



Otoe County Board Minutes



September 8, 2020

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:33 a.m. on September 8, 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. Absent – none.

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 Thurman 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 Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman 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.

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 \$17,234.15 for the month of August 2020. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk, informed the Commissioners that there is an increase in claims that may need to be paid by ACH/EFTPS. The time frame on some of the claims are too short by the time the bill is received, the claim approval process and mailing the payment. The Commissioners acknowledged that payments may be made electronically.

Andy Forney, representing D.A. Davidson, was present to talk about refinancing bonds. The County currently has two bonds; one is currently callable and one would become callable next year. Mr. Forney projected a savings of approx. \$20,000 on the 2014 bond and \$135,000 on the 2016 bond. The matter was tabled until the next meeting and Mr. Forney will prepare the documents to be presented at the Sept. 22, 2020 meeting.



Otoe County Board Minutes



Ann Giebler, representing Legal Shield, presented the product to the Commissioners. Benefits of memberships include legal services and ID protection. The plans would be paid by the employee. Commissioner Sornson stated that Ms. Giebler could schedule a day to be present for employees to inquire about the product.

Steve Cody, Deputy Emergency Management Director, presented an equipment proposal from First Wireless, Inc for equipment for a microwave system in the amount of \$63,790.00. The county is currently paying \$12,000-\$13,000 annually for T-1 lines and the microwave system would replace the lines. By purchasing the equipment, the county would own the equipment and would be responsible for repairs and insurance. Mr. Cody stated that there are no annual subscriptions or fees with the exception of the FCC licensing fee every five years. Mr. Cody informed the commissioners that three quotes were sought, but First Wireless was the only company to submit a quote. Commissioner Parsons inquired about the spare parts listed on the quote and asked if they were necessary and Mr. Cody agreed to inquire. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson, to authorize the purchase of the microwave equipment with the contingency of confirming the necessity of the spare parts. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney, presented an interlocal agreement between Otoe County and the City of Syracuse for law enforcement. It is a three-year agreement for \$195,000 annually. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve the interlocal agreement. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Thurman and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Nicki Kreifels, County Treasurer, presented a list of parcels that have delinquent personal property tax that are 2 years or older to be struck from the tax roll. The total of the 6 parcels is \$9,809.28. Ms. Kreifels stated that by striking the taxes, the county could collect on the parcels if they were to be paid in the future. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to strike the personal property taxes from the tax roll. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged the receipt of an itemized report of the personal property taxes remaining uncollected after distress warrants were issued in November 2019. Sixteen parcels remain uncollected for a total of \$12,967.43.

County Clerk, Jenny Bassinger, presented the preliminary budget for FY 20-21. There is a new fund added to the budget. Fund 700, Special Road Fund, will be use to accommodate the funds being allocated from the inheritance tax fund for special road projects. The amount of personal and real property tax required for FY 20-21 is \$8,030,917.25. If approved, the levy will be .336047, a slight decrease from last year. A special meeting will be held on Sept. 15, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. for the budget hearing.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve going out for bids for a new rock truck and trailer. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Freshman presented the road report in the absence of Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman: Project (544) F & 16-Low Water Crossing (LWC) replacement, FEMA contractor is



Otoe County Board Minutes



finishing up on final grade and erosion control. The West Crew worked on the following projects: L & 2 West – Project (538) CBMP – tree removal, removed bridge structure, install culverts; King & 18 Rd – ditching. The East Crew worked on the following projects: O & 46 S – replace culvert and clean out ditches; O & 58 E – backfill washout on shoulder; D & 50 S – Project (624) tree removal, dig out old culvert and replace with a new culvert; B & 52 S – backfill washouts and shape road; E & 50 N – replace crossover culvert. Both crews have also been hauling rock for projects only 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 9:39 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on September 22, 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 8th day of September, 2020.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk