

January 16, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:32 a.m. on January 16, 2024, 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 Crownover, and Commissioner Cole.

Commissioner Sornson informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was located near the door of the courtroom.

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

Cole 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 Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

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

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

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$32,514.21 for the month of December 2023. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

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 \$11,243.40.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the financial reports for quarter ending December 31, 2023, 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 Caudill, Sheriff; Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney; Janis Riege, Clerk of the District Court and Dana Ritchheart, County Court Magistrate. Said reports will be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a Class B liquor license application submitted by Johnson's Gas & Go, Inc. Jeremy Johnson was present and informed the board that he and his wife had purchased the business. A new application is necessary with the change of ownership. There were no other public comments and Sornson closed the public hearing. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve a Class B liquor license application submitted by Johnson's Gas & Go. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the annual weed report. The annual report was prepared and presented by Weed Superintendent Jeff Walters. Mr. Walters also provided the board with an update of items involving the weed department. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Bids for Project C-66 (693), Nebraska City Southeast Tree and Brush removal, were publicly opened on January 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The bids were to include all labor, materials, transportation, and equipment required for tree and brush removal, and other related incidental work. County Commissioner Jerad Sornson, County Clerk Jenny Bassinger, Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman were present at the bid opening. Others present to represent bidders were Robert Phillip, Wichita Tree Service representative and Drew Jones, Final Grade Construction representative. Adam Mace, representing Mainelli Wagner Engineering was also present. Bids received for Project C-66 (693):

| Contractor | Bid | Start/End Dates |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Tim Sisco Construction, LLC | \$87,500.00 | March 1, 2024 / March 31, 2024 |
| Final Grade Construction | \$100,000.00 | Jan. 24, 2024 / March 24, 2024 |
| Wichita Tree Service | \$163,000.00 | Now / March 31, 2024 |
| Brandt Excavating, LLC | \$218,730.55 | Jan. 22, 2024 / March 31, 2024 |
| Yost Excavating | \$850,000.00 | Jan. 29, 2024 / Dec. 24, 2024 |

Bids were received from EHG Construction and Looks Great Services of MS also. The bids were not considered as one was received after the deadline and one was sent to the incorrect address. This project will be paid for with an agreement between OPPD and Otoe County that provides OPPD paying 70% and Otoe County paying 30% of projects. Sornson made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to award the bid for Project C-66 (693) to Tim Sisco Construction, LLC in the amount of \$87,500.00. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none.

Jon Brinkman, Otoe County Highway Superintendent, presented a rod study involving the section of road located in the West ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 3, Township 8N, Range 9E. Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole, to proceed with a public hearing for the road vacation of the county road in the West ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 3, Township 8N, Range 9E. Voting aye were Cole, Crownover, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the road report: Project (610): Dixon Construction is ready, and Mr. Brinkman is clearing up easements. County crews have been pushing snow. There was discussion of the snow removal process. He said that Congressman Adrian Smith had responded to the letter that was mailed regarding federal funding for roads. He was informed of Section 14 funds and made an application. Senator Deb Fischer had also responded and wanted to visit with him the following week.

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 January 30, 2024.

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 16th day of January 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
 Otoe County Clerk