

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 5, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 5th day of February, 2024 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.

Flood Plain Update

Breann Whitmore, Floodplain Administrator updated the board on permits and training she completed in 2023. Her report was placed on file.

Human Resources Update

Heidi Loges, Human Resources Director, reminded the board that she needed the employee evaluation for the upcoming meeting on February 20, 2024.

Approval Official Bond and Oath/Ralph E. Hein, Jr., Franklin Township

Moved by Steager, seconded by Coufal to approve the oath & bond as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Steager, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, Bauer, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval Official Bond and Oath/Roger J. Svoboda, Franklin Township

Moved by Sypal, seconded by Steager to approve the oath & bond as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Sypal, Steager, Bauer, Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval Official Bond and Oath/Lane Sabata, Franklin Township

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal to approve the oath & bond as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Bauer, Steager, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval Official Bond and Oath/John R. Wood, Savannah Township

Moved by Krafka, seconded by Bauer to approve the oath & bond as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Krafka, Bauer, Steager, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval Official Bond and Oath/Ronald D. Meusch, Savannah Township

Moved by Svoboda, seconded by Sypal to approve the oath & bond as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Svoboda, Coufal, Sypal, Steager, Bauer, Krafka, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval of Resolution 2024 – 04 4-H Proclamation Month

Aliesha Meusch, Nebraska Extension and Natalie DeWispelare, 4-H Student appeared before the board. DeWispelare shared her experience in 4-H with the board and both asked the board to approve the resolution for 4-H Month. Moved by Steager, seconded by Bauer to approve Resolution 2024 – 4 as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Steager, Bauer, Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, Sypal, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
Resolution 2024 – 4**

NEBRASKA 4-H MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 4-H is America’s largest youth development organization, supporting nearly six million youth across the country; and

WHEREAS, 4-H has helped 145,000 youth in Nebraska to become confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is delivered through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension system, providing experiences where young people learn-by-doing through hands-on projects in the important areas of health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska 4-H Month showcases the incredible ways that 4-H inspires kids to do and highlights the remarkable 225 4-H youth in Butler County who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them; and

WHEREAS, 4-H’s network of nearly 500,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all 4-H’ers, helping them to grow into true leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anthony Whitmore, Chair of the Buter County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as Nebraska 4-H Month throughout Butler County and encourage all of our citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact they have made and continue to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

DATED this 5th day of February, 2024.

MOVED by Steager, seconded by Bauer, that the above resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

FOR:	AGAINST:	ABSENT:	ABSTAIN:
<u>/s/Anthony Whitmore</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Ryan Svoboda</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Robert Coufal</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Jan Sypal</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Scott Steager</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Scot Bauer</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Tony Krafka</u>	_____	_____	_____

Attested to by:
/s/Stephanie L. Laska
Stephanie L. Laska
Butler County Clerk

Approval of Butler County 2023 Extension Annual Report

Moved by Steager, seconded by Bauer to approve the Extension Annual Report as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Steager, Bauer, Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, Sypal, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval of Early Payroll for separated employee

Moved by Sypal, seconded by Coufal to approve the early payroll for a separated employee. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, Bauer, Steager, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

County Clerk Monthly Fee Report

The County Clerk fee report for the month of January 2024 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 January 2024 was accepted and placed on file.

Monthly Sheriff Report

The Monthly Sheriff Report for January 2024 was presented before the board. It was accepted and placed on file.

Accept bid for Butler County/Skull Creek motor grader

Highway Superintendent, Randy Isham, appeared before the board and informed the board that neither the Skull Creek Township board nor he had been able to go look at the CAT motor graders between the meetings and asked for the board the table to topic until the next meeting.

