

March 25, 2025

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, Kucera, Weller, County Clerk Strobel and County Attorney Kunz present. Brad Wells and Russ Kucera 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.

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 9:19 a.m. Moved Dexter, second Placke to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:19 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Agenda: Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to approve the minutes from February 25, 2025 with the correction of Jarecke present once as a result of a clerical error. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: Weller, Dexter, Placke, Kreachbaum, Wiegert-NACO Central District meeting in Kearney March 20; Dexter, Placke, Kucera 4-H pancake feed March 20; Weller-Bader March 18th; Dexter SCEDD housing call March 13; Placke and Dexter Long Term Care board March 21st; Placke CNCAP zoom meeting March 18; Kreachbaum 4-H building March 17th and Mid Plains Center of Behavioral Health Services March 18th; Wiegert Central District Health March 17th and 4-H Overseer's; Kucera Mid Nebraska Individual Services conference call March 19th.

Officials Reports: No official reports at this time.

Public Comment: Brad Wells commented he felt the bid process for the audio/video system for the 4H building was inequitable with the proposals received. Wells also stated he wished the building committee would have headed the project rather than the extension office.

Melissa Vandewalle provided an update on Long-Term Care. Vandewalle also stated RDG Engineering will be on site April 8th 9-3:00 p.m. for future planning throughout the building. Also, there were board members who stepped down, at the next board meeting it will be asked for the approval of Rick Tank, Kendra Jefferson, Betty Wemhoff and Deb Spencer to fill those positions.

Hilary Betka, Planning & Zoning Administrator was on hand and County Attorney Kunz presented the new Flood Plain Interlocal Agreement with Hamilton County. The change consisted of the decrease of \$5,400.00 from the previous agreement in which it was \$17,400.00/year. Moved Jarecke, second Weller to accept the new Flood Plain Interlocal Agreement with Hamilton County for \$12,000.00/year. Roll Call: Ayes-Dexter, Wiegert, Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Weller and Kucera. Nays-Placke. Motion Carried with a 6-1 vote.

Discussion was held regarding the quotes received from Yanda and R8 for the audio/video system at the 4H Building. The building committee met March 17th, as a result of that meeting the building committee recommended R8's proposal to the county board. After further discussion amongst board members, it was decided different spec requirements were given to the two companies who provided the proposals. Moved Placke, second Dexter to reject all bids to iron out all of the problems. Roll Call: Ayes-Weller, Wiegert, Jarecke, Placke, Dexter, Kucera; Nays-Kreachbaum Motion Carried 6-1.

Supervisor Placke sent out a letter to the officials asking for any financing of future projects for their departments. Treasurer Gilg stated monthly subscription charges and contracts should be looked into to ensure they are still being necessarily billed.

Supervisor Dexter stated the 2025-2026 budget should begin immediately. Clerk Strobel stated expenditure reports are handed out to every department at the end of the month that show MTD and YTD expenditures and percentage of funds still available. Strobel also shared Nance County Human Resource Administrator, SuAnn Engel, will be available to help navigate the Prairie Island, Mead and Central Township budgets along with the county budget when necessary.

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

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to adjourn at 10:33 a.m. with jail tour to follow. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk