



Otoe County Board Minutes



April 23, 2019

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:48 a.m. on April 23, 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 Parsons 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 Parsons, Freshman, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve payment of the regular 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.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to audit and sign payroll 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.

Deputy County Attorney, John Palmtag, spoke in regards to the following property owned by Otoe County: Fractional Lot Five (5), All of Lot Six (6), Block Thirty-One (31), Greggspport Addition to Nebraska City. The property did not sell at the tax sale and was obtained by foreclosure. Mr. Palmtag recommended signing the deed of the property to the Land Reutilization Commission to allow the Commission to facilitate the sale of the property for Otoe County. Upon the sale, the property would be returned to the tax roll. The Land Reutilization Commission provides services to Douglas, Sarpy and Otoe County. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to sign the deed to the Land Utilization Commission. 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.

Upon the recommendation of Zoning Administrator Dave Schmitz, Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to reappoint the following members to serve on the Otoe County Board of Adjustment: Russell Moss, Bruce Madsen, Kenneth Hartman, William Umland, Edwin Neels, and Jim Johnson (alternate). 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.

Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management Director, presented an update on the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC). The LEPC is a planning group for preventing accidents and handling hazardous



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materials. After meeting with State representatives, they would recommend making a regional group. The regional group would include the following counties: Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Richardson and Nemaha.

Bobbi Lechner was present to represent Blue Rivers Public Transportation. Blue Rivers Public Transportation submitted an application requesting \$6,000 from the KENO fund. The organization is currently running two buses and both are increasing in miles and in need of repair. The buses are purchased by the Nebraska Department of Transportation after \$6,000 is raised for each bus. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve the request of \$6,000 to Blue Rivers Public Transportation to assist in the purchase of a new bus. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Freshman, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Abstain – Speth. Motion carried.

Bids were opened on April 19, 2019 for a 1999 Ford F-350 Flatbed 1 ton utility truck in the presence of Commissioner Sornson, County Clerk, Jenny Bassinger and Randy Wilken representing Arbor Auto Sales. One bid was received prior to the deadline. The bid was submitted by Arbor Auto Sales in the amount of \$1,605.00. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to accept the bid of \$1,605.00 from Arbor Auto Sales. 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.

Highway Superintendent, Jon Brinkman, reported updates on several projects:

Project (55), located at G & 60 North – the deck has been poured and backfilling began 4-22-19 and North bridge removal will begin; Project (625), located at P & 60 South – backfilling the box culvert; Project (536), located at D & 44 South – backfilling the box culvert. The East Crew has been cleaning ditches and repaired a separated culvert. Both crews have been blading and hauling rock.

Chairman Sornson announced that upon adjournment, all five Commissioners are going to visit and inspect the County Jail pursuant to State Statute 47-109.

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 9:17 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 14, 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 23rd day of April 2019.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk