



Otoe County Board Minutes



April 28, 2020

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on April 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 Speth and Commissioner Thurman. Present by online Zoom platform were Commissioner Freshman and Commissioner Parsons. 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 Speth 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 Thurman 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 Thurman 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 Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, 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.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the conditional use permit for a new cell phone tower on a site located in the South $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S27, T7N, R14E as requested by Curt Walter, agent for AT&T on land owned by Gerald and Mary Stukenholtz. The site is located at 1841 S 66th Rd, Peru, Nebraska. The conditional use permit was originally heard during the February 25, 2020 meeting and was tabled as there was concerns of the height and placement of the tower. Mr. Walter stated that the tower height has been cut by 56' and is no longer an FAA hazard. He stated that he had spoken with Arlin Stutheit, Airport Authority Member, and they had a verbal understanding of the changes. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve the conditional use permit as requested for the location stated above. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a subdivision plat of R. Steinhoff Subdivision, a 4.71+- acre tract located in part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S 21, T 9N, R



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11E as requested by Ronday K. Steinhoff. The site is located at 2889 E Rd. David Schmitz, County Surveyor, stated that the original plat was over 5+ acres and was vacated about six years ago and they have since decided to replat as a smaller parcel. The buildings and lagoons are the same as previous. The planning board approved the replat if all remained the same with the exception of less farm ground. There being no discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmitz spoke to the board about solar farms potentially needing to request permission to place service lines in County ROW if they are unable to obtain personal easements. There are currently no projects, and proposed projects would need to go before the planning commission, but Mr. Schmitz wanted to the prepare the Board for the possibility of a future request. It was stated that Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, would need to be involved with those discussions and the issue was tabled.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve and sign Resolution 4-28-20-16, authorizing Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk, to sign the application for credit cards to be issued to the following departments: Roads, IT and County Clerk. It was discussed that there are times that items or contract renewals are needing to be paid online or by credit card. The cards would each have a \$10,000 limit. Commissioners agreed that credit card purchases over \$5,000 would need to have prior approval by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board. 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.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth, to approve the use of the Courthouse lawn on May 7, 2020 for National Day of Prayer. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Dan Mauk, Executive Director of Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation, spoke to the board about supporting the expansion of Highway 75 to four lanes through Otoe County. The highway saw higher traffic volume during the 2019 flood when I-29 was closed. He has been working with Cass and Nemaha Co. for their support as well. He would like to see the expansion of four lanes go from Plattsmouth to the Kansas border, or at least to Auburn. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve signing and sending a letter of support to the Nebraska Department of Transportation for expanding Hwy 75 to four lanes through Otoe County. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to approve and sign resolution 4-28-20-15 to authorize regulations for the prevention of spread of communicable diseases, illness or poisoning. Grant Brueggeman, Director of Southeast District Health Department, stated that the resolution approving the regulations authorizes passing directive health measures. Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson presented the Highway Superintendent's report in Jon Brinkman's absence: Project (589) located at J & 52 South – M.E. Collins will be finishing up soon and then the roads department will install a field drive and the road will be opened; The West crew cleaned out a grader ditch at J & 29; burned brush pile at N & 22, repaired, replaced and backfilled bridge wing walls at E & 22 W and C & 2 W. The East crew placed rip rap around a culvert at Q & 62 N; replaced broken guardrail posts on OPPD Hwy; replaced deck planks and filled in wingwalls at O & 60 E; repaired



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wood box culvert at Q & 46 S; replaced stringers, replaced deck and subfloor planks and repaired 2 rotted pile at Van Dorn and 52 E. Both crews have been hauling rock and grading.

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 9:12 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 12, 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 April, 2020.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk