

Bartlett, Nebraska

May 29, 2024

The Wheeler County Commissioners met for the regular monthly meeting on this date. Legal Notice of the meetings was published in the May 15, 2024 and May 22, 2024 edition of the Burwell Tribune and Official Agenda posted according to law. Chairman Heinz called the meeting to order and identified the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act poster on the Court Room West wall. Answering roll call were Commissioners Heinz, Plugge and Pokorny. Clerk Snider, Treasurer Seamann, County Attorney Joe McNally, Sheriff King, Deputy Sheriff McQuillan and Road Foreman Reed were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public comment was heard for items not on the agenda including Zac Thramer and Greg Gehl with concerns and questions about Region 26.

Pokorny made a motion to approve the April 24, 2024, regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Weed Superintendent Reiter reported that he has begun spraying for leafy spurge.

Foreman Reed reported that Joe Wadas asked if the county would be willing to grade the roads at Lake Ericson once or twice a year, especially prior to major events being held at the Lake. The board advised Reed an amount they would be agreeable to charge for the county to complete the maintenance since the roads are privately owned and asked him to negotiate the terms. Mr. McNally would prepare an agreement if the Lake Ericson Corporation agreed to the amount and terms which would then need board approval at a later time.

Reed would like to place 3 to 4 culverts along the Cedar River Road leading to Pitzer's to help with the water flow. Birtwistle's requested a couple of culverts at their driveway so that the water would flow better, and Greg Gehl also requested culverts at his place to help with the excess water when it rains as it tends to wash out the road in places. The board instructed Reed to talk to the landowners and come up with a solution.

Jake Ryba, Murphy Tractor & Equipment representative, provided a bid for a grader that they have out for rent that will be coming up for sale. The matter was tabled until the June meeting so Reed could inspect the machine.

At 9:07 am Chairman Heinz opened the Public Hearing to take public comment on the Special Use Permit application that Loup Valley Rural Public Power District submitted for a 6 Acre solar farm. There was no public comment, and Pokorny made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:17 am, seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Pokorny, Heinz, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

Heinz made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit filed by Loup Valleys Rural Public Power District to install and operate a utility scale solar facility, subject to the conditions and findings of fact as determined by the Planning Commission, seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye: Heinz, Pokorny, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

Four bids were presented to the board for the installation of spray foam insulation for the courthouse interior ceiling including BKE Insulators for \$26,568.00, Superior Foam & Coatings for \$18,630.00, 4-Evergreen Insulation, LLC for \$22,032.00, and Murphy Bros, Insulation, LLC for \$22,054.00. Pokorny made a motion to accept the bid from Murphy Bros. Insulation for 3 inches of insulation for \$22,054.00, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Plugge made a motion to appoint Kellee Rasmussen as the Central Nebraska Economic Development District representative, seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye: Plugge, Pokorny, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

The board had a video conference with Kristen MacLeod from Flock to better explain and answer questions about the license plate readers. No action taken.

Treasurer Seamann stated that there is no need to transfer funds this month, and that she would be able to pay \$150,000 from the Road Fund back to General Fund.

Zoning Administrator Brandi Pokorny stated that Deb Eschliman submitted a letter of resignation at the last zoning meeting. Heinz made a motion to accept the resignation letter seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye: Heinz, Pokorny, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

Mrs. Pokorny stated that she is still working on getting proposals for revising the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations.

Plugge made a motion to appoint Adam Miller as a Zoning Board member and Greg Gehl as an alternate member, seconded by Heinz.

Correspondence from NACO was reviewed that indicated there will be a 3.5% increase on employee health insurance coverage for the upcoming year. No action taken.

Karla Slaymaker from AFLAC updated the board on supplemental health insurance options available and would be available for open enrollment for the new year starting July 1, 2024.

The Wheeler County Agricultural Society Special Designated License (SDL) for the Wheeler County Fair and Rodeo was presented. Pokorny made a motion to approve the SDL application, seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Pokorny, Heinz, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

Plugge made a motion to approve the Region 3 Match request, seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Plugge, Heinz, and Pokorny. Voting nay: none.