Update on Roads

Isham informed the board that the roads where the snow was able to be pushed completely into the ditch off the roads are drying out, those that could not are still wet and soft. The frost is out of the ground also, so the roads are all soft. He said that after the storm they had been out in several townships helping them get their roads cleaned. Some had requested help, some received help without the request. Townships the Roads department helped were Reading, Read, Linwood, Olive, Ulysses, Union & Plum Creek. Steager asked how the new sander was working and Isham reported that the new sander they had purchased works good and spreads evenly not leaving piles as they go along. The gravel pit has another year left, the board will need to decide how to proceed in the future, close the pit or look for another site to lease.

Approval of letter of support for Platte County regarding Hwy 30/64 Corridor Grant Application

Supervisor Krafka reported that the committee is working on submitting a grant for a planning study for the project, this study is needed to submit the project to the federal government. The grant could be 100% costs covered; if it is not there could be an 80/20 split, these details will be known hopefully by June 2024. In the meantime, a letter of support for Platte County to apply for this would help in getting the grant. Moved by Krafka, seconded by Coufal to approve the letter of support and have the board sign it. Steager mentioned that the budget committee will need to investigate what it is going to take to get this project done and how it will be paid for. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, Sypal, Steager, Bauer, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action regarding a Memorandum of Understanding for the Nebraska office of the CIO

A letter from Devin Betzen, Assistant Chief of Police for the City of David City was presented to the board. Supervisor Steager explained that an MOU is needed for the radios that the PD has purchased to allow the PD to communicate with the Sheriff's office and dispatch. Steager said that other counties and agencies have the ability to communicate through these channels (25 Disp1, 25 SOP 1, & 25 SOP SEC) and he suggests an MOU would be best. Sheriff Dion agreed something needs to be done. Moved by Steager, seconded by Coufal to get an MOU between the DCPD, Sheriff's office and dispatch and to allow Dion to sign the MOU for the PD to have access to the 3 channels. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Steager, Sypal, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, Bauer, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval of letter of opposition to LB 1067 a bill to eliminate the inheritance tax

Whitmore discussed with the board that NACO had reached out to them all to contact their senators regarding LB 1067 the repeal of inheritance tax. He said he thought a letter from the entire board explaining what the board and the county have used the inheritance tax for over the last several years was important to explain that eliminating the tax would mean increasing property taxes in Butler County. He said that over the last 15 years the board has used on average \$416,667.67 of funds from the inheritance fund to buy down the levy and reduce the property tax burden for the county.

Eliminating the tax would remove this revenue from the county and then we would be looking at increasing taxes to complete projects in Butler County and run the day-to-day services. Moved by Krafka, seconded by Svoboda to approve the board to sign the letter of opposition for LB 1067. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, Sypal, Steager, Bauer, & Whitmore.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Zuercher Update

Alexis Buresh, Sheriff Office Manager, and Miriah Rees, Detention Officer, appeared before the board to inform that Zuercher is now live; there are bugs that need to be worked out and it will take time to work out, but they will get there.

Blue Valley Behavioral Health Update

A letter from Blue Valley Behavioral Health was presented before the board, giving them a semi-annual update of the services that have been provided this fiscal year. So far approximately 47 substance abuse clients have been serviced in Butler County.

Correspondence

1. Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice – Jail Standards report

Committee Reports

Butler County Development had a meeting where they discussed potential green space in the downtown area.

Seward County Bridget Project Update, the shared bridge on the county line was part of a project that Seward County had submitted for funding approval and the application was approved. Within the next 3 years the county will need to budget for 10% of the bridge cost, the cost is unknown at this time.

Discussion

Bauer informed the board that there was a good article about the carbon pipeline in the most recent Midwest Messenger.

Discussion – Tower Update

Steager informed the board that they will be working on a construction lease for the tower, a site survey will be completed. The conditional use permit was approved by the City of David City. The project is moving along little by little.

Presentation regarding historic tax credits available for historic properties

Doug Elting, Berggren Architects, appeared before the board and gave a presentation on historic tax credits that could be available to the county. He provided an informational packet and told the board they could reach out if they had more questions.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be February 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Stephanie L. Laska
County Clerk

Anthony Whitmore
Chairman