merrick County, NE. Moved Placke, second Dexter to close the Public Hearing at 9:34 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to adopt and approve the Chairman to sign Resolution 2023-0023 allowing a gunsmithing business on property located in SE 1/4 NW 1/4 and E1/2SW1/4 Section 28, Township 12 North, Range 8 West. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Emily Triplett provided an update on Long Term Care. Emily and Tyson Benner have been working on a floor plan to submit to Bryan Health for approval.

Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve Rachel Hermansen of Wild Roots Greenhouse to donate a 6-8 ft. spruce tree to be planted in the northeast corner of the courthouse. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the bridge contract with Mike Meyers. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Highway Superintendent approached the board regarding the possible purchase of a Cat Wheel Loader. No action taken at this time.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the Special Designated License applications for Nitecrawlers Bar & Grill for wedding receptions October 7th and October 28th from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Merrick County 4-H Building. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Placke, second Kucera to allow Sheriff Westman to surplus three filing cabinets and two shelving cabinets. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Sheriff Westman informed the board they will be using a new commissary company, Sterling Commissary. Training and installation will start Tuesday, August 29th. Deputy and Deputy Coufal attended the Children Against Crim training in Dallas, TX. They will be reimbursing the county for the training which will go back into the general fund.

Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve the 2022-2023 inventory received from County Sheriff/Jail, County Judge, County Surveyor, County Attorney, Clerk of District Court, Custodian, County Assessor, Veterans Service, County Supervisors, Highway Superintendent, County Treasurer, County Clerk, Election Commissioner and Register of Deeds. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the Board Chairman to sign the audit engagement letter with Dana F. Cole & Associates. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve Andrew Simmons to prepare the Central Township 2023-2024 budget. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Payroll: General Gross: \$53,725.26, Net: \$38,016.72; Roads Gross: \$27,185.43, Net: \$19,653.07; Juvenile Diversion Gross: \$3,556.69, Net: \$2,420.04. Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the August 25th payroll. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:41 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Trisha Fate-Strobel, County Clerk