



Otoe County Board Minutes



October 24, 2017

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on October 24, 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 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, 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 on the south wall of the Courtroom. 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 Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman 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 Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson 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 Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons 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.

Sandy Morrissey, Region V Director of the Regional Prevention Coalition, gave her annual report regarding programs funded by block grants. She said her primary job is to oversee federal block grant funds that Region V allocates for prevention of substance abuse and mental health issues. Otoe County was awarded \$8025. The largest portion will be used for conducting interviews and surveys within communities regarding drug and alcohol related issues. The data will be used to identify troubled areas and determine how the dollars should be spent. She mentioned several other programs that are designed to provide parents and students with information and tools that discourage youth from using drugs or alcohol. Ms. Morrissey said she recently received information that Nebraska is rated in the top ten for youth suicidal rates and/or attempts. They have initiated a program to train teachers, counselors and other individuals on how to identify troubled youth and assist them in getting the help they need for suicide prevention. She reminded the Commissioners that the Coalition has retained \$24,000 for mini grants, which can be used during the year if a county needs a little more money to finish a project.



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Nicki Baker, County Treasurer, reported that the Sheriff's Department delivered letters to four individuals whose personal property taxes are delinquent for two years or more. She said she received a response from two owners – one of them set up a payment plan and the other one said he would be in this week to pay the back taxes. Therefore, Ms. Baker recommended to stricken the taxes for the two remaining owners; if the third person does not pay the taxes by Friday as promised, she will strike his as well. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to strike the taxes from the tax roll as recommended by the County Treasurer. Ms. Baker noted that striking delinquent taxes does not cancel the tax; collection can still be made if the opportunity arises. 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.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to cancel check #17100054999. The County Clerk said a seminar fee was reduced from \$175 to \$75 after a claim was submitted and paid on October 10th. A manual check was issued for the correct amount of \$75 to pay the seminar fee, and a second check in the amount of \$100 was issued for cancellation in order to balance. 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.

Glacial Till Winery has applied with the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission to construct an additional 110 feet to their existing building. This addition must be approved by the County Board before the application will be processed and a liquor license is issued containing the new dimensions. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth to approve the request by Glacial Till Winery to add approximately 55'x39' to the east and west ends of the existing building. 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.

By statute, the Annual Roads Certification Report must be filed with the NDOR (Nebraska Department of Roads) by November 1st of any given year. The report includes budgeted and actual expenses and revenue for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017 and projected expenses and revenue for FY18. It also includes a material, supply and equipment inventory statement plus an equipment operations cost report. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign the FY17 Annual Road Report, which will be submitted to NDOR. 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.

Lead Supervisor Jon Brinkman submitted the following road/bridge report:

- Bridge 06110 south of P & 60 was closed after it was reported that the deck had a dip in the center. An engineer was called to examine the structure; he will make a recommendation for repairs so that the bridge can be reopened as soon as possible.
- The deck has been poured on Project BRO-(43) south of P-28
- The milling is complete on old Hwy 2. The contractor should begin overlaying today.
- K Road Extension from Hwy 50 to the Co-op Grain Handling Facility was opened yesterday.
- The East Crew completed installation of twin culverts east of D-38 aka Project (537). They continue to blade and seed roadsides in preparation for winter.



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- The West Crew completed the installation of a culvert east of N-20 (Project (597)); they still have some ditch work to do before opening the road.
- They have discontinued rock hauling except for special projects or emergencies

Sue Krogman, NEMA Project Manager for the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) came before the Board to give an overview of its operation. She explained NRIN is a locally-owned point to point microwave network that connects 911 Call Centers to PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) statewide. The system can transport large amounts of data, radio, voice and video quickly and efficiently. Now, first responders, including law enforcement, fire/rescue or emergency personnel, can communicate with each other no matter where they are located within the State. Nebraska applied for and was awarded a federal grant to purchase the equipment; however, the network is owned and maintained by local and regional entities. Most of the satellite microwave dishes are affixed to water towers across the State so that signals can bounce from one tower to the next. Otoe County is in the Southeast Region which also includes Seward, Saline, York, Lancaster, Cass, Gage, Thayer, Fillmore, Jefferson, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee and Richardson counties. Ms. Krogman said if a piece of equipment fails, the signal will be rerouted to another tower so that there will be no loss in communication. She said most Rural Water Districts do not charge rent. However, there are Homeland Security dollars available that can be applied toward rent or electric bills.

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 9:15 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on November 14, 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 24th day of October 2017.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk