

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 6, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 6th day of March, 2023 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Discussion regarding information on local government and government overreach

Scott Griess appeared before the board to discuss information regarding local government and government overreach. He presented the board with the book, The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates. At the conclusion of his presentation, he told the board they could find his information on the inside cover of the book, and they could call him if they had questions, and he thanked the board for their time.

Sheriff Monthly Report

The Monthly Sheriff Report for February 2023 was accepted and placed on file.

County Clerk Monthly Fee Report

The County Clerk fee report for the month of February 2023 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 February 2023 was accepted and placed on file.

Discussion/Possible action – authorize the chairman to sign the Community feedback form for Vyve Broadband's grant application

A community feedback form for Vyve Broadband's grant application was presented before the board. Moved by Krafka, seconded by Sypal to authorize the chairman to sign the Community feedback form for Vyve Broadband's grant application. Upon roll call vote the following:

Voted aye: Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, Sypal, Steager, Bauer, & Whitmore

Voted nay: NONE

Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action – Interlocal agreement with Seward County for joint bridge replacement on road 21 between roads J & K & Discussion/Possible action on Bridge Investment Program Grant for Seward/Butler County bridge

Highway Superintendent Randy Isham presented information regarding a bridge replacement on the Seward/Butler County line. He informed the board he was approached by a Seward County Commissioner regarding the Bridge Investment Program Grant they are working to apply for and that they are trying to find bridges that meet requirements. Isham informed the board that if the grant is accepted that the bridge cost would be 80% Federally funded and 20% local match, which would be split 50/50 with Seward County. However, before they can do anything, the bridge would need to be engineered and that would cost approximately \$60,000. He said that Seward & Butler County would split those costs 50/50. He informed the board that he was hoping to have better numbers before he spoke to them this morning, but he is waiting for a call back from the engineer at Mainelli Wagner & Associates. Moved by Sypal, seconded by Svoboda to have Randy Isham continue his efforts on getting numbers together for the bridge replacement with Seward County. Upon roll call vote the following:
Voted aye: Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, Bauer, Steager & Whitmore
Voted nay: NONE
Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action – repair/replace motor on maintainer

Isham discussed with the board the need to either repair or replace the motor on the maintainer they have in Rising City. He presented an estimate for a long block engine rebuild; this quote was for \$40,746.76; this could have the maintainer back on the road in approximately 3 weeks. The second estimate was for a remanufactured engine, this quote was for \$45,396.76 and the time frame was 6 to 9 weeks. The board asked Isham if he knew what the warranty was, Isham was unsure and said he would make a phone call after he gives a road update and could update the board later in the meeting.

Update on Roads

The roads department will be backfilling the bridge on Road U & 40. He said they are starting to tear up the deck on the Bridge on 39 & O. He said engineering is being done for the next two bridges that will be replaced, one on 27th Road and one East of Dwight. He also informed the board they have started to gravel roads; with the weather they have needed to start earlier than he had planned. Lastly, he informed the board that they will be working with Linwood Township to give their motor grader operator some training to help shape up the roads and get the gravel out of the ditches.

Discussion/Possible action regarding the Senior Center Director wage increase

Senior Center Director, Diana McDonald, appeared before the board to discuss her wages. She said that the increase she is requesting would not take place until the next fiscal year because she doesn't have room in the budget for this year. She is asking for her wages to be more in line with the deputies of the clerk, assessor, treasurer, and clerk of the district court. Human Resources Director, Heidi Loges, said the deputies are making \$25.88 per hour. Moved by Svoboda, seconded by Sypal to set the Senior Center Director's wage at \$25.00 per hour starting July 1, 2023. Upon roll call vote the following:
Voted aye: Svoboda, Coufal, Sypal, Steager, Bauer, Krafka, & Whitmore
Voted nay: NONE
Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action – repair/replace motor on maintainer continued

Isham reported to the board that both estimates have a 1-year unlimited warranty. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Steager to approve the estimate for \$40,746.76. Upon roll call vote the following:

Voted aye: Coufal, Sypal, Steager, Bauer, Krafka, Svoboda, & Whitmore

Voted nay: NONE

Motion carried.

Discussion – Update on Butler County K-9 program

Chairman Whitmore explained he had put this item on the agenda; he was made aware that for the NIRMA insurance renewal there was a question regarding the county having a canine program or not and wanted to make sure we answered the question correctly. He asked Sheriff Dion what the status of the program was. Dion said that he wants to keep the contract in place with the City of Schuyler and does not have intentions to bring the program back to Butler County in the near future. Whitmore asked Dion if the dog in Schuyler was the dog that Seward County had given Butler County. Dion said yes, that was the dog that Seward County donated. Whitmore also asked Dion if he had talked to Seward County before the sale of the dog, Dion said he had.

Discussion/Possible action regarding the sale of a patrol unit to the City of David City

Steager informed the board that the City of David City had reached out to the County regarding purchasing another patrol unit. Whitmore explained that the vehicles originally discussed when they transferred the first vehicle were a 2019 Tahoe and a 2019 Ford Explorer. The Tahoe was voted on to transfer. Looking at the Sheriff's inventory of vehicles, they could look to sell the 2019 Ford Explorer or a 2018 Dodge Charger. David City is prepared to offer \$7,000 for a vehicle. The board discussed they would be willing to sell the Charger for \$7,000. Devin Betzen was present on behalf of the city; he said that the city was not interested in the Dodge Charger. He also presented a list of items that the city was looking for to continue equipping their department. The board said they would discuss the equipment requests at a later date, that they were here today about a vehicle. Sypal inquired what the value of the 2019 Ford Explorer. A quick Kelly Blue Book search suggested a fair value for the vehicle was \$13,700. Sypal said if you added all of the equipment that would bring it up to approximately \$20,000. Betzen also mentioned that there have been questions raised about taxes purchasing the Sheriff's vehicles and now taxes will be purchasing the vehicle again. Sypal stated that taxes from the entire county purchased the vehicles and while she understands the concern, the board needs to make sure they are being fair to the county as a whole. Moved by Sypal, seconded by Steager to sell the 2019 Ford Explorer fully equipped to the City of David City for \$10,000 pending their approval. Upon roll call vote the following:

Voted aye: Sypal, Steager, Coufal & Whitmore

Voted nay: Bauer, Krafka, & Svoboda

Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Sypal reported at the last Hospital meeting the Hospital continued to talk about their expansion plans as well as new plans to look at adding a daycare facility that would be a benefit for hospital employees.

Correspondence

1. Lower Platte South Spring 2023 Report
2. UNL Nebraska Water Center 2022 Annual Report
3. Skull Creek & Bone Creek Watershed Public Meeting, Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – Steager reported that he spoke to the LPN representatives and they are looking to landowners for help

to determine the projects that they want completed. He said they are hoping to get LPN's funding spent in Butler County as opposed to the funds mainly going to Saunders County.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be March 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Stephanie L. Laska
County Clerk

Anthony Whitmore
Chairman