General Fund	
Payroll	\$25,646.09
Aflac, insurance	357.04
Ameritas Retirement Plans Division, retirement	4,031.01
Appera, services	78.74
Applied Connective Technologies, computer repairs	1,234.29
Bartak Glass, door locks	1,192.56
Bartlett Post Office, postage	492.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance, dental/health insurance	18,528.37
Blue to Gold, LLC meeting registration,	225.00
Burwell Tribune, publication	5.82
Cenex Fleet Fueling, sheriff fuel	1,310.39
Colliers Landscaping & Lawn Care, power rake lawn	345.00
Colonial Life Insurance, insurance	264.39
DAS Sate Accounting AS 400 fees	309.75
Elan Financial Services, supplies	533.35
Election Systems and Software, election ballots/setup	1,543.94
Farmers and Merchants Bank, payroll w/h	6,827.85
First Conrad Benefits Group, insurance bye down	72.00
G-L-W Extension Services, monthly support	2,069.98
Holt County Treasurer, veterans contract	516.67
Holt County Sheriff, prisoner keep	500.00
Hometown Leasing, copier payment	60.41
Howard County Clerk, share of Judge expense	613.76
Loup Valleys Rural Public Power District, services	410.55
McNally Law Office, clerical, meeting reimbursement	2,308.34
Microfilm Imaging System, services	60.00
MIPS, Inc, program	1,299.34
Murdock, Shawn, patrol unit service	100.00
Nebraska Association of County Treasurers, June workshop	150.00
Nebraska Department of Revenue, payroll w/h	942.51

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co, services	536.10
Pokorny, Brandi, meeting reimbursement	224.09
Presto-X, monthly services	61.02
Quill Corporation, supplies	507.07
Snider, Cara, mileage	195.64
Standard Appraisal Services, pickup work	2,340.00
Transunion Risk & Alt Data Solution, subscription	175.00
Verizon Wireless, cell phones	408.24
Village of Bartlett, services	666.99
VSP Insurance Co. vision insurance	156.29
Wheeler County Clerk, postage	179.95
Wheeler County Treasurer, postage	204.00
ROAD FUND	
Payroll	\$24,675.05
AKRS Equipment, repairs	138.79
Ameritas Retirement Plans Division, retirement	3,504.33
Appera, services	36.03
Blue Cross Blue Shield, dental/health insurance	10,619.80
Bomgaars Supply, Inc, supplies	15.98
Colonial Life Insurance, insurance	430.00
Cooper, Courtney, road signs	200.00
Elan Financial Services, supplies	54.82
Emme Sand & Gravel, gravel	26,940.45
Equipment Blades, blades	2,035.20
Farmers and Merchants Bank, payroll w/h	6,882.28
First Conrad Benefits Group, insurance buydown,	1,126.37
Hillbill's Diesel, hose repairs	78.30
Hubel Welding, welder iron	4,913.01
J & J Sanitation, services	191.74
Loup Valleys Rural Public Power District, shop services	213.26
Madison Nation Life, insurance	9.11
Miller Tire Services, tires	648.08
Nebraska Department of Revenue, payroll w/h	1,068.38
Nebraska Machinery Co., repairs	2,326.67
Nitro Construction, Inc, crushed concrete	17,203.22
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co, services	90.21
O'Neill Auto Supply, Inc, filters	181.97
Plugge's Rod Shop, repairs	231.35
Powerplan, repairs	944.62
Sapp Bros Petroleum, INC., diesel	10,954.10
Sioux City Truck Sales, INC, repairs	128.01
Spalding Farm & Home, Inc, repairs	5.99
The Parts Bin, Inc, supplies	1,091.33
Titan Machinery-North Platte, payloader repairs	5,533.05
TRP Of O'Neill, repairs	227.84
Ulrich Gravel, gravel,	4,085.51
Verizon Wireless, road phone	205.88
VSP Insurance Co, vision insurance	41.46

Heinz made a motion to approve claims as presented, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Heinz, Plugge, and Pokorny. Voting nay: none.

With no further business Pokorny made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 am seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Pokorny, Heinz, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 8 a.m.

Cara Snider, County Clerk  
Travis Heinz, Board Chairman  
Bartlett, Nebraska