



Otoe County Board Minutes



January 28, 2020

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:38 a.m. on January 28, 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 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, Freshman Parsons, Speth, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons 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.

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 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.

The public hearings scheduled for a conditional use permit requested by AT&T and the subdivision plat requested by Milan O. Brehm and Christie L. Brehm were tabled until the February 25, 2020 meeting.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the subdivision plat of Teten Subdivision, a 4.95+- acre tract in the North ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 25, Township 8N, Range 13 E as requested by Loyd V. Teten and Julie Teten, Michael M. Teten, and Jody Teten, Ashleigh Teten Gillespie and Heather Teten. The site is located at 5850 K Road. This parcel part of the farmstead and being sold to a renter. The treasurer certificate is not signed because the taxes are not paid in full. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve the subdivision plat contingent upon the taxes being paid. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson tabled the approval of Otoe County Visitor Committee recommendations until the applications are received.

Chuck Hassebrook, Sand Hills Energy, was present and spoke in regards of a proposed solar energy project in Otoe County. The project would be located on a 700acre area. Mr. Hassebrook estimated an additional \$300,000 in tax revenue for the county. He stated that Cass County may have a similar project and the proposed location is within the Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca school district. Mr. Hassebrook inquired about a letter of support. The commissioners had questions on if there would be bidding for completing the project and Mr.



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Hassebrook stated that there would be. Commissioner Parsons proposed writing a letter of support for solar projects within Otoe County, but not for specific businesses/contractors. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth, to request the County Attorney draft a letter of support for all solar projects, not specific businesses. Being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sarah Purcell, Otoe County Extension Educator, presented the 2019 Annual Extension Report for Otoe County.

John Bebout, Otoe County Weed Superintendent, presented the Annual Noxious Weed report which must be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture by January 31st. of any given year.

On January 9, 2020, bids were opened and publicly read for the construction of a low water crossing and other related incidental work. Those present were Commissioner Sornson; Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman; Jeff Wagner, Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc.; Mary Bennett, Deputy County Clerk; and representatives from Midwest Infrastructure, Inc., Kokes Construction, Empire Construction and Trenching, Inc., Goes Construction. The following bids were received:

Vendor	Amount	Start/End
Kokes Construction, LLC	\$216,074.00	3-9-2020 / 5-15-2020
Empire Trenching, Inc.	\$240,245.52	5-18-2020 / 7-6-2020
Midwest Infrastructure, Inc.	\$335,386.97	4-1-2020 / 5-15-2020
Goes Construction	\$731,503.50	2-20-20 / 5-15-2020

Chairman Sornson stated that Kokes Construction, LLC withdrew their bid after the opening. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth, to award the bid to Empire Trenching, Inc. for \$240,245.52. Commissioner Parsons inquired about the start date and Empire's bid indicated a start date of May 18, 2020. Commissioner Sornson stated they would start earlier if possible. The anticipated FEMA funding for this project is approximately \$218,000.00. Being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman presented the following road/bridge report in Jon Brinkman's absence: Project (579) at G & 2 East – the guardrail, abutments to grade, remove sho-fly and seeding is left for the project; Project (589), J & 52 South – Contractor has removed the structure and the shaping and diversion of the channel is complete. The West crew burned and buried brush piles at numerous locations. The East crew serviced equipment. Both crews have been pushing snow when needed, hauling rock for projects and trouble spots and blading as weather allows.

Chairman Sornson announced that all board members will visit the county jail facility upon adjournment per 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 9:07 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on February 11, 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 28th day of January 2020.

Jennifer Bassinger – Otoe Clerk