

May 28, 2024

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Jarecke, Placke, Kucera, Weller, 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.

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

Minutes: Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve the minutes from May 14, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: Weller-Bader Park May 21; Dexter-Long Term Care Board May 15, Union Representative May 20; Kreachbaum-Trailblazers for Tallgrass presentation May 23; Placke-Senior Center May 21; CPR Training May 23rd; Wiegert-Long Term Care and Mid-Plains Behavioral Health May 15, Union Representatives May 20, Trailblazers for Tallgrass and 4H Building Committee May 20. Highway Superintendent Kunze informed the board that Kirk Schwarz will be a new operator for the roads department. Treasurer Gilg provided an update that only one parcel that has not been paid and will be put on the county tax sale. Zelle representative Anna Sedlacek provided an update regarding the applicants received for the planning & zoning/surveyor position. A part-time janitor will be needed to advertised for the 4-H Building. Sedlacek also stated she has been in contact with a few companies regarding the audit and budget prep with little to no success but she will continue the process. Placke asked how the 457 Plan was coming along and Sedlacek informed her she is taking steps to insure it is done properly.

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to sign the subgroup application with Blue Cross/Blue Shield with the \$1100.00 deductible health insurance. Roll Call: Ayes-Placke, Wiegert; Nays-Dexter, Jarecke, Weller, Kucera. Motion denied with a 4-3 vote.

Continued discussion regarding the Blue Cross/Blue Shield continued.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to sign the subgroup application with Blue Cross/Blue Shield with the deductible to remain the same with the option of changing the deductible starting in January. Roll Call: Ayes-Weller, Kreachbaum, Wiegert, Placke, Dexter, Kucera; Nays-Jarecke. Motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the Special Designated Liquor license application for Richie's Rib Shack August 24, 2024 from 4:30 pm until 12:00 am at the Merrick County Youth & Ag Center for a wedding reception. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to move into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m. for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to move out of Executive Session at 10:56 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
Highway Superintendent Kunze requested the use of ARPA Funds to help in the purchase of the \$223,500.00 loader. Moved Jarecke, second Weller to allow \$40,000.00 to be used out of the ARPA Funds to purchase the loader. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Kreachbaum to allow the chairwoman to sign the representation letter received from Dana J. Cole & Associates. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to allow the chairwoman to sign the utility right of way agreement with Lumen. Roll Call: All Ayes

Planning & Zoning Interim Placke brought up the possibility of looking into a court reporter for the office for legal recording for denied permits. No action was taken.

Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve Resolution 2024-10 that the following question be submitted to the qualified electors of Merrick County, Nebraska at the General Election on November 5, 2024. "Shall

Merrick County discontinue township organization and create a seven-member county board of commissioners.” Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Jarecke to approve Resolution 2024-9 creating the Merrick County Sheriff’s Sinking Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes

County Attorney Kunz stated County Deputy Attorney Luzum will be looking into the State Statutes regarding how many special designated liquor licenses would be allowed to be used at the Merrick County 4-H Building. Discussion will continue at the next board meeting.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Weller to approve the Juvenile Diversion Grant Award. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to adjourn at 10:59 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk