



Otoe County Board Minutes



December 26, 2017

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on December 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 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 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 Parsons, Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Gregg Goebel presented a proposed Public Safety Communications 5 year Strategic Plan based on adopted plans in other counties and states. The mission of the public safety program is to provide Otoe County citizens and public safety professionals with a high quality, financially secure and well maintained system of 911 interoperability radio and data communications services. With the recent installation of the new E911 communication system in Otoe County, the plan lists four goals with objectives on how these goals can be accomplished. Goebel said he will renew discussion during the budget planning process when funds will be needed to achieve goals that comply with public safety guidelines.

Secondly, Mr. Goebel presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the American Red Cross was drawn up to define a working relationship between the two entities including the duties of each for emergency preparedness and disaster recoveries. Goebel said the MOU was edited by the County Attorney to make it legally and grammatically correct. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to authorize the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross to clarify the responsibilities and roles



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of each entity in the event of an emergency or disaster. The MOU will become effective January 1, 2018 and expire December 31, 2022. 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.

Upon the recommendation of the Otoe County Visitors Committee, Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to reappoint John Palmtag and Jeanna Stavas to serve another four-year term on the Otoe County Visitors Committee. 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.

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of a letter of resignation from Therese Gruber as the Otoe County Assessor effective January 2, 2018, who is retiring before the end of her term.

Craig Bolz came before the Board to express opposition to realigning the road southwest of Palmyra. He felt it unnecessary to destroy good farm ground and said there is a similar scenario on the east side of Palmyra that will probably never be changed. He believed the vehicle count of over 250 per day was a government exaggeration. Just because there have been two fatalities on this roadway, people think it needs to be straightened out. He said people just need to slow down and drive with caution. He felt it a waste of taxpayers' money to realign this road when the road crew could round off the corner and put up some guard rails and signs to slow down traffic. Commissioner Sornson said this project includes the replacement of a bridge within the jurisdiction of the Village of Palmyra. This is a 1.2 million dollar federal aid project, so the Village and County's share will be 10% or approximately \$120,000. He said the Village won't get a new bridge if the road is not rebuilt according to the State's specifications. More people have expressed approval of the project than those who are opposed to it.

Chairman Freshman opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the plat of Gude 3rd Subdivision, a 3 acre parcel located in the E ½ SE ¼ 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 acreage 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. 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 3rd Subdivision located in the E 1/2 SE 1/4 S34-T8-R14; site location at 796 S 68th Road. 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 opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the plat for Hamersma Subdivision, a 5 acre tract located in the E 1/2 SW 1/4 S24-T9-R9 as requested by Joyce K Shear. Schmitz said there was much opposition expressed by the neighbors at the December 21st Planning Commission meeting. After reviewing the county's subdivision regulations, an attorney for one of the neighbors, John Zimmer, found that several of the plat procedures and subdivision regulations had not been met. Many were concerned with the driveway entrance to the subdivision. Schmitz thought the owner will probably withdraw the 3 acre plat and design one containing a larger lot. If the lot is over 10 acres, it won't need to be approved by the Planning Commission since it would not be considered a subdivision. No action was taken and the matter was tabled.



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Lead Supervisor Brinkman explained the need for signing the “Certificate of Completion” as required by NDOR regarding a federal aid safety project. Nearly two years ago, the County applied for and received “Object Markers” to install at the four corners of bridges and culverts. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to sign the Certificate of Completion, certifying that all the bridge and culvert object markers were installed in accordance with the Program Agreement. 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.

Regarding Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for Project BRO-7066(32) located southeast of Syracuse: When the contractor exceeded the proposed working days, the engineering firm spent additional time onsite, resulting in an additional fee of \$11,917.55. Brinkman assured the Board that this entire cost will be paid with federal aid. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to sign Resolution 12-26-17-40 authorizing the Chairman to sign the Construction Engineering Supplemental Agreement No. 1 between Otoe County and Speece-Lewis Engineers acknowledging the additional engineering fee for Project BRO-7066(32). 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.

Signing the “Final Acceptance of Project Construction” will complete the paperwork for Project BRO-7066(43) located south of P-28. The County certifies that the project has been constructed according to the approved plans, that all traffic control signs and permanent signs have been properly installed and the County accepts its responsibility for all future maintenance of the bridge. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to sign the Final Acceptance of Project Completion for Project BRO-7066(43) signifying the project was satisfactorily completed. 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.

Supervisor Brinkman gave the following report:

- The bid letting for Project BRO-7066(29) Nebraska City Northwest is scheduled for January 18, 2018
- The East Crew finished replacing culverts and rebuilding Road E which will be used as a detour when construction begins for Project BRO-7066(29); They replaced a culvert north of the OPPD Plant and hauled dirt to the Village of Talmage for a Fire Department project; They continue blading, ditching and performing regular maintenance
- The West Crew removed the bridge south of I-2 (Project 567); a new culvert was installed and the road was reopened; They replaced culverts south of K-20 and D-4 and continue performing routine road maintenance
- Brinkman is visiting with each commissioner to determine proposed projects for the 2018 1&6 Road Plan

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 9:05 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 9, 2018.

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 December 2017.



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Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk