

March 23, 2021

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 23, 2021, to audit and sign regular claims and payroll 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 Commissioner Jerad Sornson. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Thurman and Commissioner Crownover. Absent – Commissioner Parsons.

Commissioner Sornson 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 Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman 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 Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Thurman, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to audit and sign payroll claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crownover, to approve Resolution 3-23-21-7 authorizing a lease purchase agreement for the purchase of a new motor grader. The principal amount of the agreement is \$237,812.24 and the interest rate is 0.75%. A check will be sent directly to NMC CAT in the amount of \$233,056.00. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Andrew Forney, D.A. Davidson, presented information to the Board regarding refinancing the 2016 Highway Allocation Bond. In conjunction with the resolution approved in September to approve refinancing the 2014 Highway Allocation Bond, the Board approved the refinancing of the 2016 Bond in April if the interest rates remained low. Mr. Forney indicated that the current interest rate of the 2016 Bond is 2.37% and the interest rate today is .80%. The decrease in interest rate could be a potential savings of \$170,000-\$200,000. Mr. Forney will contact the County Clerk when the bond becomes callable and proceed as needed.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the conditional use permit for a private airstrip located in the W ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 9, Township 9N, Range 10E, Otoe County, Nebraska as requested by Brent Vogt, owner of Stove Creek Air, LLC. Site is located at 16th & C Roads. Craig Schultz, Mr. Vogt was present and stated that he farms and owns an aerial application business. He informed the board that the airstrip would be used for his personal and business use, would be available for emergency landings, and may occasionally be used by others.

He stated that he is waiting to receive the signed easements from owners of neighboring properties within ½ mile of the projected airstrip. David Schmitz, Otoe Co. Surveyor, stated that the conditional use permit could not be issued until the completed easements have been received. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve the conditional use permit contingent upon receiving the signed easements. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Thurman, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to the City of Omaha for applying wastewater sludge to properties in Otoe County. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crownover, to approve the conditional use permit to the City of Omaha for applying sludge. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Crownover made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve Resolution 3-23-21-8 authorizing the Otoe County Sheriff's office to charge agencies a fee of \$.50/lb to destroy evidence such as narcotics and/or documents. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Crownover made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson, to appoint Harry Chaffin to the Veteran Service Committee Board. Mr. Chaffin would replace Roy Coulter on the board. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Vanessa Sherman presented the application for the 2021 Community-based Juvenile Service Aid Grant in the amount of \$51,004.00. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve the application as presented. Ms. Sherman will submit the application to the Crime Commission. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Thurman, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was a discussion regarding updating the County's designated newspaper. The agenda item was tabled.

Craig Jones, Managing Director, Public Finance, First National Capital Markets, was present to inform the board of financing options that First National could offer the county.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve Mainelli Wagner's proposed cost for 2021 Annual Bridge Inspections. The proposed amount is \$143 per bridge for routine inspection of 139 structures. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the road report: Project (431): Palmyra Southwest HRRR-7915 (1) – South box culvert has been completed, a pre-con visit will be made on Thursday and plans are to close the road and remove bridge structure beginning March 29th. The West end crew cold patched holes in hard surfaces and ditching at Q & 14 North. The East end crew removed trees at 53 & E. Both crews have been grading and hauling rock.

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 Sornson declared this meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on April 13, 2021.

I, Jennifer Bassinger, 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 23rd day of March 2021.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk