



Otoe County Board Minutes



September 26, 2017

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on September 26, 2017, to audit and sign payroll claims and 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 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. This meeting was held at the Extension Office in the City of Syracuse.

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

Chairman Freshman informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted near the doorway. Additional copies are available upon request.

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

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson 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 Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons, Speth and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to audit and sign payroll claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Hauptman, Parsons, Speth, Freshman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Paul Moyer with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture said he works with County Weed Superintendents as a means to oversee the State's Noxious Weed Program. He found that a few counties are not meeting the requirements, which prompted him to start visiting each county individually. Every year, the Weed Superintendent must submit a report to the Department of Agriculture that includes the number of infested acres and a plan for controlling the noxious weeds. This report also serves as an evaluation of each county to identify problem areas and determine solutions. Most infestations are discovered by looking at aerial maps or receiving complaints from neighboring landowners. John Bebout, who is the Otoe County Weed Superintendent, said he usually makes a phone call to the landowner when an infestation is sighted or reported. He gives the landowner a period of time to control the weeds; then follows up with a physical inspection. If he finds that nothing is being done, he sends the landowner a legally binding 10 day notice and notifies the County Attorney. If still no results, the County may spray the weeds or hire a contractor at the landowner's expense. If the landowner refuses to reimburse the County, a lien can be filed with the



Otoe County Board Minutes



Register of Deeds of unpaid noxious weed control assessments against his property. All County Weed Superintendents are required to attend 20 hours of continuing education each year. Moyer said even though the State oversees the Noxious Weed Act, it is the County's responsibility to enforce it.

Chairman Freshman opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the plat of Gude 2nd Subdivision, a 3 acre tract located in the S 1/2 NE 1/4 S34-T8-R14 as requested by Thomas Gude and Cheryl Catherall, Co-Trustees of the Charles J Gude Trust and Lorraine Gude Trust. Surveyor Dave Schmitz, said the 3 acres includes an existing house and outbuildings. The current renter would like to purchase the home site, so the heirs are separating it from the remaining farm. The plat was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission. There being no other public comments, the hearing was closed. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to authorize the Chairman to sign the plat map for Gude 2nd Subdivision located in the S 1/2 NE 1/4 S34-T8-R14; site location 796 S 68th Road. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Freshman, Sornson, Hauptman and Parsons. Nay –none. Motion carried.

Chairman Freshman opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the plat for K & B Farm Subdivision located in the NE 1/4 NE 1/4 S10-T7-R13 as requested by William H and Lucy R Bebout. Surveyor Schmitz said William is planning to build a new house on the 8 acre tract. The plat includes an ingress/egress drive easement and several utility easements. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign the plat for K & B Farm Subdivision located in the NE 1/4 NE 1/4 S10-T7-R13; site location 5578 N Road. Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Desaray Johnson, Family Development Specialist with SENCA, came before the Board to give her monthly report of activities. She said she works closely with the Housing Authority and Food Banks to provide assistance to those in need of food, rent and utilities. Within the last six months, she opened a "satellite" office in Syracuse where she is available 1 day a month. One of the primary concerns of the elderly and disabled residents deals with the Blue River Area on Aging Transportation Bus. They felt it is not affordable and sometimes inconvenient when out-of-town trips for medical care are only offered twice a week. SENCA operates on money received through grants, donations and fund raisers.

Jim Daubert, an agent with First Concord Benefits Group, briefly reviewed a statistical report indicating the amount of savings realized by Otoe County after a "Cash-in-Lieu" program was offered to Medicare eligible employees. By paying \$325 per month to six of these employees as an option to paying their health insurance premiums, the County saves nearly \$60,000 annually. These employees and their spouses are insured by the Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare Supplement Plan. The employees use the \$325 to pay the monthly premiums for their Medicare coverage.

Kevin Cluskey, new Director of the Southeast District Health Department, said he intends to make quarterly reports to the five counties that comprise the District, which includes Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee and Richardson. The District's goal is to promote good health and protect the welfare of all who live, work or visit these counties. To achieve this goal, he wants to ensure access to nutritious food, safe drinking water, clean air and quality health care. Identified issues in the District that need to be addressed are mental health, substance abuse, cancer, diabetes and obesity. They are currently working with local pharmacists to take back drugs, such as opioids, in an effort to



Otoe County Board Minutes



prevent overdosing and keeping prescription drugs off the streets. He said in order to get healthy and stay healthy, we need to protect our environment, change our lifestyle and address deficiencies.

Jon Brinkman, Lead Road Supervisor, gave the following Road/Bridge report:

- Contractor is on site and working on Project BRO-7066(43) south of P-28
- The west abutment repair is complete on Project (601) west of G-24, but road is still closed
- The overlay of Old Hwy 2 should start October 2nd
- East Crew has removed a bridge at D-38; it will be replaced with twin 96"x43' metal culverts – known as Project (537). They removed debris from a culvert east of P-50. They continue to clean ditches and repair washouts, blade roads and haul rock
- West Crew replaced culverts south and east of B-12. They have moved equipment and are ready to install a culvert east of N-20 – known as Project (597). They have installed multiple driveway culverts and continue to blade roads and haul rock.

Syracuse Mayor, KC Ortiz, expressed several concerns on behalf of the City Council. He said trucks from the Co-op are pulling out into oncoming traffic on Angle Road, creating a traffic hazard. Brinkman said he spoke with the Co-op Manager who has agreed to pay for the application of chemicals for dust control. Mayor Ortiz encouraged the Commissioners to speak with the State Department of Roads to create a turning lane from Hwy 50 to K Road. He requested the Board to grade the road south of the Sports Complex, stating it was full of potholes and has gaps on the bridge approach.

Other business matters were addressed at this time.

Chairman Freshman introduced Resolution 9-26-17-33 directing the County Attorney to institute foreclosure on Certificates of Tax Sale involving several parcels of real estate wherein 3 years have lapsed since their issuance and the right of redemption by the owners has expired. Chairman Freshman said these involve taxes on parcels that were not purchased by investors at the tax certificate sale in March. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to adopt Resolution 9-26-17-33, directing the County Attorney to institute action to foreclose the lien on the Certificates of Tax Sale as attached to said resolution. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons, Speth and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of a short term Letter of Credit from Arbor Bank issued on 9/13/17 and expiring on 9/27/17. The pledged security amount was \$6,500,000.

Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of a notice submitted by the Otoe County Treasurer listing an amount of \$26,010.48 of personal property taxes that remain unpaid as of 6/30/17. Distress warrants were issued to these taxpayers on November 1, 2016.

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 Freshman declared this meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 10, 2017.

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 26th day of September 2017.



Otoe County Board Minutes



Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk