



Otoe County Board Minutes



January 9, 2018

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on January 9, 2018, 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 Syracuse Journal Democrat 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 Commissioner Rick Freshman. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Hauptman, Commissioner Parsons and Commissioner Speth; none absent.

Commissioner Freshman informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the meeting room. Additional copies are available upon request.

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, Commissioner 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 agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons, Speth and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The meeting was turned over to the County Clerk for the election of a Chairman of the Board for year 2018. The Clerk called for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Sornson nominated Commissioner Rick Freshman as Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Rick Freshman to be Chairman of the Board for year 2018. Voting aye were Commissioners Hauptman, Parsons, Speth, Freshman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The Clerk called for nominations from the floor for election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2018. Commissioner Parsons nominated Commissioner Jerad Sornson as Vice-Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Jerad Sornson to be Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2018. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Freshman made the following miscellaneous board appointments for year 2018:

SEND (Southeast Nebraska Development District): Commissioner Hauptman will serve as Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

NCAEDC (Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation): Commissioner Freshman will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

REGION V: Commissioner Speth will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Parsons named as alternate.



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RC & D (Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development): Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to designate the Nebraska City News Press and the Otoe County Website as the official means of providing public notices during the year 2018. 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 adopt a resolution appointing Jon Brinkman as Otoe County Highway Superintendent. Commissioner Parsons said he had some concerns, but assured they have no reflection on the work of Mr. Brinkman. He said he was financially not in favor of appointing Brinkman; that Otoe County was outside of the NACO study and there could be catastrophic effects on the Road Department. Chairman Freshman submitted a prepared statement listing Brinkman's work history. Brinkman was hired in February of 1999 as a machine operator and truck driver. In 2008 he was promoted to a crew supervisor and placed in charge of maintenance and construction projects at the west end of the county. He also acquired the certification to be the "Responsible Charge" for Otoe County in order to apply for and receive funding for federal aid projects. In September of 2012, Brinkman was named the Lead Supervisor for the Road Department and obtained his highway superintendent license. He is responsible for the day to day operations of the road department, including the oversight of six road shops and a minimum of twenty-five employees. Matt Watkins who was as an attendee at today's meeting, questioned whether this position should have been advertised. County Attorney Dave Partsch replied the County Board has the authority to appoint a Highway Superintendent without advertising. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Voting no were Commissioners Parsons and Speth. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to appoint the following financial institutions as depositories for Otoe County in 2018: Arbor Bank, Premier Bank, American National Bank, Commercial State Bank, and First Nebraska Bank, all of Nebraska City; First Bank of Nebraska, Syracuse Branch; Countryside Bank of Unadilla; Tri-Valley Bank of Talmage; Farmers & Merchants Bank of Palmyra and NPAIT (Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust). 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 Hauptman 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 Hauptman Parsons, Speth, Freshman and Sornson. 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 \$42,567.34 for the month of December 2017. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-117 Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the quarterly report from the County Sheriff denoting the amount of certain fees collected, from whom and for what service. The total amount received in the fourth quarter of the year was \$11,761.17.



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Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending December 31, 2017, of the petty cash accounts held by Janene Bennett, County Clerk; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management; Teresa Johnson, Child Support Officer; Jan Reed, Register of Deeds; Jim Gress, Sheriff; Dave Partsch, County Attorney; Janis Riege, Clerk of the District Court and Cindy Cich, County Court Magistrate. Said reports will be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Brinkman reported there has not been much construction activity the past two weeks due to winter weather and the holidays. The west crew removed trees at the intersection of H-30 where they burned and buried them. Both crews continue to burn brush piles, check signs and culverts and perform maintenance and repairs on road machinery and equipment. There was some discussion regarding a truck that was towed for repairs and GPS monitoring on road vehicles and equipment.

With the resignation and retirement of Therese Gruber as Otoe County Assessor, Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to appoint Christi Smallfoot as the Otoe County Assessor to fulfill the term ending January 2019; said appointment is effective January 1, 2018. 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

Chairman Freshman announced that the next Board meeting will be held at the Council Chambers in Syracuse on January 23rd.

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 8:50 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 23, 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 9th day of January 2018.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk