



# Butler County Board Minutes



## BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

December 6, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021 at the Butler County Courthouse Supervisors Meeting Room in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

Present were the following: Tony Krafka, Scot Bauer, David Mach, Jan Sypal, Robert Coufal and Ryan Svoboda. Absent: Anthony Whitmore.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof, by Publication, a designated method for giving notice, as shown by the Proof of Publication attached to the minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to all members of the Board and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to all members of the board of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order and announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

The Vice-Chairman declared the minutes from the previous meeting shall stand approved as presented.

Vice-Chairman Mach asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Bob Dole.

### **Consideration/Approval of Resolution 2021-41 – Butler County Extension Board Appointments 2022**

Moved by Krafka and seconded by Bauer to approve Resolution 2021-41 as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Krafka, Bauer, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, and Mach. The following voted nay: NONE. Absent: Whitmore. Motion carried.



# Butler County Board Minutes



Butler County Supervisors  
Butler County, Nebraska  
Resolution No. 2021-41

## Resolution

Whereas the University of Nebraska Extension is a valuable part of Butler County, and

Whereas the Extension Board is the organization appointed by the Butler County Board of Supervisors to oversee the Nebraska Extension programming in this county, and

Whereas public participation in this level of government is respected civil service, and

Whereas the Butler County Board of Supervisors desires to continue this tradition of local cooperation with Butler County Extension, and

Whereas Elizabeth Sarno and Jackie Hoeft have applied and been recommended to fill the open positions on the Extension Board and Jenna Lange has been appointed to fill the 4-H Council representative position, then

Be it resolved, the Butler County Board of Supervisors appoint Elizabeth Sarno and Jackie Hoeft to the Butler County Extension Board and extend the appointment of the citizens currently serving Butler County as shown in the attached list for the terms as shown, and

Be it resolved, the Butler County Board of Supervisors express their gratitude to these board members for their service.

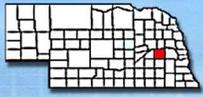
Given under my hand on this, the 6th day of December 2021, in David City Nebraska.

~~Anthony Whitmore, Chairman~~ David W. Mach, Vice-Chairman  
Butler County Board of Supervisors

### BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (SEE SEPARATE MINUTES)

Moved by Bauer and seconded by Coufal to move into the Board of Equalization meeting at 9:05 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Bauer, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, and Mach. The following voted nay: NONE. Absent: Whitmore. Motion carried.

Moved by Bauer and seconded by Coufal to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:08 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Bauer, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, and Mach. The following voted nay: NONE. Absent: Whitmore. Motion carried.



# Butler County Board Minutes



## **County Clerk Monthly Fee Report**

The County Clerk fee report for the month of November 2021 was accepted and placed on file.

## **Clerk of the District Court Monthly Fee Report**

The Clerk of the District Court fee report for the month of November 2021 was accepted and placed on file.

## **Monthly Sheriff Report**

Alexis Buresh, Sheriff Office Manager presented the Monthly Sheriff Report for November 2021. It was accepted and placed on file.

## **Discussion/Possible action – Windstream Utility Permit for 2341 Co Rd 41 Abie, Nebraska**

Moved by Sypal and seconded by Coufal to approve the utility permit contingent upon township approval. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, Bauer and Mach. The following voted nay: NONE. Absent: Whitmore. Motion carried.

## **Discussion/Possible Action – Cutout switch for backup generator at the county yards**

Assistant Highway Superintendent Jim Novacek appeared before the board to discuss quotes they have received to get the switch operable for the generator. While presenting quotes, Mark Doehling, Emergency Manager, asked what the life of the current generator is; he said it was installed in 1998 and asked how much longer everyone thought it would last, and that it might be more cost effective to price a new generator because they have the switch built in. The board asked Novacek to look into the price of a new generator for the building and to present back his findings.

## **Update on Roads**

Novacek informed the board that they have been cleaning ditches and they are moving to County Road R and 35 also known as the landfill road and they are going to work on cleaning the ditches the two miles north. Once they have completed those two miles and if the weather allows, they will work on the ditches south of County Road 35 and R Road.

## **Discussion/Possible Action – Butler County Area Foundation \$1,500 Grant**

Mark Doehling, Emergency Manager, appeared before the board to inform them that he received a grant from the Butler County Area Foundation in the amount of \$1,500; he intends to use that grant money to help purchase a drone for Emergency Management.

## **Discussion/Possible Action – Moving forward with the communications tower at Highway 92 Building**

Doehling presented before the board information regarding installation of a new communications tower at the Highway 92 building. He presented a quote from Shaffer Communications showing the board that the project will cost approximately \$155,000. Bauer asked if his budget could support the project and Doehling said no, he initially budgeted \$100,000 for the project and the board cut the money from his budget. He said he was told if the project was approved, they would look at paying for it out of the Inheritance Fund. The board asked what the balance was in the Inheritance fund and County Clerk, Stephanie Laska reported that there was \$4,292,546.14 as of November 30, 2021. The board asked Doehling to present more information before they approve the project.

## **Discussion/Possible Action regarding detention employees' wages**

Detention Administrator, Angie Siebken, appeared before the board to request increasing her starting pay to \$19.00 per hour up from \$16.50 per hour. She presented the board with information from the surrounding counties detention centers. She said she is having a hard time staffing the detention center; she has had 5 people leave in the last 7 months and a few other employees have mentioned leaving. County Attorney, Julie Reiter, said she receives the assault reports from the detention center and agrees that the starting wages need to be increased. The board asked Siebken if she has the money in the budget. She said that as long as her expenses stay where they are now, she can afford to give the wages, however, one medical bill can throw her budget off. She said she was coming before the board today to ask



# Butler County Board Minutes



permission in the event something would happen, and she might go over budget. The board said they would review her budget in the future if that would happen and to increase her starting wages and current employee wages.

At 10:14 a.m. the vice-chairman declared the board would take a quick break.

At 10:20 a.m. the board reconvened.

## **Consideration/Approval of Resolution 2021 – 42 County Clerk Petty Cash**

Laska, presented before the board a resolution approving a petty cash in the clerk’s office. Per the audit, the auditors suggested that instead of retaining fees in the office to make change that the office should maintain a petty cash. Previously, in June 2010, the board had approved the Clerk’s office to retain fees to make change per the auditor’s suggestion. Now the auditors are suggesting establishing a petty cash to ensure all fees are remitted per statute. Moved by Sypal and seconded by Coufal to approve resolution 2021-42 as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, Bauer, and Mach. The following voted nay: NONE. Absent: Whitmore. Motion carried.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 42**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for Butler County to establish a petty cash in the Clerk’s office in which to allow the office to make change for payments/services rendered in office and expend funds for the payment of certain costs and expenses necessary to the operations of the Butler County Clerk’s Office with said petty cash.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Butler County Board of Supervisors, that the Butler County Clerk is hereby authorized to maintain a cash drawer in the office for petty cash purposes of the Butler County Clerk’s Office with an initial deposit of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200).

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.

/s/David W. Mach

David W. Mach, Vice-Chairman

Butler County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

/s/Stephanie L. Laska

Stephanie L. Laska, County Clerk

## **Designate authorized signor for Opioid Litigation settlement registration and supplemental paperwork**

County Attorney, Julie Reiter, explained that during a training call with the Attorney General it was explained that the county would need to designate a person to sign the documents for the Opioid Litigation paperwork. She said that she would volunteer to be the signor since the deadline is January 2, 2022, and rather than have someone else sign the paperwork that she will need to review anyway, it will cut out a step and ensure the deadline is met. Moved by Krafka and seconded by Sypal to designate Julie Reiter as the authorized signor for the Opioid Litigation settlement registration and supplemental paperwork. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Krafka, Bauer, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, and Mach. The following voted nay: NONE. Absent: Whitmore. Motion carried.

## **Discussion/Possible Action regarding Establishing Salaries for the Elected Officials**

Supervisor Whitmore, who was absent due illness, was present via zoom and explained to the board that during the committee meetings the elected officials proposed the 2023 salary for the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, and Treasurer be \$73,550 (15% increase over 2022 of \$61,176) and then a 5% increase each year thereafter. He said he thought that proposal was too high and that he’d called around to like sized counties and inquired what those counties would be doing. Supervisor Sypal was also part of the committee, and she informed the board that at the second



# Butler County Board Minutes



committee meeting the elected officials gave a second proposal that set the 2023 salary at \$70,352 (10% increase over 2022 of \$61,176) and a 5% increase each year thereafter. Also, the County Attorney suggested that the salary be 140% of the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Treasurer per the NACO recommendation that the County Attorney's wage be 160%, however, since her position is listed at part-time, she is only suggesting 140%. The sheriff said he was fine with the position staying at 120%. The surveyor was asking for the same percentage increase as the 4 elected officials and to include health insurance for his position. Sypal noted that she feels the wages for the elected officials are behind and this proposal would catch them up. Reiter recommended that in the resolution the board approve a 5% increase or CPI increase whichever is greater. Vickie Donoghue, County Assessor, asked the board to look at the position and not the person who currently sits in that office, she also noted that the responsibility of each office continues to grow. The board discussed the salary of the board members and suggested they increase the minimum 3.8% that NACO recommended.

Moved by Sypal and seconded by Coufal to accept the proposed 2023 – 2026 salary set at \$70,352 for 2023 and a 5% increase in each subsequent year for the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Treasurer, to approve the percentage for the County Attorney's salary to be 140% and the Sheriff's to be 120% of the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Treasurers salary, with a 5% increase each year after and to approve the Surveyor's salary the same increase as the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Treasurer as well as add health insurance to the positions benefits and to increase the boards salaries the minimum 3.8% recommended by NACO. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Sypal, Coufal, and Svoboda. The following voted nay: Krafka, Bauer and Mach. Absent: Whitmore. Motion failed.

Moved by Krafka and seconded by Bauer to increase all positions 6% over the 2022 salary, leaving the County Attorney and Sheriff at 120% of the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Treasurer salaries, increase the Surveyor's salary 6% and include health insurance for the position and increase the board salaries the minimum recommended by NACO of 3.8% and increase the salaries 5% each year thereafter. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Krafka, Bauer, and Mach. The following voted nay: Sypal, Coufal and Svoboda. Absent: Whitmore. Motion failed.

Moved by Sypal and seconded by Coufal to increase the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Assessor's salaries 10% over the 2022 salary of \$61,176 to \$67,293.60 and a 5% increase in each subsequent year thereafter, to approve the percentage for the County Attorney's salary and the Sheriff's salary to be 130% of the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Treasurers salary, with a 5% increase each year thereafter and to approve the Surveyor's salary the same increase as the Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and Treasurer as well as add health insurance to the positions benefits, with a 5% increase each year thereafter and to increase the boards salaries the minimum 3.8% recommended by NACO with a 5% increase thereafter. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, and Bauer. The following voted nay: Mach. Absent: Whitmore. Motion carried.

The resolution will be presented at the December 20, 2021 meeting for signing.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Vice-Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be December 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Butler County Highway 92 Building in the Meeting Room.

Stephanie L. Laska  
County Clerk

David W. Mach  
Vice-Chairman