



# Otoe County Board Minutes



May 26, 2020

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 26, 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 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.

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 and Freshman. Commissioner Sornson approved all claims abstaining a claim made payable to Johnny's Cycle. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, 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.

Tom Farrell presented information about the upcoming property, liability and workers compensation renewal. Five companies were approached for quotes. Of the five, Berkshire Hathaway Companies is the only one to offer a quote. He noted that the County experience mod is going up from 1.47 to 1.56 which will increase the premiums for the renewal year. A formal quote was not received before today's meeting and Tom will follow up when it is received.

Commissioner Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a subdivision plat of Jones subdivision, a 9.12+-acre tract located in part of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ & part of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of S 26, T 9N, R 9E as requested by Steve Jones and N. Raylene Jones. The site is located at 809 N 10<sup>th</sup> Road. David Schmitz, Zoning Administrator, stated that the subdivision will split nine acres into two lots. The current regulations state that parcels under ten acres are to have rural water hookup. After attempts with a couple of rural water districts, they were unable obtain the connection. The planning commission has approved the build with an amended regulation to allow the well. Mr.



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Schmitz stated he would follow up with a copy of the amendment. Commissioner Speth made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve the subdivision plat. There being no discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign an update Memorandum of Agreement between Nemaha, Otoe and Richardson counties. The agreement updates the memorandum from 2018 and allows each county to send emergency notifications on behalf of the other if needed. Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Abstain – Parsons. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to approve resolution #5-26-20-17 to authorize a property tax refund to Glaser Hunting and Holding, Parcel #004711500 per TERC order. The refund is in the amount of \$2,535.82 and is for tax year 2017. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to cancel check #20050036 payable to First Wireless, Inc., in the amount of \$2090.92. The project took over two years to complete and was not completed correctly. The company president issued a full credit of the invoice and returned the check. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson, to approve the renewal of VSP vision insurance for July 2020-June 2021. There were slight increases on all levels of the insurance, the greatest increase being family coverage of \$.59/month. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Thurman opened discussion in regards to the usage of Inheritance Tax funds. A proposed idea is to maintain a \$2,000,000.00 balance in the fund and use the remainder to help fund bridge and road projects. Another idea for the funds to review the prior fiscal year and of the balance over \$2 million, place 25% in a set aside fund for future projects and give the Commissioners the authority to approve use of the remaining 75% if needed. It was noted that there are counties that have similar programs and that it should be researched as to be in compliance. There was no action taken.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign a Professional Services Agreement; Supplement No. 3 between Otoe County and Olsson for Project No. HRRR-7915(1) Palmyra Southwest. The project will go to condemnation and the fees will pay for staking, platting, meetings, etc. The agreement is for \$9,330.00 with Otoe County and Palmyra paying sharing 10% of the cost. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, presented the road report: Project (589) located at J & 52 South- project has been completed; Project (544) F & 16-Low Water Crossing (LWC) replacement, FEMA – contractor is projected to start 5-26-20. Both crews have been working on the following projects: Ditching projects at B & 32 N, F & 24 S, G & 14 E, F & 20, Q & 8 S, D & 8 W, E & 8 W, L & 40 W, Van Dorn & 48 W, OPPD Hwy & 68 S; Installed driveways at J & 52 S, J & 6 S and C & 8 N, Installed new headwall on abutment 1 at B & 44 S; Repaired and backfilled shoulders at O &



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58 E, Grass seeding at G & 14 E, G & 24 N and J & 18 S. Both crews have also been hauling rock and grading.

Curtis Field, Principal in Charge of Prochaska & Associates, provided a presentation in regards to a new jail study. The current jail was built in 1988 and has 21 bunks. Mr. Field's presentation included a power point providing information on different phases of a new jail project. Phase 1 includes a jail need assessment. Prochaska & Associates would gather information about the current situation and provide projections for 20-30 years for bunks needed and staffing needs. Phase 1 would include a facility program size, facility cost and future staffing needs. If the project were to continue into phase 2 would include preliminary planning, forming a citizen's group, media releases and a bond campaign committee. Sheriff Caudill spoke about the current holding numbers. The average numbers are around 40 inmates; with 21 bunks, inmates are transported and housed in other counties. This service costs the county, increases security and staffing needs. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to approve Prochaska & Associates to begin phase 1 of conducting a jail needs assessment at the cost of \$15,000.00. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Speth and Thurman. 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 10:06 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on June 9, 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

Jennifer Bassinger  
Otoe County Clerk