

## December 23, 2024

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Monday, December 23, 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 and Deputy County Attorney Luzum present.

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 Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the minutes as published for December 10, 2024 board meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: Weller-NACO in Kearney December 18 and 19; NACO in Kearney December 18 thru the 20<sup>th</sup>-Dexter, Placke, Jarecke, Kreachbaum, Wiegert and Kucera. Dexter-Five Nines business call December 11; Finance Committee meeting December 16<sup>th</sup>-Dexter, Wiegert, Kucera; Placke-Senior Center December 13<sup>th</sup>; Santa Cop-December 17<sup>th</sup>- Jarecke, Kucera; December 12<sup>th</sup>-Mid Nebraska Individual Services.

Officials Reports: Anna Sedlacek with Zelle reported that she had been working with employee personnel. Clerk Strobel stated their office is finalizing the random 1099 audit from 2021. Highway Superintendent Kunze informed the board the state bridge funding will be reimbursing the county approximately 55% of the cost on three bridges.

Public Comment: Katie Benner asked if any there any updates regarding on the township meetings. Highway Superintendent Kunze goal is to have a meeting sometime in January and will be providing documentation for the attendees.

Melissa Vandewalle provided an update on Long Term Care. Vandewalle stated the nursing home board would like to know what the supervisors' level of commitment is dollarwise to invest in the current building. An answer would be appreciated today or before the January 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting, this would allow for contract clarity. Also, what are the supervisors willing to fund the nursing home if they cannot commit to separating the buildings. Chairwoman Kucera stated that would be discussed during Executive Session later on in the meeting.

Moved Jarecke, second Weller to commit the remainder of the ARPA Funds in the amount of \$536,796.99 to the Bader Bridge project due to not having a contract for the E911 Signage. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Weller, second Wiegert to approve the chairwoman to sign Resolution 2024-29 eliminating the position of Surveyor Assistant. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign Resolution 2024-31 clarifying funding source for the Merrick County Sheriff's Office Sinking Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes

10:00 a.m. Motor Grader bid opening: Murphy Tractor & Equipment bid: New 2025 Articulated Motor Grader \$465,400.00. Trade in credit: 2010 CAT-140M -\$72,500.00 and 1996 CAT-160H -\$32,500.00 for a total of \$360,400.00. Nebraska Machinery Co bid: New 2025 Articulated Motor Grader \$473,200.00. Trade in credit: 2010 CAT-140M -\$70,950.00 and 1996 CAT-160H -\$41,500.00 for a total of \$391,350.00. Nebraska Machinery Co bid: \$391,350.00 with delivery date within 6 months of bid. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve the purchase from Nebraska Machinery consistent with the bid presented. Roll Call: Ayes-Placke, Jarecke, Wiegert, Kreachbaum, Dexter, Kucera Nays: Weller Motion carried with a 6-1 vote.

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to approve the chairwoman to sign the Addendum between IBEW Local 1597 International Brotherhood of Electrical Works, Local Union 1597 and Merrick County to add Christmas Eve Day for 8 hours of Holiday pay and be retroactive from July 1, 2024. Roll Call: All Ayes

Captain Bauer presented a handout with the Sheriff Departments vehicle inventory.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Weller to approve the fleet quote provided by ESU pursuits. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign the Audit Representation letter with the clause regarding the journal entries redacted. Roll Call: All Ayes

Anna Sedlacek appeared before the board to go over the contract with Zelle. Sedlacek will be meeting with officials after the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the handbook. Sedlacek named off the job responsibilities she has been taking care of and informed the board of county's they may contact for more guidance on how to benefit from Zelle's services more effectively.

Chairwoman Kucera stated she would like the officials to make a priority list for the coming year on wants and needs for their offices.

Discussion regarding the Hearing Room resulted in the decision to keep the past and current procedure to stay in place. Anyone in the courthouse wishing to use the Hearing Room will need to contact District Court for availability.

Moved Wiegert, second Jarecke to move into Executive Session at 11:37 a.m. to discuss contract negotiations. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to move out of Executive Session at 11:48 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha Fate-Strobel, County Clerk