



# Otoe County Board Minutes



February 25, 2020

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on February 25, 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 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 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 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, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Otoe County's property, casualty and worker's compensation insurance renewal period is July 2020. The current policy is with Berkshire Hathaway. Tom Farrell, representing Miller, Monroe, Farrell Insurance Co., was present to speak in regards to bidding the insurance policies for the upcoming renewal. As our current agency, Miller, Monroe, Farrell Insurance Co. can present the bidding specs to companies in the marketplace and handle the bidding process for the County at no charge. Mr. Farrell stated that he feels there are 5 possible companies in the marketplace for the County coverage. He would handle preparing the bidding specs, receiving and reviewing the bids and present the bids prior to renewal in July 2020. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to adopt and authorize the Chairman to sign resolution #2-25-20-6, authorizing Miller, Monroe, Farrell Insurance Agency as the named broker of record for the letting of bids for property, casualty and worker's compensation insurance for the July 2020 renewal period. Being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to cancel checks #19110205 in the amount \$7.61 and #19120040 in the amount of \$164.70. Both checks were issued twice in error. 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 and approve membership applications submitted by Doug Friedli and Brenda McIntosh to the Otoe County Visitors



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Committee. Commissioner Freshman stated that both applicants would be good additions to the committee. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to appoint Dean Shissler as vice-chairman of the Otoe County Visitors Committee. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The conditional use permit for a new cell tower on a site located in the S ½ of the NW ¼ of S 27, T 7N, R 14E requested by Curt Walter, agent for AT&T, on land owned by Gerald and Mary Stukenholtz was tabled until further information is provided in reducing the height of the tower. David Schmitz, Otoe Co. Surveyor, stated that the conditional use permit was approved with two conditions, one being the height of the tower and AT & T is looking into reducing the height. Arlin Stutheit, Nebraska City Airport Authority board member, spoke of his concerns about the proposed location of the tower. He feels that although it is just outside of the flight path, it may be a hazardous. The conditional use permit will be presented at a future meeting.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the subdivision plat of Brehm-Neels Subdivision, a 5.77+- acre tract located in part of a 20.02+- acre tract in the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of S 13, T 8N, R 10E as requested by Milan O. Brehm and Christie L. Brehm, Trustees of the Milan and Christie Brehm Revocable Trust. The site is located at J & 23 Road. David Schmitz, County Surveyor, stated that the subdivision plat is under the 10-acre rule and is a non-residential subdivision. There will be hogs on the property and permits are being worked out. The owners will be running rural water to the property. The Otoe County planning commission approved the subdivision plat. Commissioner Speth made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve the subdivision plat. 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.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a Class C Liquor license submitted for JC's Clubhouse Grill, LLC, located at 5633 I Road. Commissioner Freshman stated that Justin Cunningham currently runs Lil' Ted's in Nebraska City and will be leasing the bar/restaurant area at Table Creek Golf Course. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve the recommendation of the Class Liquor License for JC's Clubhouse Grill, LLC. 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.

Gregg Goebel, Otoe County Emergency Management Director, presented information about a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Acquisition Application. A grant was applied for to replace the generator at the Courthouse. The current generator is approximately 15 years old and will need to be replaced. The funding of the grant is a 75/25% match program. The project was approved and is at the point of needing approval from the board for construction and purchase of the generator. JP Electric provided a proposal of \$87,119.00 for the turnkey project. The proposal amount includes the generator, concrete and installation. The grant funds would pay for 75% of the project with Otoe County paying 25%. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Acquisition Application. 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 Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to adopt and authorize the chairman to sign resolution 2-25-20-7 to approve the One and Six (1&6) year road plan for 2020. Being no discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Vanessa Sherman, Otoe County Juvenile Diversion Coordinator and Grants Manager, presented the 2019 annual report. She stated that marijuana and tobacco/vaping violations have increased. She continues to work with youth and their families as a resource for truancy and other violations. Ms. Sherman introduced Shannon



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Murphy from CEDARS. CEDARS is able to utilize truancy trackers and provide family support services. In 2019, the diversion program was referred 52 youth with 15 of those being truancy referrals. 95% of the enrolled participants successfully completed the program.

Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, presented project updates including: Project (579) located at G & 2 East – items left to complete are: guardrail, abutments to grade, remove sho-fly and seeding; Project (589) located at J & 52 South – contractor has poured the floor and been placing rebar; plan to pour walls this week. The East and West crews have burned and buried brush piles at numerous locations; blading and hauling rock to projects and trouble spots.

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 9:35 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on March 10, 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

Jennifer Bassinger  
Otoe County Clerk