



Otoe County Board Minutes



December 12, 2017

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on December 12, 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 Parsons 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 Hauptman 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.

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.

Larson Motors was the only dealer to submit bids for the purchase of two new patrol vehicles. A 2012 Dodge pickup and a 2012 Dodge Charger are being offered as trade-ins. Chairman Freshman opened and read the following bids from Larson Motors:

| Description | Base Bid | Trade-in Value (pkup) | Total |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| 2018 Dodge Ram 4x4 Crew Cab | \$27,981 | \$10,000 | \$17,981 |
| 2018 F150 4x4 Crew Cab | \$35,170 | \$10,000 | \$25,170 |
| 2018 Chevy 1500 Short Crew 4x4 | \$43,695 | \$10,000 + other discounts | \$23,744 |

Sheriff Jim Gress said all bids met his specifications. He noted the state bid for a 2018 pickup was \$30,667 without a trade-in option. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to purchase the 2018 Dodge Ram pickup and to trade-in the 2012 Dodge pickup for a total purchase price of \$17,981. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a voting. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Commissioner Parsons abstained. Motion carried.

Larson Motors submitted a bid of \$27,200 for a 2018 Dodge Charger and offered a \$5,000 trade-in value for the County's 2012 Dodge Charger. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth to purchase the 2018 Dodge Charger from Larson Motors and to trade-in the 2012 Dodge Charger for a total purchase price of \$22,200. There being no further discussion,



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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 \$53,568.99 for the month of November 2017.

Chairman Freshman opened discussion to adopt a resolution for setting the salaries of elected officials for the term of 2019 thru 2022. Commissioners Freshman and Sornson met with the County Attorney a few weeks ago to draft the resolution. County Attorney Partsch said the previous resolution used a flat rate of \$2000 as an annual raise, but this Board is proposing a 2% annual cost of living raise. According to the NACO salary survey, Otoe County dropped to Category 3 which is based on population and valuation. The minimum base salary recommendation was listed at \$54,300 with the highest being \$72,500. Chairman Freshman said the new resolution would set the 2019 base salary at \$61,200 which he felt was in the middle and very fair. The County Attorney would make \$82,620 (which requires specialized training and continuing legal education) and the Sheriff would be paid \$73,440 to compensate for his additional responsibilities of administering the jail facility and 911 Center. The Commissioners agreed to freeze their salaries at \$28,000 for years 2018 through 2022. Partsch said the deputies' salaries were left at 79% of the respective elected official's salary with the exception of the Chief Sheriff Deputy, Jail Administrator and Night Sergeants. Commissioner Parsons said some elected officials contacted him who did not feel the 2% raise was enough. He also questioned the paragraph that refers to the County's right to enter into an agreement with a person qualified to serve as the budget-making authority for an annual fee of \$5000. He thought he could hire a CPA for less and suggested taking that \$5000 and dividing it equally among the elected officials so they would get a bigger raise. Commissioner Parsons then addressed the County Attorney's salary, stating that he should not get such a big raise since he hired a second deputy attorney. Attorney Partsch replied that his second deputy will be taking over the child support duties and helping with juvenile cases that have increased significantly over the past few years. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to sign and adopt Resolution 12-12-17-36 as drafted, setting forth the salaries of the elected officials and their deputies for the term of 2019 through 2022. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – Commissioner Parsons. Motion carried.

Roger Whetstine who owns and operates a rock quarry in Troy Kansas, came to a Board meeting last spring to see if the County would be interested in purchasing rock from him if he set up his rock crushing equipment at a Cass County quarry site. At that time, he was considering leasing the quarry, but now the owner wants to sell it. He is visiting the Commissioners in Cass, Nemaha and Otoe Counties to see what size and how much crushed rock everyone would use so that he can determine whether it would be feasible for him to purchase the quarry. Supervisor Jon Brinkman said the County would be able to purchase rock from Whetstine for the eastern half and from Martin Marietta for the western half. Whetstine said he will charge \$12 per ton; Martin Marietta is raising their price to \$13.10 per ton in January. Commissioner Sornson said Otoe County would definitely be interested and felt the County would benefit in cost savings. Whetstine was told to contact Supervisor Brinkman if he decides to purchase the quarry.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to declare a 2007 Sullair Air Compressor, 49HP Model 185 CFM and a Miller Legend Welder as surplus. Supervisor Brinkman said the compressor has hardly been used and the welder needs a new generator. He



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thought the compressor would bring over \$10,000. He would like to purchase a new welder and possibly another piece of equipment with the proceeds of the sales of these surplus items. Commissioner Sornson suggested using a sealed bid method first; if the bids are not high enough, he will advertise with an auction company. 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 adopt Resolution 12-12-17-37 authorizing Jon Brinkman to sell the Sullair Air Compressor and the Miller Legend Welder that was declared as surplus above. 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.

Regarding Project BRO-7066(29) on N 60th Rd: Supervisor Brinkman explained that the “Declaration as to Use” is being required by NDOR to comply with federal funding regulations. Within the document, the County declares that the State can use a portion of land owned by the County for the construction, operation and maintenance of the new bridge. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to authorize the Chairman to sign and adopt Resolution 12-12-17-38 “Declaration as to Use”, approving the use of a portion of land owned by the County for Project BRO-7066(29). 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.

Also in regards to Project BRO-7066(29): The County Attorney and the attorney for the Rural Water District drew up an agreement by and between the two entities setting forth mutual understandings for said project. When the new bridge is built, the road will be realigned so that the road right-of-way will overlap a portion of the RWD perpetual easements. Within the terms of this agreement, the RWD authorizes the County to construct on their easement and the County will bear any costs if the RWD infrastructure is damaged. According to past practices, when utility lines are located outside of the County road right-of-way, the County pays for the expense of moving the line when the line is affected by a County road project. When the utility line is located inside the County road right-of-way, the utility company must pay to move it when necessary for a County project. However, for this project, (in consideration for the RWD authorizing the road right-of-way to overlap its easement) the County agrees to be solely responsible for future costs of moving the water line located within the County right-of-way if the same is requested or made necessary by the County. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement by and between Otoe County and Rural Water District setting forth the mutual understandings as outlined above in regards to Project BRO-7066(29). 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. The same agreement will be presented at the RWD meeting tonight for their approval.

Lead Supervisor Brinkman submitted a written report detailing the progress of several road and bridge projects, a copy of which may be seen in the County Clerk’s Office.

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 9:41 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on December 26, 2017.



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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 12th day of December 2017.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk