

September 24, 2024

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Dexter, Jarecke, Placke, Kucera, Wiegert, County Attorney Kunz and County Clerk Strobel present. Weller absent.

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. 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 at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
Agenda: Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the agenda. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to approve the minutes as published for September 10, 2024.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: Dexter-September 13-SCEDD housing call, 16th-budget workshop, 18th -pipeline in Columbus, 19th-Central District-NACCO; Placke-September 17th-Senior Center and Patient Advocacy Board at the hospital, 18th Long Term Care board, Central Nebraska Action Community Partners, 19th-Central District-NACO, 23rd Joint Housing zoom call and Joint Public Hearing at the PAC; Jarecke-17th CNCAP, 19th Central District, 23-Joint Public Hearing; Kreachbaum-September 23 Joint Public Hearing, 26th-4H Building, 18th Pipeline and 19th Central District.

Officials Reports: Treasurer Gilg stated she remains short staffed and the DMV in Hamilton County will be closed for an undetermined time. Denise Pullen is helping with the Child Support position until filled reported Attorney Kunz. Clerk Strobel stated the submission for the ballots had been completed with six initiative issues for the state of Nebraska.

Public Comment: Tyson Benner appeared to voice his appreciation the board is looking into depreciation funds going forward.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to allow the Community Christmas to be held on the courthouse lawn on December 8th. Roll Call: All Ayes

Melissa Vandewalle provided an update on Long-Term Care. Discussion continued on the possibilities of a remodel of the current building.

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to approve the Special Designated Liquor License for Scotty's LLC on October 19 at the Fairgrounds for a wedding reception from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign (18) eighteen crude oil &/or other hydro-carbons pipe line agreements with Trailblazer CO2 Pipe Line, LLC. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve start date of the Cash-in-Lieu as January 1, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert for the new 4-H Building Rental rates to begin October 1, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to approve Brad Wells for the removal of the snow at the 4H building as needed and on call for a minimum of \$150/hr. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to open the Public Hearing at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
Planning & Zoning Hillary Betka discussed the Joint Planning Commission requested the approval to allow accessory structures larger than 1200 square feet in the LSR-1 District.

Moved Placke, second Jarecke to close the Public Hearing at 10:04 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Jarecke to approve the Chairwoman to sign Resolution 2024-0019 to amend section 4.12.06 to allow accessory structures larger than 1200 sq feet. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to purchase a snow plow for \$8000.00 for the use at the courthouse.

Payment to be used from the Local Assist & Tribal Consistency Fund Roll Call: All Ayes

4H Security Cameras discussion continued with no action taken.

Regional jail committee was tabled for discussion.

Treasurer Gilg commented she had sent more discrepancies to Dana J Cole & Associates last Monday regarding the 2022-2023 audit. She has not heard back from the firm to date.

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to move into Executive Session at 10:21 am for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Kreachbaum to move out of Executive Session at 10:52 am. Roll Call: All Ayes

Continued budget discussion.

Motion Placke, second Dexter to approve payroll. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, Placke second to recess at 11:19 a.m. until the 1:00 p.m. Budget hearing. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to open the budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Darrell Siekman appeared before the board with questions regarding the usage of the COVID funds and the increase of the budget. Brad Wells would like someone to look into new repeater towers for all departments and possibly use the COVID funds.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to close the budget hearing at 1:22 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to increase the total restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Kreachbaum to open the final budget hearing at 1:30 p.m. Roll Call; All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to close the budget hearing at 1:45 p.m. Roll Call; All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to approve the 2024-2025 budget as presented with the correction of the total bonded indebtedness. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to recess at 1:47 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Jarecke to reconvene as Board of Supervisors at 3:00 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Placke to open the public hearing at 3:00 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Clerk Strobel made a presentation outlining the key provisions of the proposed budget, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. The floor was then opened for public comment on the proposed budget. All members of the publish wishing to address the governing body were provided a reasonable amount of time to do so.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to close the budget hearing at 3:15 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to increase the total restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Jarecke, second Placke to request an audit waiver for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to approve the 2024-2025 Central Township budget as proposed. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to reconvene as Board of Supervisors at 3:30 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Placke to open the public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

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Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to close the budget hearing at 3:40 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to increase the total restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to request an audit waiver for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the 2024-2025 Prairie Island Township budget as proposed. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to adjourn the meeting at 3:41 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha Fate-Strobel, County Clerk