

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 3, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 3rd day of September, 2024 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

Present were the following: Tony Krafka, Scot Bauer, Scott Steager, Jan Sypal, Robert Coufal, & Anthony Whitmore. Absent: 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/possible action regarding gravel order issues and culvert cleaning in Olive Township

Charles Emswiler, Olive Township appeared before the board to discuss how gravel orders are handled when the Roads Department gets behind in delivering. He said it was his understanding that at one time if the roads department was behind that they could call the local gravel companies and have it delivered by them. Highway Superintendent, Randy Isham, explained that he was correct and that basically all he asks of the motor grader operator and/or the township is to call him and let him know that they are doing that so if there is a gravel order in the line to be delivered it's adjusted for what is ordered or removed from the orders. He told Emswiler to have their operator get a hold of him and he would review how that can be done. Emswiler thanked the board for their time. There was no discussion regarding culvert cleaning.

Approval of early pay claim to Anderson Ford for patrol vehicle

Chief Deputy Drozd was available for questions. The board discussed that they already approved the purchase; this will allow them to go get the vehicle since it's on the lot. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Steager to approve the early claim for Anderson Ford to purchase the patrol vehicle. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Coufal, Sypal, Steager, & Krafka.

Nay: Bauer, Whitmore.

Absent: Svoboda.

Motion carried.

2024-2025 County Budget Update and discussion

County Clerk Stephanie Laska reported to the board that since the last meeting there were no changes to the proposed budget. A \$500,000 transfer from Inheritance to the General fund will help lower the

levy. The tax asking is \$5,085,264.79 which is 0.748% lower than the previous year's \$5,123,601.34 tax request. The proposed levy is 0.177389, last year's was 0.186849 which is down 5.063%. The Budget hearing will be September 11, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Board of Supervisors Room; the Special Tax Request hearing will be on September 16, 2024 at 9:05 am. Following that tax hearing the board can approve the budget. Laska announced that as of last Friday, Butler County, David City Public Schools & East Butler Public Schools would not be attending the joint public hearing on September 17th. She said that the City of David City had not yet notified the clerk's or assessor's office if they would be required to attend, they have until September 4th to notify either office. If no one is required to attend there will not be a Joint Public hearing in Butler County.

Approval of Visitor Promotion Fund Request for Bellwood Daze

Laska informed the board that the committee has met regarding the request for Bellwood Daze, they requested \$1,000. The committee recommended approving the full amount. Moved by Steager, seconded by Bauer to approve the Visitor Promotion Fund Request for Bellwood Daze as recommended by the committee. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Svoboda.

Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Sypal informed the board that at the last hospital meeting there was a speaker regarding cyber security insurance and hospital insurance; she said it was very informative and would consider suggesting the board have a similar presentation at an upcoming meeting. She also mentioned that the expansion continues to move along.

Whitmore and Sypal said they attended the most recent zoom meeting for the Juvenile Comprehensive Plan, they discussed the previous plan at the meeting. The next meeting will be an in-person meeting.

Correspondence

1. Trileaf Environmental Architecture Engineering email regarding new communications tower
2. Polk County Zoning letter – Public Hearing scheduled September 11, 2024
3. James M. Egr – Resignation letter from the Butler County Health Board of Directors

Discussion/possible action regarding the approval of a utility permit for Tall Grass CO2 pipeline through Alexis, Summit & Reading Townships

Isham explained to the board that he had township approval for the utility permits, he is requiring the pipeline to a minimum of five feet below the flowline. John Hladik, Tall Grass Energy was present to answer any questions. Bauer asked if they had consent from all landowners, Hladik said that there are 53 parcels involved and they have 52 of the 53 easements all signed.

Moved by Krafka, seconded by Steager to approve the utility permit for Tall Grass CO2 pipeline through Alexis Township. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Svoboda.

Motion carried.

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal to approve the utility permit for Tall Grass CO2 pipeline through Summit Township. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Svoboda.

Motion carried.

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Sypal to approve the utility permit for Tall Grass CO2 pipeline through Reading Township. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Svoboda.

Motion carried.

Discussion/possible action regarding the purchase of a used dredge

Isham updated the board, he spoke with the Corp of Engineers and JEO. There are permits he needs to get, some of which are long and lengthy, he intends to ask JEO to help get through those permits. He will also need to get a few permits from the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE). He said once he gets through the process, he will put the discussion back on the agenda but asked to table it for now.

Update on Roads

Isham said they are graveling roads and cleaning ditches. He is still working to replace a bridge with culverts in Read Township, but he needs a 3 day stretch with no rain in the forecast due to its location and the people that live in the area. He has been interviewing for a new motor grader operator as he has a guy retiring at the end of September and would like to hire before he leaves. He said the chip sealing project should start any day; they have their gravel piled up and said they would be starting soon after they got that all trucked in.

Discussion regarding how weeds are sprayed through the county and township board responsibilities

Marcel Kovar appeared before the board, he was upset that the county had sprayed trees, and he was not notified. He said no one had told him they were going to do it. He said the trees they sprayed were too tall and it won't get rid of them. Noxious Weed Superintendent, Max Birkel was present and said he was spraying at the request of Franklin Township. He agreed it wouldn't affect the tall trees, but it would get the smaller ones. Isham was still present and brought up the statutes which require landowners to maintain their ditches. Mr. Kovar asked when those laws took effect. Most of the statutes that Isham was referring to took effect in 1975 or shortly thereafter. Steager asked Birkel to talk to the Township about spraying more. Kovar thanked the board for their time and exited the meeting.

Discussion/possible action regarding Board Supervised Employees wages

The board discussed what each employee had in their budget for a wage increase. Since Birkel was still in the meeting, they asked what he had in his budget, he said 5%, he informed the board that since the board gave themselves, elected officials and deputies 5% by resolution he calculated 5% in his budget. The rest of the departments excluding the senior center calculated 4%. The senior center calculated 3%. Moved by Steager, seconded by Sypal, to table the discussion until the September 16, 2024 meeting.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Svoboda.

Motion carried.

Committee Reports continued

Steager informed the board that the Board of Health budget meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2024.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m. A special meeting will be held September 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be September 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Stephanie L. Laska
County Clerk

Anthony Whitmore
Chairman