



Otoe County Board Minutes



December 11, 2018

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on December 11, 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 and Commissioner Speth. Commissioner Parsons was 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 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, 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 Speth to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Hauptman, 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 \$52,142.13 for the month of November 2018. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Vanessa Sherman, Coordinator of Juvenile Diversion Programs and Grants Manager, presented a Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Grant application for board approval. She said the only change this year was in the allocated amount, which is based on the juvenile population of Otoe County. Since there was a reduction in the number of 12 to 18 year olds, the dollar amount was reduced from \$56,754 a year ago to \$51,929 this year. Their primary goal is to impact youth in a way that keeps them from entering the court system. The grant money will be used to pay a portion of the Project Coordinator's wages, the Grant Manager's wages, tracking services; family support programs and the contracted amount with Cedars Youth Services. The County's match dollars will be used to subsidize these programs. Deputy County Attorney John Palmtag felt the juvenile diversion programs are working well to keep kids out of the court system, especially those who are involved in truancy cases. Commissioner Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to approve the Nebraska Crime Commission 2019 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Grant and to authorize the Chairman to sign the grant application. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried.



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Highway Superintendent Brinkman said the County has wanted to adopt a tree/brush policy for many years. He has been working with Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Hauptman and the County Attorney for the last seven months to complete it. Basically, they plan to use the same procedures that are being used now; however, a written policy will make it easier to enforce. When someone complains of a road obstruction, a county employee will be sent out to take a picture of the area and the landowner will be requested to remove the trees or brush. If nothing is done within 30 days, the matter will be turned over to the County Attorney who will send a letter to the landowner warning him that failure to remove the obstruction will constitute a Class V Misdemeanor. If there still is no response, the County Attorney will mail a second letter notifying the landowner of the date and time that a hearing will be held by the County Board, giving the landowner an opportunity to appear and present evidence. If the Board deems that the landowner is in violation of the State's tree and brush statutes, the County will give the landowner another 30 days to comply. If the landowner still fails to comply, the County will cause the trees/brush to be trimmed or removed and the cost will be assessed as a tax against the property. Commissioner Sornson said the County's primary concern is to create safe driving conditions on all county roadways. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to approve the tree and brush policy as presented and to authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 12-11-18-40 adopting said policy. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Sornson, Hauptman and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried. Superintendent Brinkman was asked to obtain quotes from contractors regarding the rate they would charge for trimming roadsides and/or removing trees in the event one would need to be hired.

Superintendent Brinkman reported that the Kea Construction has started Project (29) on N 60th Road. The contractor hired to construct Project (625) south of P-60 will start this week. The County Crews have been busy with snow removal, equipment repairs and trimming trees/brush from bridges etc.

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 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on December 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 11th day of December 2018.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk