



Otoe County Board Minutes



March 14, 2017

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 14, 2017, to audit and sign regular 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 Syracuse Journal Democrat 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 of the Board, Rick Freshman. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Hauptman, Commissioner Parsons and Commissioner Speth; none absent.

Chairman Freshman 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 Hauptman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman 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 Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons, Speth and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Hauptman, Parsons, Speth, Freshman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Pursuant to State Statute 33-106.02, Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$69,652.32 for the month of February 2017. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

As the new Manager of Kimmel Orchard, Bryan Fields must be named as the "Manager" on the Orchard's Liquor License. Since it is located outside the corporate limits of Nebraska City, Nebraska Liquor Control Commission is seeking a recommendation from the County Board to approve or deny the "Manager Application" for Mr. Fields. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to make a recommendation to Nebraska Liquor Control approving Bryan Fields' application to be named as "Manager" on the Kimmel Orchard liquor license. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to adopt Resolution 3-14-17-04 approving a tax refund in the amount of \$2,835.42 to Rodney Gauchat (Parcel 000640000 - Bidne et al) as the result of a TERC appeal order. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Freshman, Sornson, Hauptman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.



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Pursuant to State Statute 77-1813, Chairman Freshman acknowledged receipt of the "Return of Tax Sale Proceedings" as compiled by the Otoe County Treasurer. The total amount of delinquent real estate tax sales was \$206,537.29; said sale was held March 6, 2017.

Lead Road Supervisor, Jon Brinkman, gave the following report:

- Contractor has completed the construction of the bridge south of I-42; Midwest Fence Company will install the guard rail; then the road crew will haul and spread rock
- The contractor has returned to finish construction of the Bridge north of Otoe; the bridge will be closed for the next 1 to 2 weeks while the men are working
- Contractor has completed construction of the bridge east of Douglas; Road crew will finish dirt work; then Midwest Fence Company will install the guard rail
- Contractor will be moving east of B-8 to drive piling for repair of an abutment
- Contractor has begun to take out old bridge north of Paul; it will be replaced with a slab deck bridge
- Three culverts must be removed and replaced before starting the overlay project on old Hwy 2; In the meantime, Brinkman is acquiring landowner agreements

The Nebraska Department of Roads let Federal Aid Project BRO-7066(43) for bids on March 2, 2017. Four bids were received for the construction of a bridge located on Road 28 between County Roads P and Q, approximately 6.25 miles south and 1 mile west of Syracuse. JJK Construction LLC of Lincoln was named as the low bidder, submitting a quote of \$1,011,987.48. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to concur with the NDOR's selection and to award the bid to JJK Construction in the amount of \$1,011,987.48. The tentative start date is May 22, 2017. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons and Speth. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Brinkman said he received a "Notice to Proceed" on procuring right-of-way for federal aid project BRO-7066(29) north of Nebraska City. The Contractor is finishing up channel work on Project BRO-7066(32) southeast of Syracuse.

Representatives from the City of Omaha and the Nebraska City Utilities came before the Board to present their Annual Sludge Reports. Each Board Member was furnished with maps indicating the parcels where the sludge is applied, legal descriptions, landowners' names and the names of the individuals who farm the land. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to approve the 2016 Sludge Reports as presented. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Hauptman, Parsons, Speth and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried. A complete copy of the reports are kept on file in the office of the Zoning Administrator.

Commissioner Parsons said he would like to add a new feature to the "Road Tab" on the County's GIS website that would allow the public to access the status of road projects. They plan to post pictures indicating progress from the beginning of a project to its end. Constituents will be able to email questions and concerns or report hazardous conditions in the roadways. Commissioner Parsons commented he hopes to cut out bureaucracy and time spent on the phones while providing transparency to the public. The cost for adding this feature is a one-time fee of \$5,850 – half will be due when the contract is signed; the other 1/2 must be paid when the project is complete. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hauptman to approve the Development of a Public Facing Project Display Tool for the Roads GIS Tab and to accept the quoted price of \$5,850.00 to add it. There being no further discussion, Chairman Freshman called for a vote.



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Voting aye were Commissioners Hauptman, Parsons, Speth, Freshman and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

At 8:54 a.m. Commissioner Sornson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to go into closed session for the evaluation of the job performance of an employee. Closed session is necessary for prevention of needless injury to an individual. Voting aye were Commissioners Parsons, Speth, Freshman, Sornson and Hauptman. Nay – none. Motion carried. Chairman Freshman restated the only item of discussion will be the evaluation of the job performance of an employee. Those asked to remain for closed session included Dave Partsch, County Attorney; Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management Director; Janene Bennett, County Clerk and Jenny Bassinger, Administrative Assistant.

At 9:01 a.m. Commissioner Parsons made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sornson to go back into regular session. Voting aye were Commissioners Speth, Freshman, Sornson, Hauptman and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried. No action was taken while in executive session.

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 Freshman declared this meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on March 28, 2017.

I, Janene Bennett, 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 14th day of March 2017.

Janene Bennett
Otoe County Clerk