

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 14, 2023

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 14th day of November 2023, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 8th day of November 2023, proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

Public Comment- Kathy Hirschman stated that she had attended the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery Groundbreaking Ceremony on November 10, 2023. She also stated that Don Shuda, Veterans Service Officer should be commended for his work on this project.

County Road Discussion – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss roads.

Review Roads Dept. Job Applications-Executive Session- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss Road Employee Applications. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to go into Executive Session to discuss the Road Employee applications at 8:33 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session at 8:33 a.m. to discuss applications received for the Roads Department. Present in Executive Session were Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski, and Thomsen.

Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to come out of Executive Session at 8:50 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Rasmussen made a motion to have Mrs. Thomsen conduct interviews and bring back a recommendation to the Board at the November 28, 2023, Board Meeting. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Year End Certification- Highway Superintendent-Resolution 2023-32 - Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-32, Year End Certification-Highway Superintendent and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail – Postcard regarding Federal Aviation Commission had conducted an aeronautical study concerning a project in Greeley, NE.

Veteran's Service Office-Refund Check-Money is to be deposited back into the general fund.

Unfinished Business- None.

Open Sealed Bids on Roads Dept. Surplus Property – At 9:00 a.m. sealed bids were opened as advertised. Five sealed bids were received. One for the 1997 Ford Pickup and four for the 1977 Dodge pickup. Rasmussen made a motion to accept the high bids on both pickups in the amounts of 1997 Ford Pickup-\$150.00 and 1977 Dodge Pickup-\$2,700.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Treasurer-Sara Roy-Distress Warrants – Treasurer, Sara Roy presented Distress Warrants for review by the Commissioners. The Treasurer's office mailed out twenty- five, 20-day notices and have collected all but twelve. Mrs. Roy met with County Sheriff Tom Busch and County Attorney, Dave Schroeder regarding one from 2014, and the next steps to be taken. Commissioners agreed to pursue.

Doug Cramer-Quotes for Internet Service – Mr. Cramer presented a couple of options for internet service due to ongoing issues with the current courthouse internet provider. The two providers for fiber optic service would be Spectrum or Lumin (Century Link). Mr. Cramer will get quotes for fiber optic. The Commissioners agreed to table the item at this time due to the substantial increase in cost per month. Also discussed was internet service for the new Roads Building. The County will need to have a legal address before internet service can be pursued.

Public Hearing -Verde Creek Acres-Administrative Subdivision- Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:45 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for an administrative subdivision. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:57 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Verde Creek Acres Administrative Subdivision. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Leadership Academy-Cherri Klinginsmith –Cherri Klinginsmith updated the Board on the Leadership Academy Program, the second series, Leading on Purpose, the Next Level of Leadership that she is currently enrolled in.

Public Hearing-Travis Caspersen Class 1 Feedlot-Conditional Use Permit – Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 10:15 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Travis Caspersen and Cherrie Klinginsmith were present to discuss Mr. Caspersen's application for a conditional use permit. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 10:19 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Class 1 Feedlot Conditional Use Permit for Travis Caspersen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

5 th and Cody- Dennis Placke-Culvert –Mr. Placke was unable to attend the meeting. He sent an email to the County Clerk which was given to the Highway Superintendent and the three Commissioners regarding 5th Avenue and Cody Road. After reviewing and discussing the issue, it was decided to have a survey of elevation for drainage completed before any further action is taken.

Courthouse Building Security-Sheriff Busch –Sheriff Tom Busch and Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen along with several county employees were present. Incidents in recent months have caused

concerns of the employees. The Commissioners listened to comments from those present in the meeting and will continue to work on this issue.

Front Steps Change Order 004 and Substantial Completion-Berggren Architects- The Commissioners reviewed information received from the architect. Discrepancies were found between the Application and Certificate for Payment and the most recent Change Order form. The Commissioners have asked questions of the architect and have not received answers to the questions posed. Motion was made to table the Front Steps Change Order 004 and Substantial Completion as presented, however, the claim amount of \$10,800.00 is to be paid to the contractor and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The agenda item has been tabled until further information is provided.

NIRMA/NIRMA II Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreement-Resolution 2023-33- Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-33, NIRMA/NIRMA II Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreement effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Courtroom Update – Quotes – Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson met with the Board regarding updates to the courtroom. Estimates were received from Dan Kennedy Construction and Eakes. Items to be updated are the juror's box, witness stand, Judge's bench, reporter and bailiff area, and counsel areas. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Eakes Quote of \$42,463.09 and the Dan Kennedy Construction Estimate of \$8,859.00 as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Maximus-3 Year Contract – The new contract was reviewed with the amount per year remaining the same as the previous contract. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 3 Year Contract with Maximus in the amount of \$4,200.00 per year effective January 1, 2024, as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Quotes to repair/replace the lights on the Howard County Tower on Wausa Road - Jim Scheer with Tyger Wireless was present along with Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen to discuss quotes to repair or replace lights on the Howard County Tower on Wausa Road. Mr. Scheer stated that most of the lights are original and over 30 years old and are not working properly at all. Mr. Scheer gave verbal quotes of what each option would cost. The Commissioners asked Mr. Scheer to prepare written quotes. This item will be placed back on the agenda when the quotes are received.

Special Designated License Application-Bootlegger Inc.- Urbanski made a motion to approve the SDL for Bootlegger Inc. for January 13, 2024, at the fairgrounds and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Interlocal Agreement County/City – The Commissioners reviewed the requested changes to the Interlocal Agreement between the County/City regarding the Repeater and Antenna to be located at the Howard County Courthouse. Urbanski made a motion to approve signing by Kathy Hirschman of the Interlocal Agreement and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the minutes, claims as presented, and the Clerk, District Court, Sheriff and Treasurer's Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve

the Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 10/24/2023, Claims: General-\$105,542.74, Roads-\$133,720.31, American Rescue Plan-\$67,773.00, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$753.21, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund- \$1,978.80 for a total of \$309,768.06 and reports as presented. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be November 28, 2023.

Dated this 14th day of November 2023.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk