

February 27, 2024

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 9:18 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Weller, Jarecke, County Clerk Strobel and County Attorney Kunz present, Kucera absent. Also present, Mike Peters, Brad Wells, Katie Benner and Judy Rieken.

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.

Co-Chairwoman 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 9:18 a.m. Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to convene as Board of Supervisors convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:18 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Weller to approve the minutes from February 13, 2024 as published.

Roll Call: Ayes-Placke, Jarecke, Dexter, Weller, Wiegert; Abstain: Kreachbaum.

Meeting Reports: Dexter-February 20th Zoom meeting with Five Nines for Cybersecurity check list, February 21st met with CMBA out at Long-Term discussing structure work, Long Term Board meeting, Merrick County Economic Development meeting the evening of February 21st and February 22nd received critical security alert from Five Nines, issue was resolved. February 22nd spoke with Eli Hunter with Hamilton Telecommunications regarding getting nationwide security review completed. Placke-February 15th attended funeral services for former Supervisor Norman Euse, February 20th Senior Center meeting, Jarecke-20th zoom meeting with Community Action out of Loup City; Kreachbaum-February 20th 4-H Building Overseer's, February 21st Long Term Care, evening of 21st Mid-Plains Behavioral Health. Wiegert attended 4-H Building committee on February 20th. Placke, Jarecke February 22nd toured ethanol plant with Green Plains and Tall Grass.

Officials Reports: Treasurer Gilg tax sale scheduled for Monday, March 4th. Clerk Strobel informed the board the special election ballots were mailed out February 20th and the Clerk's office shall remain open until 6:00 p.m. for voter registration. Attorney Kunz stated the Sheriff/Attorney position have received ten applications.

Beth Farrell from NACO provided a handout and explained the process of eliminating townships throughout the county.

Dean Hartwig, Weed Superintendent, provided his quarterly and annual report.

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to approve the surplus of the County Board monitor and recorder. Roll Call: All Ayes

Treasurer Gilg and Maintenance Supervisor Maw provided handouts regarding lighting options for the second-floor hallway.

Moved Dexter, second Weller to approve the purchase of the lights. Roll Call: All Ayes

Captain Bauer presented the Sheriff Distress Warrants. 25 Distress Warrants were received in the amount of \$19,927.85, 21 distress warrants were returned satisfied and four distress warrants returned unsatisfied.

Treasurer Gilg presented the Treasurers Distress Warrants.

Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve Resolution 2024-2 directing the striking of delinquent taxes on parcel #8567.08 and parcel #8567.03 for improvements on leased land. Roll Call: All Ayes

Captain Bauer addressed the analog radio equipment that was purchased in 2002 needs to be replaced. The parts however, are no longer replaceable. Captain Bauer stated the replacement would cost \$8,210.00.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to replace the analog radio equipment using ARPA Funds. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to approve the Electrical Agreement between Scott Oakley and Merrick County, Section 15, Township 15, Range 4. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve the Merrick County Road Department Sinking Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the Union Amendment Agreement regarding vacation to match the new employee vacation policy. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve the Nebraska Central Railroad Company (NCRC) agreement with Merrick County. Roll Call: All Ayes

Chairman Kucera present at 11:05 a.m.

Moved Weller, second Dexter to move into Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Dexter, second Placke to move out of Executive Session at 11:25 a.m.

Moved Weller, second Wiegert to combine the Planning & Zoning position with the Surveyor Assistant position. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion regarding the Board Assistant/Human Resources position continued. A representative with Zelle will be attending the next board meeting on March 12th. No action taken.

General Gross: \$64825.17, Net \$46346.52, Roads: \$5,583.33, Net \$3718.71. General Gross: \$55071.79, Net: \$36,636.89, Roads Gross: \$28,379.64, Net \$20,952.87, Juvenile Diversion Gross: \$3,520.58, Net \$2,411.80.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to adjourn at 11:37 a.m. with jail inspection to follow. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk