

November 26, 2024

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Dexter, Jarecke, Placke, Kucera, Wiegert, Weller, County Clerk Strobel present. County Attorney Kunz 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 Placke 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 Jarecke to approve the minutes as published for November 12, 2024.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: County Government Day November 19th-Dexter, Placke, Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Wiegert, Kucera; Long Term Care Board November 20th-Dexter, Placke, Kreachbaum; CNBA at Long Term Care November 20th-Dexter, Placke, Kreachbaum; RDG at Long Term November 22nd-Dexter; Personnel meeting November 19th-Jarecke, Kreachbaum, Wiegert; 4H Building Committee-November 18th-Wiegert, Kreachbaum; November 26th Safety Meeting-Dexter; Central District Health November 18th-Weller; Good Life Center November 19th-Placke; Mid Plains November 20th-Kreachbaum; Mid-Nebraska Individual Services November 20th-Kucera.

Officials Reports: Treasurer Gilg informed the board the tax statements were printed last week. The Local Assist and Tribal Consistency Fund has \$92,000.00 remaining. Gilg will look into whether the funds need to be committed by the end of the year.

Sedlacek stated the first draft of the handbook has been completed and will need to get with the handbook committee to finalize. CDL drivers have been put into the Clearing House.

County Clerk Strobel stated the final voter turnout for Merrick County in the General Election was 83.73%.

Tyson Benner thanked board members Placke, Dexter and Kreachbaum for meeting with CNBA and RDG in regards to the Long-Term Care remodel. Benner stated he is also excited to see the direction townships will take in the future and is happy that County Government Day is being brought back for the students of Merrick County.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to correct the October 8, 2024 Board of Supervisor minutes to include the motion which was omitted from the minutes: Moved Placke, second Dexter to commit the remainder of the ARPA funds to the Bader Bridge Project as of October 8, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes

Melissa Vandewalle appeared before the board to give an update on Long Term Care. Vandewalle stated CNBA and RDG will have quotes ready for the January 14th board meeting. Rates will increase to \$290/day with private rooms remaining at an additional \$75/day.

Courtney Retzlaff, member of the Long-Term Care board and Chief Financial Officer of the Merrick Foundation provided a presentation if there were funds held at Merrick Foundation or a money market. Retzlaff stated that if donations went through Merrick Foundation, they would handle receiving donations and provide proper acknowledgement for tax purposes.

Moved Dexter, second Kreachbaum to start a fund with Merrick Foundation for donations to Long Term Care board for use at the Long-Term Care facility. Roll Call: All Ayes

Brad Rice with the Chapman Township appeared before the board and requested the direction the board is going in the future with townships.

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to accept sick time donations from roads employees to be used by Cyrus Whitebull. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Weigert to approve the write off \$434.47 for past due billing for the Merrick County Surveyors department. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to approve all new agreements and permit fees to increase to \$50.00. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign the Von Ohlen Bridge Easement Agreements. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Wiegert to approve the county burial application as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Judd Allen with Blue Cross/Blue Shield provided a handout to the board regarding HRA buy down deductible savings report. Allen explained different options to the board. A \$6100.00 deductible for Employee Only and a \$12, 200.00 deductible for Employee/Spouse, Employee/Children and Employee/Family with a buy down to the previous deductibles of \$1100.00 and \$2200.00 could potentially save the county \$104,298.36 per year.

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to raise the deductible plan to \$6100.00 beginning January 1, 2025 with the usage of the buy down. Roll Call: All Ayes

County Surveyor contract discussion was held. No action taken.

Resolution 2024-28 to eliminate the position of Road/Survey Assistant position to be tabled until the next board meeting.

Treasurer Gilg explained the last draft she received from Dana Cole & Associates was dated September 9th. Dana Cole & Associates sent a letter dated October 18, 2024 for the board to sign, however, there have not been any corrections or a final draft submitted by the company to date. Until there is an updated letter with the corrections, the letter will not be signed.

Clerk Strobel provided email correspondence between herself and the State Auditor in regards to the 2024-2025 budget that was submitted.

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

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha Fate-Strobel, County Clerk