



Otoe County Board Minutes



September 13, 2016

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:45 a.m. on September 13, 2016, to audit and sign regular claims and to take care of such other matters as are on the agenda for this meeting. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Nebraska City News Press and Syracuse Journal Democrat and posted in at least three public places, including the County's website. This meeting was open to the Public, and the agenda was kept current, and is on file for public inspection at the office of the Otoe County Clerk during regular business hours.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board, Timothy Nelsen. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Nelsen, Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Hauptman, Commissioner Lade and Commissioner Sornson; none absent.

Chairman Nelsen informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the meeting room. Additional copies are available upon request.

Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lade to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Nelsen, Freshman, Hauptman, Lade and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and not have them read as each member was furnished with a copy of same. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Hauptman, Lade, Sornson and Nelsen. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Lade made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Hauptman, Lade, Sornson and Freshman; Commissioner Nelsen approved payment of all claims except those claims submitted by the Public Defender's Office and the County Attorney's Office to which he abstained. Nay – none. Motion carried.

As directed at the previous meeting, Sheriff Gress advertised for the purchase of a new dispatcher workstation in accordance with competitive bidding laws. Since no bids were received, Sheriff Gress asked the Board to approve the quote previously submitted by Xybix Systems from Colorado, which is the only company that could meet the specifications for housing the newly purchased 911 equipment. Commissioner Lade made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to accept the quoted price of \$30,890.84 for the purchase of a new dispatcher workstation. The workstation is an eligible expense that will be paid out of the 911 Surcharge Fund. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen asked for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Lade, Sornson, Nelsen, Freshman and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Jail Administrator, Mike Riege was not available to attend today's meeting, so Sheriff Gress briefly reviewed a request from Region V Services who have prepared meals for jail inmates for the past several years. Since 2002, the agreed rate per meal per inmate has been \$2.50 if prepared and served by Region V and \$1.25 per meal for those prepared by Region V and served by the jailers. Region V is requesting a 15% increase to reflect the minimum wage rate of pay. Sheriff Gress said the County Board has complete control of the jail and its kitchen. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to approve the increased cost per meal, setting the rate at \$2.88 for meals prepared & served by Region V and \$1.44 for prepared meals only; and to direct the County Attorney to draw up a contract specifying said terms and conditions. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a



Otoe County Board Minutes



vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Nelsen, Freshman, Hauptman and Lade. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-106.02, Chairman Nelsen acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$27,985.39 for the month of August 2016. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Road report as given by Crew Supervisors Chad Watkins and Ryan Neemann:

- Road 52 is now open
- The NC crew is preparing for Applejack this weekend – mowing, grading roadways and placing signage.
- Some areas in the County received over 3 inches last night. Every time it rains a minimum of 3 inches, all fracture critical bridges must be re-inspected per state requirement.
- Crews continue to install tubes and grade roads as weather permits
- They have placed permanent barricades to close off the Englebrecht Bridge on Old Hwy 2. The contractor is scheduled to start work there on September 19th.

Chairman Nelsen opened a budget hearing to hear comments regarding the proposed budget for 2016-2017. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed. Chairman Nelsen introduced Resolution 9-13-16-31 that allows the Board to increase restricted funds an extra 1% in addition to the statutory allowance of 2.5% lid limit. Commissioner Lade made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to adopt Resolution 9-13-16-31 increasing the restricted funds limit by an additional 1% for a total of 3.5%. There being no other discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Nelsen, Freshman, Hauptman, Lade and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried. Subsequently, Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to sign a Resolution adopting the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017 as advertised and presented. Chairman Nelsen noted the tax rate was lowered from .291 (the FY16 rate) to .290 for FY17. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Hauptman, Lade, Sornson and Nelsen. Nay – none. Motion carried.

A second public hearing was held for the purpose of hearing support or opposition to set the property tax request at a different amount than the previous year. There being no comments, Chairman Nelsen closed the public hearing. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 9-13-16-32, setting the 2016-2017 property tax request at \$6,760,061.77. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Hauptman, Lade, Sornson, Nelsen and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried. All information relating to the budget is on file for public inspection at the Office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.

Pat Ramold came before the Board to discuss ways to control traffic on N 60th Rd during the Applejack Festival this weekend. She is the owner/operator of Pumpkin Ridge Farm located on N 60th Rd who sponsors a craft fair, renting booth space to many vendors. Amy Allgood, Director of Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce, said that congested traffic has always been an issue for this event. She questioned the possibility of making N 60th Rd one-way from Kimmel Orchard north to Hwy 75 as a future solution, but was open to suggestions for relieving the problem this year. She said NCTC was willing to pay for traffic control. Sheriff Gress said a one-lane bridge and other hazardous areas along the roadway present safety concerns. He said there will be two regular officers on duty; however he could ask others to volunteer to work that weekend if someone offers to pay their wages. For example, the Fair Board hires "off duty" deputies to serve as security guards during the County Fair. Commissioner Freshman suggested handing out "road maps" to participants that would guide them back to E Rd and Hwy 75. Chairman Nelsen suggested the placement of large signs along the highway warning motorists to slow



Otoe County Board Minutes



down for local activities. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to authorize the Sheriff to schedule an extra deputy to control traffic at the intersection of Hwy 75 and E Rd on Saturday and Sunday, September 17th and 18th. There being no further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Lade, Sornson, Nelsen, Freshman and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried. Mrs. Ramold will line up volunteers to hand out road maps directing traffic to E Road when leaving Pumpkin Ridge. Ms. Allgood said NCTC will print and furnish the maps. Chairman Nelsen directed Supervisor Watkins to have large signs printed and placed on either side of the intersection, cautioning motorists to slow down for the local event.

At 9:24 a.m. Commissioner Nelsen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to into closed session for evaluation of the job performance of employees; closed session is necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of the employees. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Nelsen, Freshman, Hauptman and Lade. Nay – none. Motion carried. Chairman Nelsen restated that the only topic of discussion will be the job performance of employees. Supervisors Watkins and Neemann, the County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney were asked to remain in closed session.

At 9:47 a.m. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to go back into regular session. Voting aye were Commissioners Nelsen, Freshman, Hauptman, Lade and Sornson. No action was taken while in closed session.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and since all items on the agenda have been disposed of, Chairman Nelsen declared this meeting adjourned at a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on September 27, 2016.

I, Janene Bennett, County Clerk of Otoe County, do hereby certify that the above minutes were taken by me, and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I therefore set my hand and affix the county seal this 13th day of September 2016.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk