

Bartlett, Nebraska

June 26, 2024

The Wheeler County Commissioners met for the regular monthly meeting on this date. Legal Notice of the meetings was published in the June 19, 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, Road Foreman Reed, Road Supt. Jay Meyer and Sheriff's Secretary Amy Spencer were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public comment was heard for items not on the agenda including Dennis Derner having concerns with Leafy Spurge.

Plugge made a motion to approve the May 29, 2024, regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye: Plugge, Pokorny, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Weed Superintendent Reiter presented a map of where he had been spraying throughout the county.

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 as a new unit. Reed had been able to inspect it and requested a couple minor changes on the machine prior to delivery if purchased. Pokorny made the motion to purchase the Deere machine from Murphy Tractor & Equipment for \$265,084, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Pokorny made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for paid maintenance on the roads at Ericson Lake, seconded Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Reed suggested declaring the belly dump, the Case backhoe, and the excavator as surplus equipment and selling them on Big Iron. Pokorny made a motion to declare them as excess and authorize Reed to use his discretion to sell the 3 items, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, and Plugge. Voting nay: Heinz.

Heidi Borg from Congressman Adrian Smith's Office provided an update about what Congressman Smith has been working on.

Elaine Menzel gave an update on things that have been happening within NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) and stated that the Opens Meeting Act has been updated by the legislature and that the necessary changes will be outlined on the new posters being sent out in the future.

County Court Clerk Bert Metschke voiced concerns about the schedule of moving the court office. Her office would only be allowed to move during office hours excluding holidays. She was also promised a window in her office and requested it be installed instead of eliminated.

Snider reported that Murphy Brothers were here on June 8th and 9th to install the interior spray foam insulation on the ceiling, and that they are half done. They will be back to finish on July 3rd and 4th and the Courthouse will be closed on July 5th due to safety concerns.

Chuck Abel explained the budget process and money transfers between funds as well as possible changes to the Inheritance Tax collection.

The 3-Year Assessment Plan was reviewed as presented.

Spencer, on behalf of the Sheriff's Department, requested sending out post cards and publishing notice in the paper reminding property owners and tenants to refrain from irrigating the roads as well as also the requirement to mow road ditches. The board asked Snider to publish notice and to also send out postcards to all landowners.

Discussion was held about termination of the Region 26 contract. There is a current 5-year agreement started in 2020, and if terminated, notice to do so would need to be given prior to 7/1/24. Pokorny made a motion to approve Resolution 20240601 to terminate the agreement with Region 26 with a year's notice. The motion died for lack of a second.

At 9:00 am Chairman Heinz opened the Public Hearing for the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan. Road Supt. Jay Meyer explained what was in the Plan. Reed stated that the Cedar River Road (Pitzer Road) could be removed as it was completed in the fall of 2023, and that 845th Rd between 507th and 508th Ave. needed to be added. With no other discussion Chairman Heinz made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 10:09, seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye Heinz, Pokorny, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

Pokorny made a motion to adopt the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan with the agreed upon modifications, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

The County Commissioners convened as the County Board of Equalization at 10:11 a.m. Snider stated there have been 2 protests that had been filed.

Heinz made a motion to set July 10th at 8:00 am to hear property tax protests, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Heinz, Plugge, and Pokorny. Voting nay: none.

Heinz made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and reconvene the regular meeting at 10:13 am, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Heinz, Plugge, and Pokorny. Voting nay: none.

Treasurer Seamann presented Resolution 20240601, to transfer funds from the ARPA account to the General Fund, to pay for the air conditioner unit. Heinz made a motion to approve Resolution 20240601 seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye: Heinz, Pokorny, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

After the discussion with Chuck Abel, Treasurer Seamann stated that there is no need to transfer funds this month.

Zoning Administrator Brandi Pokorny presented a proposal from Marvin Planning Consultants, Inc, which was the only company to provide a bid to update the Planning and Zoning Regulations. Pokorny made a motion to hire Marvin Planning Consultants, Inc, to update the regulations and to authorize Zoning Administrator B. Pokorny to determine the scope of work that would be required for the update, seconded Heinz. Voting aye: Pokorny, Heinz, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

General Fund	
Payroll	\$24,988.18
Aflac, insurance	357.04
Ameritas Retirement Plans Division, retirement	4,008.14
Appera, services	78.74
Applied Connective Technologies, computer repairs	1,147.10
Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance, dental/health insurance	23,564.23
Burwell Tribune, publication	581.87
Carot-Top Industries, flags	118.47
Cenex Fleet Fueling, sheriff fuel	875.44
Colonial Life Insurance, insurance	264.39
DAS Sate Accounting AS 400 fees	309.75
Department of The Treasury, IRS form 720	39.00
Elan Financial Services, supplies	641.58
Embassy Suites-Lincoln, District Court lodging	214.00
Farmers and Merchants Bank, payroll w/h	6,714.23
First Conrad Benefits Group, insurance bye down	1,183.41
G-L-W Extension Services, monthly support	2,069.98
Holt County Treasurer, veterans contract	516.67
Hometown Leasing, copier payment	60.41

Loup Valleys Rural Public Power District, services	312.57
McNally Law Office, clerical, meeting reimbursement	3,684.82
Microfilm Imaging System, services	60.00
MIPS, Inc, program	1,299.34
Morris Press, supplies	81.19
NCRAAO 2024 Conference, assessor workshop	300.00
Nebraska Association of County Officials, dues	1,206.92
Nebraska Department of Revenue, payroll w/h	923.47
Niemeyer, Jean, zoning mileage	9.38
NIRMA, liability insurance	17,886.50
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co, services	522.69
Peterson, Gary, court appointed attorney	470.00
Presto-X, monthly services	61.02
Quill Corporation, supplies	116.98
Ramada Midtown-Grand Island, treasurer lodging	321.00
Region 26 Council, annual fee	730.00
Seamann, Carol, meeting mileage	103.19
Sears, Donna, reimbursement	17.18
Snider, Cara, mileage	521.13
Standard Appraisal Services, pickup work	37,288.00
State Probation District #8, probation fees	626.51
Transunion Risk & Alt Data Solution, subscription	175.00
Valley County Sheriff, prisoner keep	50.00
Verizon Wireless, cell phones	245.77
VSP Insurance Co. vision insurance	156.29
We Mart, supplies	7.06
ROAD FUND	
Payroll	\$24,598.95
AKRS Equipment, repairs	87.28
Ameritas Retirement Plans Division, retirement	3,497.87
Blue Cross Blue Shield, dental/health insurance	10,992.16
Colonial Life Insurance, insurance	430.00
Dirt Worx Excavating, & Demolition, crushed concrete	2,574.47
Elan Financial Services, supplies	21.91
Farmers and Merchants Bank, payroll w/h	6,869.61
First Conrad Benefits Group, insurance buydown,	160.80
J & J Sanitation, services	383.48
Loup Valleys Rural Public Power District, shop services	197.19
Madison Nation Life, insurance	1.73
Nebraska Department of Revenue, payroll w/h	1,066.10
Nitro Construction, Inc, crushed concrete	845.47
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co, services	89.55
People's Service, tires	612.00
Powerplan, repairs	1,371.66
Roaches Lumber & Redi Mix, INC, supplies	136.64
Sapp Bros Petroleum, INC., diesel	10,954.10
Shotkoski Enterprises, crushed concrete	5,825.22
The Parts Bin, Inc, supplies	614.30
Verizon Wireless, road phone	42.86
VSP Insurance Co, vision insurance	73.30

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

Pokorny made a motion to pay Emme Sand & Gravel, Miller Tire Pros, Nebraska Department of Revenue-Motor Fuel, NIRMA, Sapp Bros, and Ulrich Gravel on July 1, 2024, seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Pokorny, Heinz, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

With no further business Pokorny made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 am seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

The Board of Equalization will meet July 10th for protests. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 8 a.m.

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