



Otoe County Board Minutes



January 12, 2021

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:32 a.m. on January 12, 2021, 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 Thurman, and Commissioner Crownover; 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 Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman Parsons, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman 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, Thurman, Crownover and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The meeting was turned over to the County Clerk for the election of a Chairman of the Board for year 2021. The Clerk called for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Freshman nominated Commissioner Jerad Sornson as Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Jerad Sornson to be Chairman of the Board for year 2021. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Thurman, Crownover, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The Clerk called for nominations from the floor for election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2021. Commissioner Parsons nominated Commissioner Rick Freshman as Vice-Chairman of the Board. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Rick Freshman to be Vice-Chairman of the Board for year 2021. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson made the following miscellaneous board appointments for year 2020:

SEND D (Southeast Nebraska Development District): Commissioner Thurman will serve as Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

NCAEDC (Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation): Commissioner Freshman will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

REGION V: Commissioner Crownover will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Parsons named as alternate.

RC & D (Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development): Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Crownover named as alternate.



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BRAAA (Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging): Commissioner Crownover will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Freshman as the alternate.

Southeast District Health: Commissioner Parsons will serve as the Otoe County representative with Commissioner Sornson named as alternate.

Road & Bridge Committee: Commissioner Freshman and Commissioner Thurman will serve as representatives.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman, to re-appoint Jon Brinkman as Otoe County Highway Superintendent. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thurman to designate the Nebraska City News Press and the Otoe County Website as the official means of providing public notices during the year 2021. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Thurman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to appoint the following financial institutions as depositories for Otoe County in 2021: Arbor Bank, Premier Bank, American National Bank, Commercial State Bank, and First Nebraska Bank, all of Nebraska City; First Bank of Nebraska, Syracuse Branch; Countryside Bank of Unadilla; Farmers & Merchants Bank of Palmyra, Union Bank and Trust, and NPAIT (Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust). There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, Crownover 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, Thurman, Crownover, Sornson and Freshman. Commissioner Sornson abstained from any claims payable to Johnny's Cycle. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Thurman 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 Thurman, Crownover, 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 \$27,721.12 for the month of December 2020. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-117 Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the quarterly report from the County Sheriff denoting the amount of certain fees collected, from whom and for what service. The total amount received in the fourth quarter of the year was \$11,088.11.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending December 31, 2020, of the petty cash accounts held by Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management; Teresa Johnson, Child Support Officer; Ruth Ann Weddle, Register of Deeds; Colin



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Caudill, Sheriff; Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney; Janis Riege, Clerk of the District Court and Cindy Cich, County Court Magistrate. Said reports will be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crownover, to provide a letter of support to CASA for a grant application. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to approve Resolution #1-12-21-1, authorizing a tax refund payment per TERC order to Glaser Holding Hunting, LLC in the amount of \$1,747.14. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Thurman and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The resolution to authorize the Nemaha NRD Hazard Mitigation plan was tabled until the January 26, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, to cancel check #20120200. The check was made payable to the wrong vendor in error. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Thurman, Crownover and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Crownover made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freshman to approve extending the Covid-19 Admin pay until May 31, 2021 with the option of extending the date if needed. Each full-time employee was permitted eighty hours of administrative leave for Covid-19 related leave. The Cares Act ended on December 31, 2020, but the Commissioners discussed the need for extending the county permitted administrative leave. Employees that have exhausted their administrative leave, will need to use sick, vacation, comp hours for time off. This extension of administrative leave is for employees who have contracted the Covid-19 virus or that have had contact and have been directed to quarantine. The leave pay will not cover for time off due to school or daycare closings. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Thurman, Crownover, Sornson and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Freshman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to provide a letter of support to Project Response for the Victims of Crime Act grant. Voting aye were Commissioners Thurman, Crownover, Sornson, Freshman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the following road/bridge report: Project (431) Palmyra Southwest HRRR-7915(1) - Contractor has moved in and started tree removal and box culvert construction. The West removed trees on the curve of D & 20 and burned brush piles at J & 18. The East crew removed trees and cleaned ditches at E & 53. Both crews have been pushing snow, hauling rock and working on culvert inventory.

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 9:00 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 26, 2021.

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 12th day of January 2021.



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Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk