



Otoe County Board Minutes



September 22, 2020

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on September 22, 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 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 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.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve the use of the Courthouse lawn for an evening prayer vigil on September 26, 2020. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to authorize the redemption of the 2014 and the 2016 bonds at a future date to be determined by the authorized officer; the resolution number is 9-22-20-34. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Speth and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried. Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman, to authorize the issuance of the refunding bonds in one or more series in the interest of cost savings to the county; the resolution number is 9-22-20-35. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Speth, Thurman, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.



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Nicki Kreifels, Otoe County Treasurer, presented a list of all delinquent real estate taxes in Otoe County. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign resolution 9-22-20-33 directing the County Treasurer to issue tax sale certificates on the parcels. These parcels are more than one-year delinquent of real estate tax or special assessment. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Thurman, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the conditional use permit for a chemical and fertilizer distribution building for customer pickup, delivery, and custom application business located at the Syracuse Ag Service Terminal facility in the NE ¼ of S 27, T 8N, R 11E, Otoe County, NE. Site is located at 3176 K Rd, Syracuse, NE 68446. Craig Schultz, representing Frontier Co-op, spoke about the project. David Schmitz, Otoe Co. Surveyor, stated that the conditional use permit was unanimously approved by the planning commission. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Speth, to approve the conditional use permit for Frontier Co-op. Being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Jon Brinkman presented the road report: Project (544) F & 16 – Low Water Crossing (LWC) replacement – contractor is finishing up on final grade and erosion control this week. The East Crew worked on the following projects: D & 50 South, Project (624) – finished project; C & 50 North, Project (385) – remove old box culvert and replace with CMP; G & 42 East, clean out ditch and shape road; Jade & 72 – repair flood damage road. The West Crew worked on the following project: L & 2, Project (538) CBMP – finished installing culverts, dirt work; S & 18 East – ditching and culvert replacement. Both crews have been hauling rock for projects only and grading.

Chairman Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the vacation of the following described roads: All of County Road 107 North of H Road, Right-of-way in the East ½ of S 3, T 8N, R 9E of the 6th p.m., Otoe County, Nebraska and all of County Road 91/156, in the West ½ of the NE ¼ of S 3, T 8N, R 9E of the 6th P.M., Otoe County, NE. Commissioner Sornson stated that no action would be taken at today's meeting. Interested parties, Gerald Royal, Glen Royal, Jim Beechum and Cody Beechum, spoke about the vacation. Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney, stated that if vacated, the Commissioners can determine the property lines as part of the determination. The Board asked David Schmitz, County Surveyor, to prepare a survey of the described area. The decision of vacation will be made at a future meeting.

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 9:20 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 13, 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 23rd day of September, 2020.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk