



Otoe County Board Minutes



April 10, 2018

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on April 10, 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 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 Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman 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 Parsons 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 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 and Hauptman. Commissioner Sornson approved all claims except the one issued to Johnny's Cycle to which he abstained. 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 \$26,683.48 for the month of March 2018. 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 first quarter of the year was \$11,092.60.

Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending March 31, 2018, 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.

Clare Kincade, Family Development Associate with SENCA, came before the Board to give a report of services rendered for the quarter ending March 31, 2018. Ms. Kincade said they offer emergency assistance to help families pay for utilities, food and rent. They also conduct budgeting classes and teach job skills to help households become self-sufficient. Diana Bohlen is in charge of the Head Start



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Program that promotes child development for 3 to 5 year old low-income children. On April 18th, Head Start will hold an open house to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Susan Keholm, the Development Director, distributed a bound copy of the 2017 Annual Report outlining their goals, programs and several success stories. They receive 75% of their funding from federal and state grants; the remaining 25% come from local foundation grants and private donations. In recognition of the work and services provided by SENCA, Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign a proclamation declaring May as “Community Action Month”. 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.

Zoning Administrator, Dave Schmitz, recommended that Bill Umland and Cheri Wirthele be reappointed to serve another 3 year term on the Otoe County Planning Commission. He said he has advertised for someone to represent the North Syracuse Area and hopes to return with another recommendation within the next 3 months. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman reappoint Bill Umland and Cheri Wirthele to serve as members of the Otoe County Planning Commission through March 31, 2021. 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.

County Attorney Dave Partsch presented an addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Nebraska Public Employees Local 251 and the Otoe County Road Employees. The addendum amends Article 21, Section 8 b) changing the time period when a doctor’s note is required to return to work from sick leave. The original section cited “two or more days”, but is being changed to “more than two days”. Commissioner Parsons thought 7 days would be better, but stated where do you draw the line to prevent sick leave abuse while encouraging employees to stay home when actually sick. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign the Addendum to the 2018-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement amending Article 21, Section 8b) to state “An employee gone for more than two consecutive days shall have a doctor’s note showing that the employee was actually sick”. 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.

Doug Beach appeared before the Board to request that portions of two county roads be closed during an outdoor concert that will be held on July 14th in conjunction with the Syracuse German Fest. Per the recommendation of the Nebraska State Patrol, he is seeking to close a 2 mile section of Road 28 from Hwy 2 south to J Rd and an approximately 1/2 mile section of J Rd west of the ball complex. He also asked the County to provide barricades so that the event workers can set them up on Saturday morning and asked that the roads remain closed 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Beach noted the Syracuse Hospital, Fire Department and Emergency Management will have staff available. I Rd will be used as the emergency route if needed. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sornson to approve the closure of a 2 mile section of Road 28 between J and Hwy 2 and a 1/2 mile section of J Road west of the ball complex. 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.

CJ Johnson, Regional Director of Region V Systems gave his annual report of the behavioral health services offered in southeast Nebraska. Blue Valley Behavioral Health is the provider in rural counties, including Otoe County. They receive over \$22,000,000 in state, federal and local funding



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that is used primarily to treat adult mental illness and substance abuse. His budget request remains the same as last year - \$35,079 for mental health and \$6311 for substance abuse.

Dave Merrill, Director of Region V Services, said their purpose is to provide support and training to people with developmental disabilities. They serve 1/5 of the population in the state that needs this type of service. His budget request of \$28,017 has been the same for the past several years.

Linda Plager introduced Tim Lotten as one of the local Region V clients. He helps with preparing the meals for jail inmates as well as being a part of the crew that manufactures tool bags for the military. This year, they will create the "one millionth" bag and plan to commemorate the event.

Nicki Baker, Otoe County Treasurer, reported that three \$100,000 Certificates of Deposit will mature this week. She would like to renew the \$100,000 CD held at Commercial State Bank and two \$100,000 CDs held at Premier Bank. Both banks will pay 1.99% for 16 month CDs. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to grant Ms. Baker permission to renew the three CDs, one with Commercial State Bank and two with Premier Bank, at the rate of 1.99% interest for 16 months. 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.

Roger Whetstine, owner/operator of Whetrock Quarries, said he purchased the quarry in Cass County; it is now open and ready for business. He has had the stone tested through a private lab, indicating that it meets NDOT standards; however, the State still needs to conduct its own test as well. He is selling 1" crusher run for \$12.00 per ton, which is the type most commonly used in Cass and Otoe counties. Chairman Freshman suggested that he keep in touch with the County Highway Superintendent, Jon Brinkman. Getting rock from his quarry will be a shorter haul for the eastern part of the county.

Brinkman reported that the crews have finished burning the brush piles. The west crew has been making minor bridge repairs; the east crew is cleaning the Nebraska City shop yard and hauling scrap iron to Beards' Salvage.

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 9:38 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on April 24, 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 10th day of April 2017.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk