



# Otoe County Board Minutes



November 14, 2017

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on November 14, 2017, 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 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.

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

Sheriff Gress came before the Board to request permission to purchase two new patrol vehicles as replacements for a 2012 Dodge Charger with over 141,000 miles and a 2012 Dodge pickup with over 161,000 miles. He will advertise for the two new vehicles requesting bids with and/or without a trade-in. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth to grant Sheriff Gress permission to advertise for the purchase of a new Charger (police interceptor) and a new pickup; specs to include with or without trade-in allowances. 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.

County Attorney Dave Partsch said he has been conversing with Glen Royal, Lead Supervisor, Jon Brinkman and several engineers and representatives from the Nebraska Department of Roads regarding the reconstruction of a roadway southwest of Palmyra. The current road has sharp curves and is considered hazardous, so the NDOR has proposed an alternative route that would straighten out the roadway to enhance public safety. Partsch commended Mr. Royal who has been cooperative working with NDOR and the technicians conducting environmental studies. An informational meeting will be held on December 5, 2017, at the Senior Center in Palmyra where the public will have the opportunity to express concerns, make comments and ask questions. Partsch said Mr. Royal presented an alternative plan to NDOR where the new road would slope to the north and come into Palmyra from the West. This proposal would impact the property of three landowners rather than the



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one parcel owned by Mr. Royal. However, the engineers disagreed with Royal's plan saying it was not feasible and they felt it was better to impact fewer people.

Mr. Royal said the current proposal will never make it because of the way his property was bought and dedicated over several generations. He cannot see destroying good land. He attended a meeting in Lincoln with the State Right-of-Way Department, an engineer, Jon Brinkman and Dean Speth. He said he asked for a transcript of the meeting and only got something that noted what he said – not what the State said. He said his proposal is the same distance and gets it out of the flood plain, but cuts across two other people's property. He feels he should not have to sacrifice his property for everybody else. Commissioners Dean Speth and Jerad Sornson will represent the County at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

County Treasurer, Nicki Baker, requested the addition of a pledged security with FirstBank Nebraska in the amount of \$210,000. Last month she purchased two Certificates of Deposit, increasing the total amount of investments over \$250,000. An additional pledge is needed to secure the County's funds. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to adopt Resolution 11-14-17-35 approving a pledged security with FirstBank Nebraska in the amount of \$210,000. 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.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-106.02, Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$29,874.60 for the month of October 2017. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Two representatives from the Food Bank of Lincoln are visiting the 16 Counties in southeast Nebraska where they offer assistance to food insecure people. In the last 12 months, they distributed 166,578 meals in Otoe County. According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap, there is an estimated 1,810 people (about 11.5 % of the population) who are food insecure in Otoe County. There are several donors and helpers in Otoe County including SENCA, the Knights of Columbus, and Kimmel Orchard. They said many of their clients work or are on fixed incomes and just need a little help to make ends meet.

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 8:55 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on November 28, 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017.

Janene Bennett  
Otoe County Clerk