



Otoe County Board Minutes



October 11, 2016

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:45 a.m. on, October 11, 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 Lade made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman 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, Sornson and Nelsen. Commissioner Lade abstained. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lade 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.

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 \$69,916.41 for the month of September 2016. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-117 Chairman Nelsen acknowledged receipt of the quarterly report from the County Sheriff denoting the amount of certain fees collected, from whom and for what service. The total amount received in the second quarter of the year was \$11,477.25.

Chairman Nelsen acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending September 30, 2016, of the petty cash accounts held by Janene Bennett, County Clerk; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management; Teresa Johnson, Child Support Officer; Jan Reed, Register of Deeds; Jim Gress, Sheriff; Dave Partsch, County Attorney; Janis Riege, Clerk of the District Court and Cindy Cich, County Court Magistrate. Said reports will be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

County Attorney, Dave Partsch, said he and the Syracuse City Attorney recommend that the two entities renew the current Interlocal Agreement for one year. The provisions will remain the same.



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However, in April they will begin negotiations for a long term agreement. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to adopt Resolution 10-11-16-35 approving and ratifying the Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the City of Syracuse and Otoe County and authorizing the Chairman to sign; said agreement to expire September 30, 2017. 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.

County Attorney Partsch drew up an Independent Contractor Agreement for the Otoe County Visitors Committee regarding administrative and secretarial support as provided by Kelsey Wiist. Ms. Wiist agrees to coordinate, support and attend the monthly OCVC meetings; to oversee marketing funds requests; prepare payment requests and provide statistical reports. She will be paid \$650 per month, which was allowed in the FY17 budget. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to authorize the Chairman to sign and execute the Independent Contractor Agreement between Kelsey Wiist and Otoe County involving administrative support for the Otoe County Visitors Committee. There being further discussion, Chairman Nelsen called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Nelsen, Freshman, Hauptman and Lade. Nay – none. Motion carried.

County Treasurer, Nicki Baker, presented the Board with a list of tax payers and business owners who are delinquent in paying their property tax for years 2013 and older. She said she would like to send them a letter and offer assistance by allowing partial payments of their back taxes - half a year at a time. Therefore, she did not recommend striking taxes from the tax roll at this time, but will return at a later meeting with an updated report.

Ms. Baker then asked the Board for permission to invest county money in Certificates of Deposit since interest rates are higher than they have been in several years. She found 12, 18 or 24 month CDs paying 1.15% interest or higher. Commissioner Nelsen said he did not like the idea of locking into a CD in the event the County would have an emergency. Commissioner Freshman noted the penalty for taking out a CD early would be the loss of interest. Ms. Baker said she intended to invest in \$100,000 increments. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to allow the County Treasurer to invest up to \$500,000 in Certificates of Deposit. 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. Ms. Baker also mentioned the possibility of adopting a resolution granting her permission to invest a capped dollar amount at the beginning of each year. Chairman Nelsen suggested that she present a resolution for the new board to consider in January.

Chairman Nelsen said the Nebraska Department of Roads will soon be closing portions of Hwy 128 and Hwy 67 for construction, which will adversely affect the Villages of Lorton and Talmage. He said by closing Hwy 128, the only other bridge crossing over Wilson Creek is located east of Intersection O-46; however, the bridge is in poor condition. Nelsen said he would like to talk to Engineer Mainelli to get a cost estimate for replacing this bridge. He is concerned for the inconvenience to local businesses and farmers as well as the limitations for fire/rescue services. He thought the State project would take 24-28 months to complete. He anticipated it would cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 to have an engineering plan drawn up and nearly \$1,000,000 to build it. Commissioner Sornson said this was a low traffic road and couldn't justify the cost to make travel convenient for a short period of time. This project does not qualify for federal aid, so the County would have to pay the entire cost. Supervisor Brinkman said the bridge is beyond repair, but it is still open to traffic under 6 ton. Brinkman was directed to get an estimate on how much the engineering study would cost.



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Brinkman furnished each Board Member with a list of 29 bridges that need replaced. Chairman Nelsen said that the County must submit an application on Friday in order to meet the first round deadline. Each eligible county will receive a maximum of \$150,000 in state funding for bridge replacements. Chairman Nelsen said the applications are based on a points system – such as extra points will be given for projects shared by counties and for innovative projects that are designed for cost savings. The bridge replacement south of Intersection F-2 is “shovel ready” and would be considered “innovative” since the plans call for a pre-cast cement deck that is less expensive than a conventional poured deck. The Board agreed to submit the replacement of Bridge #00345 located south of Intersection F-2 as the first round application for the Federal Fund Purchase Program.

Road/Bridge Report as given by Lead Supervisor Brinkman:

- Project Syracuse West: 3/4 of the concrete substructure has been poured
- Project Otoe North: Contractor is working on the south abutment of the new bridge
- Project Syracuse Southeast: Contractor is pouring cement.
- A county construction crew is working north of Palmyra and Unadilla.
- Another crew is still repairing storm damages near B-42
- The County is allotted 500 ton of rock a week from Martin-Marietta, so the guys haul when it is available.

Chairman Nelsen called for a recess at 9:15 a.m. while Supervisor Brinkman stepped out to make a phone call to Mark Mainelli to inquire about an estimated cost to conduct an engineering study regarding the bridge replacement east of O-46. Brinkman returned at 9:20 a.m. to report that he could not reach Mr. Mainelli.

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 9:20 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 25, 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 11th day of October 2016.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk