

January 23, 2024

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Kucera, Wiegert, Weller, Jarecke, County Clerk Strobel and County Attorney Kunz 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 Kucera 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 convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Minutes: Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the minutes from December 26, 2023 as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting reports: Weller-January 15th Bader Park; Weller and Dexter January 17th handbook; Weller, Dexter, Kreachbaum and Placke-January 17th Long Term Care Board; Dexter-January 22nd SCEDD zoom meeting; Jarecke Central Nebraska Action Partner zoom; Kreachbaum January 15th City Council and January 17th Emergency Management with Emergency Manager Clark, Boone and Nance counties.

Officials: Treasurer Gilg presented the semi-annual report as well as informing the board the DMV will hopefully be available twice in February and March. Clerk Strobel stated she received the certification for the Palmer School District bond on January 19th. The Election Plan will need to be presented to the Secretary of State's office by Friday, January 26th. The special election will be held on March 12, 2024. County Attorney Kunz stated Deputy Attorney Luzum worked with the handbook committee along with some officials. Luzum also reached out to Dana Cole & Associates regarding the status and billing of the budget that was performed in 2023. Luzum has also been in contact with NIRMA regarding the suit against Merrick County and Long-Term Care.

Captain Bauer informed the board the annual jail inspection was performed with no deficiencies reported. The ruling with the continuing education is there will be a seven-day grace period in which the Sheriff's Department abided by. Highway Superintendent Kunze informed the department is now fully staffed. Kunze also stated he would like to check into possibly purchasing a vacant building in the future to move the highway department and help house equipment.

Emily Triplett with Long Term Care provided updates as well as informed the board regarding the belt which broke in the ambulance bay creating a broken sprinkler head.

Adam Jurgens with Hamilton Telecommunications presented the benefits of the Cybersecurity CISA grant in which they would apply for the county.

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the Special Designated Liquor license for Little Storm Daycare for a fundraiser to be held February 23 at Beck's Barn from 6:00 pm to 12:00 am. Roll Call: All Ayes

Treasurer Gilg approached the board regarding the employee parking lot and the 30-minute safe place and jail parking stalls. Gilg stated due to the weather it would helpful for the employees to have more parking stalls for safety. No action taken.

Maintenance Manager Maw discussed the snow removal in the parking lot. Heins was hired during the snow storm the weekend of January 12 to help maintain the upkeep.

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to hire Heins Lawncare for the courthouse lawncare for the 2024 year in the amount of \$1905.00. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the Moved by Snow Removal Agreement between City of Central City and Merrick County with the rate increase from \$80.00 to \$200.00. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the Chairman to sign the Frequency Interlocal between City of Central City and Merrick County. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion regarding Board Assistant/Human Resource position continued. Job listing will be published on the County Website as well as NACO.

Discussion regarding the open planning & zoning administrator position continued. Job listing will continue to be advertised on the County Website as well as NACO.

Moved Wiegert, second Jarecke to approve the hourly rate change for Interim Planning & Zoning administrator from \$18.50 to \$20.00/hr. Roll Call: Ayes-Dexter, Weigert, Jarecke, Kucera. Nays-Kreackbaum and Weller. Abstain: Placke. Motion carried 4-2-1.

Merrick County Employee Handbook was discussed. Moved Jarecke, second Weller to approve the new vacation hours increase. After one year, vacation will be two weeks earned with an additional day accrued every year up to 16 years with the maximum vacation allowed to earn is 200 hours. This includes one day after four months and two days after eight months. Roll Call: Ayes-Wiegert, Kreackbaum, Jarecke, Weller and Kucera. Nays-Placke. Motion carried 6-1.

Moved Jarecke, second Weller to change the maximum 120 hours of comp time to be used in twelve months instead of four months. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke to ban smoking and vaping in county owned buildings and equipment by employees. Motion died for lack of second.

Moved Weller, second Jarecke to ban smoking, vaping and other tobacco use to include county owned buildings and equipment by employees. Roll Call: All Ayes-Wiegert, Placke, Dexter, Weller, Kreackbaum, Kucera. Nays-Jarecke. Motion carried 6-1

Discussion regarding highway employee union wage on overtime. No action needed.

Highway Superintendent Kunze met with the board for his six-month review.

Weller absent at 12:30 p.m.

Moved Kreackbaum, second Dexter to increase Highway Superintendent's wage from \$65,000.00 to \$67,000.00. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to approve the January payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreackbaum, second Jarecke to adjourn at 12:41 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk