



Otoe County Board Minutes



May 8, 2018

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 8, 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 Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons 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 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, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management Director, came before the Board to explain the need for the County to adopt an updated Debris Management Program Action Plan. He said the Plan was initially adopted in 2015 whereby FEMA set forth a process for cleaning up debris in the event of a disaster. This revised program increases reimbursement to communities from 75% to 80%; however, the governing body must have a FEMA-approved Debris Management Plan in place in order to qualify for reimbursement. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 5-8-18-15 adopting an updated Debris Management Program Action Plan. 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.

Mr. Goebel briefly reviewed the terms of a tower lease agreement with the Nebraska City Housing and Community Development Agency (CDA) and Otoe County. NRIN (Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network) 911 wireless communications equipment will be attached to a tower located north of the intersection at 23rd Avenue and 19th Street in Nebraska City. In lieu of cash rent, the County will provide a backup generator and pay for the inspection and maintenance of the tower. The \$5000 cost for inspection is an eligible expense that may be reimbursed by the State. Goebel estimated the average maintenance cost to be \$1200 per year. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign the Tower Lease



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Agreement with the Nebraska City Housing and Community Development Agency allowing Otoe County to place NRIN wireless communication equipment on the tower which provides a vital connection to the statewide network. 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.

Lastly, Mr. Goebel presented a Lease Agreement with Rural Water District #3 allowing the County to place NRIN microwave radio equipment on the District's antenna-supporting structures located at 3703 S 24th Road and 516 3rd Street in Syracuse. He also presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Rural Water District and the Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Region that permits the County to apply for reimbursement of the rental fee on those same two structures. The annual fee for each structure is \$600. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign the Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding regarding the placement of NRIN equipment on structures owned by Rural Water District #3 and possible reimbursement of rental fees. 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.

Last month, three items were declared as surplus and offered for sale – Two steel flat files and an antique wood stove. Only one bid was received from Ted Beilman who offered a total of \$57 for the two flat files. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to accept the bid submitted by Ted Beilman to purchase the two flat files in the amount of \$57. 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. No bid was received for the wood stove.

For the past several years, the County Road Department has rented a tractor from KanEquip Inc to use when shredding roadsides; it also can be used to pull the sheep foot roller and reclaimer if needed. Commissioner Sornson said he looked into buying a tractor, but with a purchase price at \$70,000 to \$75,000 he felt renting a tractor is still the best way to go. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign a rental agreement with KanEquip Inc to rent a tractor for a period of 6 months at the rate of \$1200 per month based on 300 hours of use. 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.

Mainelli Wagner Engineering firm offered to conduct routine bridge inspections at the rate \$126 per bridge. It is anticipated there will be a total of 153 bridges requiring inspections this year. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to accept the quote from Mainelli Wagner to conduct routine bridge inspections at the rate of \$126 per bridge. Commissioner Parsons commented that he would like the Board to consider advertising this service for bids next year. 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.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to authorize the Chairman to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with OPPD setting forth proportionate funding for routine and corrective maintenance of OPPD Highway from Hwy 75 eastward to the power plant. Commissioner Sornson met with OPPD officials who agreed OPPD would pay 70% of the costs and



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the County would pay 30%. These percentages were based on traffic usage – 70% of the traffic is attributed to OPPD employees and their business associates. Routine maintenance includes fixing pot holes, paint striping, installation of guard rails, etc. The MOU will be effective for 10 years beginning June 1, 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.

County Attorney Dave Partsch said the Nebraska Attorney General led a summit in 2016 to discuss the opioid crisis in America. Nebraska has been fortunate to avoid a crisis, stating that Nebraska ranks 50th in the nation as to the number of deaths caused by overdosing – only 2 deaths in the past five years. The AG's Office, the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are working with the US Attorney's Office to develop best practices to prevent and treat opioid misuse and addiction. Recently, the County Board received a letter from a law firm in Omaha encouraging cities and counties to hire them and join in a law suit against pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors. NACO and our Nebraska Attorney General are encouraging counties and municipalities to remain patient; stating that is unnecessary to file legal action at this time.

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 \$20,466.96 for the month of April 2018. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

County Highway Superintendent, Jon Brinkman, gave the following report:

- East crew repairing ditches and backfilling culverts in the area of 55th and Van Dorn; Have refurbished the Lorton Shop and added bathroom facilities
- West crew cleaned out a drainage issue north of N-32; Installed a driveway and crossover culvert east of J-20; Installed a privacy fence for the Extension Office
- Both crews are hauling rock and grading roads
- Knife River Midwest LLC intends to start the K Rd Paving Project on May 14th

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to authorize the Chairman to sign the NACO Subgroup Application with Blue Cross Blue Shield for the County's health and dental insurance benefits. There are no changes to the plan – the County pays 100% of the premium cost for single coverage and 80% for 2-Party and family coverage. The deductible remains at \$2500 with the employee paying the first \$750 of the deductible and the County picking up the remaining portion (the amounts double for 2-party & family coverage). 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.

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 9:08 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 22, 2018.



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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 8th day of May, 2018.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk