

## **March 26, 2024**

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Weller, Jarecke, Placke, Kucera, County Clerk Strobel and County Attorney Kunz present. Brad Rice 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 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 9:05 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 Kreachbaum to approve the minutes from March 12, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: Central District, March 21-Dexter, Weller, Jarecke, Kucera, Wiegert; 4-H Pancake Feed, March 21-Dexter, Placke, Kreachbaum, Wiegert, Jarecke, Kucera; Long Term Care Board, March 20-Dexter, Placke, Kreachbaum; Township, March 20-Jarecke, Weller, Kucera; Long Term Care and CMBA, March 13 & 20-Dexter; Central District Health, March 18-Weller; CNCAP, March 19-Jarecke; Extension Board, March 19-Kucera; Region III, March 22-Kucera

Officials Reports: Highway Superintendent Kunze informed the board motor grader training was taken by five individuals given by K.C. Pawling of NIRMA last week. The agreement with Cliff Yrkoski has been dissolved and the motor grader will now be stored at Morgan Miller's residence. The power company will install a pole and meter. Snow blower purchased from Nance County has been delivered. Kunze has been in contact with Gworks in regards to possibly adding a program to track assets. (Culverts, signs etc.)

Mulching head for excavator was delivered for cleaning ditches. Paul Cunningham put in his two weeks' notice. Money left over in the equipment budget would like to discuss the possibility of purchasing a wheel loader in the upcoming board meetings.

Clerk Strobel stated the Palmer School Bond Special Election was held March 12<sup>th</sup> and ballot proofing for the Primary Election has started with ballots being ordered by the end of the week.

Captain Bauer informed the board foreclosure sales were held with minimum bids being met. An uptick in arrests in the last week regarding fentanyl. Discussion is being held regarding setting up some drills and CPR training for the employees.

County Attorney Kunz stated Deputy County Attorney Luzum approved the Zelle contract and they will begin working for the county April 1<sup>st</sup>. Heidi Bayard will start April 1 as the new administrator for the Sheriff's and Attorney's offices.

Planning & Zoning temp Placke spoke with Rich Nelson of Hamilton County and the timing is not right to have an Interlocal in place with Hamilton County.

Discussion about sending out letters to the Township boards and placing a letter to the editor in regards to the future of townships. Letters will be mailed out today.

Emily Triplett with Long Term Care provided an update.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Wiegert to approve Special Designated Liquor License for Banana Rams, LLC at the Merrick County Fairgrounds, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. for Hospital Employee Party. Storm Summer Rec at Beck's Barn, April 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. for a Fundraiser. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Placke to approve the Electrical Agreement between Stoltenberg Irrigation and Darrell Widman with Merrick County. Sections 18 and 7, Township 12, Range, 7.

Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve Resolution 2024-4 directing the Transfer of Funds from Inheritance to General. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve Resolution 2024-5 directing disbursement of money from the Inheritance Fund to the law firm of Wolf, McDermott, Depue, Sabott, Butz & Porto, LLC for the Estate of Freda Joy Traill. Roll Call: All Ayes

Replacing parking stops at the 4-H building was discussed. Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the purchase of new parking stops and funding come of out of 4-H Building Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes

Captain Bauer approached the board concerning patrol cars. Three vehicles are in excess of 200,000 miles. Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to authorize the Sheriff's department to purchase vehicles as needed not to exceed \$50,000.00 as budgeted out of the Sheriff's budget. Roll Call: All Ayes

A townhall meeting will be held, Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H building. Brad Rice with the Chapman Township spoke regarding the future of the Chapman cemetery funding if the dissolution of townships would occur.

General Gross: \$81,413.73 Net: \$57,275.99; Roads Gross: \$29,357.46 Net: \$21,494.12: Juvenile Diversion Gross: \$3,618.68 Net: \$2,482.11

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

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to recess at 11:18 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Roll Call All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to reconvene as Board of Supervisors at 1:00 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Deputy Secretary of State Wayne Bena, Barry Denning, Crystal Burkhardt, Robert Borer and Don Placke were in attendance.

Wayne Bena, Deputy Secretary of State made an appearance before the board to discuss elections in Nebraska. Bena stated MIT ranked Nebraska #5 in the nation in regards to performance during the 2022 elections. Robert Borer and Barry Denning expressed concerns about the integrity of the elections.

Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to adjourn at 1:50 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk