



Otoe County Board Minutes



November 26, 2019

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on November 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 Freshman, Commissioner Speth and Commissioner Thurman. Absent: Commissioner Parsons.

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 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, Speth, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth, 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 and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Speth made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to authorize the County Treasurer to issue tax refunds in the amounts of \$10,720.88 and \$3,414.82 to American Meter/Honeywell. The demand for refund of taxes paid documents state that the refund of taxes paid is based on a Tax Equalization and Review Commission order for Parcels #003051000 and #003050000. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Mary Baker, JEO Resiliency Strategist, presented the Nemaha NRD 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Ms. Baker indicated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies both vulnerability to hazards and disasters and ways to reduce or eliminate the vulnerability. Hazard mitigation plans are a requirement for determining eligibility for FEMA funding. The federal grants allow for up to 75% cost share on a variety of projects. Examples of projects that may qualify for this funding are generators, sirens, etc. There will be an interlocal proposed at a future meeting to renew the county's involvement with the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Chad Miller, Veteran Service Officer, presented a proclamation in honor of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Mr. Miller stated the proclamation would recognize and honor those veterans within Otoe County that have been awarded the Purple Heart. To recognize the proclamation, road signs can be placed at the entrances leading into the County. Mr. Miller has received authorization from the State road department for the signage to be placed in the State highway right of way with the stipulation that the state department installs the



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signs. Commissioner Speth made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve and sign the proclamation in honor of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to approve or deny a conditional use for a communication tower on a site located in the East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township 7N, Range 13E as requested by Grady Wahlquist. A Verizon representative was present in Mr. Wahlquist's absence, and stated that this is located on a pre-approved site. The permits are valid for one year and Verizon has needed to reapply for the permit and when the funds are available, they will be able to complete the project. Dave Schmitz, Otoe County Surveyor/Planning, stated that the planning board passed the request based on the land lease being available. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve the conditional use permit for the communication tower. Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman presented the road/bridge report submitted by and in the absence of Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman: Project (579), located at G & 2 East – contractor has started driving steel and deck panels have been poured. The East Crew installed permanent closures on bridge 05315P at E & 53 N; shaped road shoulder at P & 52 E; ditching at M & 42 E; ditching and driveway culvert at G & 60 N; replaced culverts at C & 42E and D & 42 N; removed beaver dams at several locations; placed rip rap at H & 46 W. The West Crew was ditching and driveway at G & 20 S; replaced collapsed culvert at M & 24 W; dirt work at C & 32 W and E & 18 S. Both crews have been hauling rock for projects only and blading.

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 9:36 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on December 10, 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 November, 2019.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk