



Otoe County Board Minutes



March 26, 2019

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 26, 2019, to audit and sign payroll and 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, Jerad Sornson. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Parsons, Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Speth and Commissioner Thurman; none absent.

Chairman Sornson informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall. Additional copies are available upon request.

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

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth 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 Parsons, Freshman, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons 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 Freshman, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

Susan Keholm, SENCA Development Director, came before the board to present the annual report. SENCA is a private, non-profit organization incorporated in 1966. The organization focuses on moving low income households towards becoming financially self-sufficient. There are three main areas of the agency: Community Economic Development, Family Outreach and Youth Education. Ms. Keholm stated that 75% of SENCA's funding is through grants and the remaining 25% is from local support. Carol Aufenkamp spoke about the Family Outreach program. Otoe County provided 1,860 services from November 2018 through February 2019. Families may be able to utilize multiple services with SENCA; the number reflects services provided, not the amount to families. Debbie Green spoke about the CASA program. The program had 35 youth in the juvenile court system. With the help of CASA, 9 of those cases were closed. The number of volunteers has increased from 4 to 11. Ms. Green thanked the board for the support and stated that the funding received from Otoe County for CASA is used within the county. In recognition of the work and services provided by SENCA, Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to authorize the Chairman to sign a proclamation declaring May as "Community Action Month". There being no



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further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Parsons, Freshman and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to Benjamin and Katy Biehl, Roc Hopper Brewing Co. LLC, for a Nano-sized craft brewery located at 2946 O Rd, Syracuse, NE. The building will be used for producing and distributing the product. There will not be a taproom at this location, but he would like to expand to an additional location for that in the future. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit to Benjamin and Katy Biehl. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Parsons, Freshman, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to Paul Johnson for a metal fabrication shop located in Lot 4, Block 4, Evergreen Plaza 2nd Subdivision, East of 190th Street and North of Highway 2. Mr. Johnson has 23 years of metal fabrication experience. He will have the ability to fabricate projects for customers and has ideas on cutting edges for snowblades for plows. The planning commission approved the application with the condition of waste water and fire code. County Surveyor/Zoning Administrator, David Schmitz stated that these items were being taken care of. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed. Commissioner Speth made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit to Paul Johnson. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Freshman, Speth, Thurman, 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 applying wastewater sludge to properties located in Otoe County. Don Hembry, representative for the City of Omaha spoke to the board and was available for any questions. Each board member was furnished with maps indicating the parcels where the sludge would be applied, legal descriptions and land owners' or farmers' names. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit to the City of Omaha. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to Nebraska City Utilities for applying bio-solids to properties located in Otoe County. Jeff Kohrs and Jerry Whitehead, representatives for Nebraska City Utilities spoke with the board and stated that the bio-solids are beneficial to the farmers as a fertilizer. Each board member was furnished with maps indicating the parcels where the sludge would be applied, legal descriptions and land owners or farmers' names. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit to Nebraska City Utilities. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson, Parsons and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding an application for a Craft Brewery Liquor License, Class LK, for Roc Hopper Brewing Co., LLC, located at 2946 O Rd, Syracuse, NE. Benjamin Biehl, owner, stated that the license would allow the production and



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distribution at the business location as well as distribution at other events. Mr. Biehl had spoken about his business plan earlier in the meeting. There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to approve the application. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Parsons, Freshman and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of a “Return of Tax Sale Proceedings” for 2019 as submitted by the County Treasurer. A total of 116 tax sale certificates were sold to investors and certified the closing of said public sale.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to authorize the County Treasurer to issue a tax refund in the amount of \$286.50 to Kyle Kreifels. The refund is a result of an adjustment due to a clerical error. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Parsons, Freshman, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson presented the Supervisors’ Report for the Road Department with an update on several projects; Project (55), located at G & 60N – getting ready to set girders; Project (625), located at P & 60S – the box has been completely poured; Project (536), located at D & 44S – the box has been poured. The crew has been blading in a few areas and hauling rock as they can.

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 9:19 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on April 9, 2019.

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 26th day of March 2019.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk