



Otoe County Board Minutes



January 14, 2020

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on January 14, 2020, 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 Parsons, Commissioner Speth and Commissioner Thurman; none absent.

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

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

The meeting was turned over to the County Clerk for the election of a Chairman of the Board for year 2020. The Clerk called for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Freshman nominated Commissioner Jerad Sornson as Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Jerad Sornson to be Chairman of the Board for year 2020. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The Clerk called for nominations from the floor for election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2020. Commissioner Parsons nominated Commissioner Rick Freshman as Vice-Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Rick Freshman to be Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2020. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson made the following miscellaneous board appointments for year 2020:

SENDD (Southeast Nebraska Development District): Commissioner Thurman will serve as Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

NCAEDC (Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation): Commissioner Freshman will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

REGION V: Commissioner Speth will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Parsons named as alternate.

RC & D (Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development): Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Freshman named as alternate.



Otoe County Board Minutes



Southeast District Health: Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

Road & Bridge Committee: Commissioner Freshman and Commissioner Thurman will serve as representatives.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to re-appoint Jon Brinkman as Otoe County Highway Superintendent. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to designate the Nebraska City News Press and the Otoe County Website as the official means of providing public notices during the year 2020. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to appoint the following financial institutions as depositories for Otoe County in 2020: Arbor Bank, Premier Bank, American National Bank, Commercial State Bank, and First Nebraska Bank, all of Nebraska City; First Bank of Nebraska, Syracuse Branch; Countryside Bank of Unadilla; Tri-Valley Bank of Talmage; Farmers & Merchants Bank of Palmyra and NPAIT (Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust). There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, 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 Speth to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons 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, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sandy Morrissey, Region V, was not present for the meeting.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments on the County Surveyor position. Per statute 32-525, counties with a population of less than 150,000 that have an elected surveyor on January 1, 2020, the county board may adopt a resolution to continue to elect the county surveyor or have the issue placed on the General 2020 ballot. Gene Thompson, NDOT, spoke in favor of keeping the position an elected position. He stated in his years of experience that when an elected official is present, the surveying records tend to be retained. Another positive of having an elected official is that the official is a member of the community. William Umland, member of the Planning Board, spoke in favor of keeping the position as elected. Seven letters in favor of keeping the position an elected position were received also. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to adopt resolution 1-14-20-1 and maintain the County Surveyor position as an elected position for Otoe County. Being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.



Otoe County Board Minutes



Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to declare a 1979 Winnebago as surplus equipment. Gregg Goebel, EMA Director, stated that the Winnebago has had all EMA/County equipment removed and it is no longer needed as they have a trailer. Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to adopt resolution 1-14-20-2 to authorize Chairman Sornson to sell the Winnebago deemed as surplus. Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve entering a NRD Hazard Mitigation interlocal agreement. Gregg Goebel, EMA Director, explained that the interlocal agreements are for five years for hazard mitigation planning. The previous five years are reviewed, planning updates are made and reapproval will be needed in the future. The interlocal aids in qualifying for FEMA. The interlocal includes the counties of Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Richardson and Nemaha. Otoe County's share is \$4,900 and is based on population. Being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Gregg Goebel, Otoe County EMA director, presented the quarterly EMPG report. He stated that the next two quarters will include preparation for the Cooper Nuclear exercises that will take place in May 2020.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-106.02, Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$63,715.92 for the month of December 2019. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-117 Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the quarterly report from the County Sheriff denoting the amount of certain fees collected, from whom and for what service. The total amount received in the fourth quarter of the year was \$11,972.60.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending December 31, 2019, of the petty cash accounts held by Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management; Teresa Johnson, Child Support Officer; Ruth Ann Weddle, Register of Deeds; Colin Caudill, Sheriff; Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney; Janis Riege, Clerk of the District Court and Cindy Cich, County Court Magistrate. Said reports will be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Speth made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve Resolution 1-14-20-3. The resolution certifies completion of CBMP project C006600415. Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the following road/bridge report: Project (579) at G & 2 East - Contractor has set all deck slabs and grouting joints; Project (589), J & 52 South – Contractor has removed structure and is shaping the channel. The West crew burned and buried brush piles at H & 12 South. The East crew removed debris from a culvert at K & 48 East and burned and buried brush piles at R & 54 West. Both crews have been pushing snow when needed, hauling rock for projects and trouble spots.



Otoe County Board Minutes



At 9:06 a.m., Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to go into executive session to discuss an IT contract and the 13249 Palmyra SW road project. Executive session is necessary for prevention of needless injury to an individual and/or business. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried. Those asked to remain for executive session included Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney and Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk. Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent and Colin Caudill, County Sheriff, joined for the road project discussion.

At 9:46 a.m. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to go back to regular session. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to not renew a contract with Action Technology, Inc. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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 9:47 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 28, 2020.

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 14th day of January 2020.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk