

March 26, 2024

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 26, 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.

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

Chad Miller, Otoe County Veteran Service Officer, presented the March 2024 Veteran of the Month honor to Foy Thayer. Chad Miller spoke of Mr. Thayer's military service and honors.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged the formation of a solar farm subcommittee and announced the members to Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Crownover, and three members of the Otoe County Planning and Zoning Committee. They will begin the review of solar farm regulations for Otoe County.

There was discussion of the opioid settlement funds received by Otoe County. As of March 25, 2024, \$25,745.01 had been received and no funds had been expended. There was no action taken.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Cole, to approve the tax sale proceedings from the Otoe County Treasurer. The grand total including the cost of certificates was \$127,574.05. Voting aye was Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to adopt Resolution #3-26-24-10 to appoint Tom Farrell, Miller Farrell Insurance Agency, as broker of record for bidding County property, casualty and workers' compensation insurance for July 2024 renewal and to authorize the opening of bids on May 31, 2024, prior to the Commissioners' meeting on June 4, 2024, for comparison and review. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parson, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to adopt Resolution #3-26-24-11 to approve an agent to open and review bids for projects prior to presentation to the Board of Commissioners. The ability of opening bids prior to the commissioners' meeting allows the compilation and review of bid information submitted. Voting aye were Freshman, Sornson, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve an agreement with Lancaster County Youth Services Center for juvenile detention services. The daily rate is \$334.00 per day. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Susan Keholm, SENCA CCAP- Development Director, and Debbie Green, CASA Coordinator, presented SENCA and CASA annual reports. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Cole, to proclaim May 2024 as Community Action Month. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged the receipt of Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent's resignation letter. His last day will be April 12, 2024.

The board discussed the replacement of the highway superintendent and stated that the position will be advertised.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to adopt Resolution #3-12-24-9 to approve the vacation of a section of county road located in the West ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 3, Township 8N, Range 9E of the 6th P.M., Otoe County. The commissioners had determined that it was necessary to extend and create an easement for the benefit of the landowners on the North and South of the road and then vacate the road along the center of the current Right of Way and then with North ½ of the right of way being vacated in favor of the North landowner and the South ½ of the right of way being vacated in favor of the South landowner. It is also necessary to update the County Roads Map. The resolution on file describes the easement and identifies the road vacated along the center line of the right of way. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jon Brinkman presented the road report: Project (693) OPPD Hwy; contractor is making great progress on the tree removal project; Project (610) B & 56: with the County Attorney's help, the easement was secured, Dixon Construction has started to mobilize to the project. County crews have been removing trees and replaced the culvert and dirt work on Project (695) at S & 48 East; finished the dirt work on B & 10 South – this project was started in December but was snowed out; dug up and relayed a culvert at D & 14 South. The contracted rock hauling will begin as soon as the roads dry a little. The crews have been hauling rock and grading roads.

Chairman Sornson informed the public that the board would be voting on going into closed session to discuss staffing and personnel and that during the closed session, no action would be taken. He stated that the five board members would be present in the room. Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to enter closed session at 9:21 a.m. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried. At 9:51 a.m., the meeting was reconvened with Freshman making a motion, seconded by Crownover, to re-enter open session. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

At 9:51 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

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 26th day of March 2024.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk