



Otoe County Board Minutes



December 21, 2021

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on December 21, 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 the 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 Chairman Jerad Sornson. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Parsons, and Commissioner Crownover. Commissioner Thurman was 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.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to accept the agenda as posted. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and not have them read as each member was furnished with a copy of same. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve payment of the regular claims. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to audit and sign payroll claims. Voting aye were Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Deb Weitzenkamp, Extension Educator, presented two applicants, Kelly Bequette and DeAnna Moore, to the Board of Commissioners to replace Trevor Houghton on the Otoe County Extension Board. She explained to the board that the extension board had a tie vote at their meeting. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Sornson, to appoint Kelly Bequette as an extension board member. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to discontinue Covid Admin Pay on December 31, 2021. Effective on January 1, 2022, employees will need to use their accrued sick, vacation, and/or comp time for time off due to covid. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Shelly Zimmer, Advanced Gaming, and Amanda Hotsenpillar, owner of Pin High Clubhouse, LLC, were present a Lottery Sales Outlet Location application. Ms. Hotsenpillar explained that the clubhouse is under new management and the application is needed to update the ownership. Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the Lottery Sales Outlet Location application. Voting aye were Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.



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Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a conditional use permit for an amateur radio tower with a maximum height of 100 feet on Lot A , Wild Briar Roase 4th Subdivision located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 24, Township 9N, Range 9E of the 6th P.M., Otoe County as requested by Theodore Roupas. The site is located at the intersection of North 10th Road and E Road. Mr. Roupas was present to provide information to the board. He stated he plans to build a home on the property in the future as well as the tower. His plan is to install the tower in the spring and indicated that if the exact model of tower is unavailable at the time, he would install a similar one but with the same height requirements. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the conditional use permit as submitted. Voting aye were Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The resolution to set elected officials' salaries for 2023-2026 was tabled until the January 4, 2022 meeting.

David Schmitz, County Surveyor and Zoning Administrator, presented the following names for re-appointment to the Otoe County Planning Commission: Howard Bebout, Dan Hodges, Richard Warner, and Cheri Wirthele. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to re-appoint the members presented. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve registering for the Opioid Litigation Settlement. There are currently two litigations, and the county would receive the funds annually for 10 years.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve changing all prior service payments to an annual basis, payable in December. Jenny Bassinger, Otoe County Clerk, explained that 19 retired employees received prior service for their years of employment prior to the County having the current retirement plan. The amount paid is \$1/ monthly for every year worked prior to the retirement plan. Currently, if the retiree is receiving more than \$10/month the payment is monthly, if the retiree is receiving less than \$10/month the payment is annually. As of December 2021, all payments were current, and a letter will be sent to all monthly payment participants (7) to notify them of the change to annual payments. In the event of death, the payment will be prorated and mailed prior to December. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Gregg Goebel presented information to the board regarding lamResponding service. This service would replace the current PageMyCell service. The county is currently exceeding the number of participants and the fee will increase between \$3,000-\$5,000. Mr. Goebel explained the lamResponding would cost approximately \$2995/year for a five-year agreement. The proposed product would provide more services for less annual fee as the current fee is \$3800/year. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to proceed with setting up service with lamResponding. Voting aye were Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent for Determining Incentive Payment report. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve Resolution 12-21-21-29 authorizing the signing of the annual incentive report. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.



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Commissioner Freshman presented the Highway Supervisor's report: Project (665) C Road Paving: the culverts have been installed and grading continues. County crews have started working on culvert inventory, leveled a pad for storage building at Nebraska City Shop; repaired bridge railing at Q & 58, backfilled culverts and ditching at E & 38 to 42; removed beaver dams; repaired bridge abutments on the SW corner of Syracuse; repaired ditch on road 91/156 where it meets the easement road South of Palmyra; repaired settling over culvert at G & 32; removed trees and fixed culvert at G & 30 West; installed a driveway and ditching at 11 & M. Both crews have been grading and hauling rock for projects only.

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 Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

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 21st day of December 2021.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk