

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 3, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 3rd day of February 2025 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

Present were the following: Scott Steager, Tony Krafka, Scot Bauer, Scott Griess, and Robert Coufal. Absent: Jan Sypal and Brad Vandenberg.

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.

Certificates of Service

Chairman Steager presented Certificates of Service to Jordan Jisa (Roads Department – 10 years), Breanne Whitmore (Flood Plain Administrator – 5 years), and Robert Coufal (Detention – 10 years).

Discussion

Aschoff received a letter from Christina Jurgena, Blue Valley Community Action, along with a check for \$4661.73, the closing balance of the Butler County CDBG checking account. Per Jurgena's letter, there is one remaining client that Blue Valley Community Action will continue to receive and take care of loan payments. A final check will be issued to Butler County once the loan is paid off.

Approval of Early Payroll for separated employee

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

Aye: Coufal, Griess, Bauer, Krafka, Steager.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (See Separate Minutes)

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal to move into the Board of Equalization at 9:06am. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Bauer, Griess, Coufal, Krafka, Steager.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:10am. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Coufal, Griess, Bauer, Krafka, Steager.

Nay: NONE.
Motion carried.

Approval of a letter of support for the City of David City's CCCFF grant application.

The City of David City is applying for a CCCFF grant for upgrades to the City Auditorium. They requested a letter of support from the County since the County uses the auditorium as a polling place. Aschoff drafted a letter for the Board to review/approve. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess to approve the letter of support as written. Upon roll call vote the following voted:
Aye: Coufal, Gries, Bauer, Krafka, Steager.
Nay: NONE.
Motion carried.

Correspondence

Board members received a letter from the Nebraska Judicial System regarding proposed Bill 216 to eliminate the elected office of Clerk of the District Court and transfer employees to state employment. NACO has indicated opposition to the proposed legislation. County Attorney Julie Reiter recommended that board members visit with Clerk of the District Court Sandy Hoeft and research the issue for more information.

Discussion/Approval to use Wireless Savings Funds to onboard the David City Police Department to Zuercher

Jami Bowers, 911 Coordinator, appeared before the board to request approval to use Wireless Savings Funds to onboard the David City Police Department to Zuercher. She indicated that the fund is going away and she has three years to use the remaining balance. The Nebraska Public Service Commission confirmed via email that this is an allowable use of the funds. Total cost to onboard DCPD is \$21,182.50. Supervisor Bauer asked about the benefit to adding DCPD to the existing system. Jami said there would be no change to what the dispatcher does in the event of a call, but that it would immediately alert all agencies to the call and whether another agency is responding. Currently, the dispatchers must notify DCPD manually, so this would save time and improve efficiency. If added to the system, DCPD will be responsible for their own service/maintenance fees going forward. Moved by Bauer, seconded by Krafka to approve the onboarding of David City Police Department to Zuercher at a cost of \$21,182.50. Upon roll call the following voted:
Aye: Bauer, Krafka, Coufal, Griess, Steager.
Nay: NONE.
Motion carried.

County Government Day

Chairman Steager welcomed students from Aquinas and David City Public Schools who were visiting the courthouse offices for County Government Day. He explained the function of the Board of Supervisors and how meetings work.

Discussion regarding County Roads 22 and 23 maintenance in Ulysses Township and Read Township

Highway Superintendent Randy Isham, Sam Stara, Steve Stara, and Scott Wynegar from Ulysses Township, and Dan Steager from Read Township presented information and requested a re-designation of maintenance responsibilities of County Roads 22 and 23, due to the higher traffic volume on CR 23. Both Ulysses Township and Read Township held open meetings and met with property owners along both roads regarding the proposed re-designations prior to today's Board of Supervisors meeting.

Ulysses Township

Ulysses Township is currently responsible for CR 23 and the County is currently responsible for CR 22 and the portion of I Road between Sections 28 and 29. Ulysses Township is requesting that the County take CR 23 in exchange for Ulysses taking CR 22 and the portion of I Road between Sections 28 and 29.

Read Township

Read Township is currently responsible for CR 23 from A Road to G Road, and Road B from CR 22 to CR 23, and the County is currently responsible for CR 22 from A Road to G Road, and Road E from CR 22 to CR 23. Read Township is requesting that the County take CR 23 from A Road to G Road, and Road B from CR 22 to CR 23 in exchange for Read Township taking CR 22 from A Road to G Road, and Road E from CR 22 to CR 23.

County Attorney Reiter said that interlocal agreements should be drafted and presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting. Isham and Reiter will meet to draft the interlocal agreements and present them to the Board at a later date.

Approval of Resolution 2024-05 4-H Month Proclamation

Janessa Bergman and Thays Silva, Nebraska Extension, and Natalie DeWispelare, 4-H student, appeared before the Board. DeWispelare shared her experience with 4-H with the Board and both asked the Board to approve the resolution for 4-H Month. Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal to approve Resolution 2025-05 as presented. Upon roll call the following voted:

Aye: Bauer, Griess, Coufal, Krafka, Steager.

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

**Butler County Board of Supervisors
Butler County, Nebraska
Resolution: 2025-05**

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, National 4-H theme, “Beyond Ready,” reminds us that 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change and is equipping young people with skills for the future; and

WHEREAS, 4-H has helped 230 youth in Butler County to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension – a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides 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 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, Scott Steager, Chairman, do hereby proclaim February 2025 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 3rd day of February, 2025.

MOVED by Griess, seconded by Krafka, that the above resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

FOR:	AGAINST:	ABSENT:	ABSTAIN:
<u>/s/Scott Griess</u>	_____	<u>Jan Sypal</u>	_____
<u>/s/Scot Bauer</u>	_____	<u>Brad Vandenberg</u>	_____
<u>/s/Tony Krafka</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Robert Coufal</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>/s/Scott Steager</u>	_____	_____	_____

Attested to by:

/s/Lori L. Aschoff
 Lori L. Aschoff
 Butler County Clerk

Approval of Butler County 2024 Extension Annual Report

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

Aye: Griess, Bauer, Krafka, Coufal, Steager.

Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Discussion regarding request for approval to Update the Butler County Sheriff Office Pay Plan

Sheriff Tom Dion requested that the board approve a 2% or 3% increase to Steps 2-10 of the BCSO Pay Plan. Dion presented the costs of both a 2% and 3% increase to the existing pay plan, as well as a wage comparison of various agencies across the State and said that Butler County is comparable to some of the agencies, but on the low side overall. He stated he has lost a couple of deputies recently due to wages and the proposed pay plan would enable the County to be more competitive and better able to retain deputies. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Bauer to approve a 3% increase to the BCSO Pay Plan. Discussion held. Chairman Steager indicated that since the BCSO is currently below full staff, there are funds in the budget to cover the proposed increase for this year. HR Director Heidi Loges noted that exit interviews are conducted when an employee leaves but that no one had requested to view them. Dion indicated he was not aware that he could view them. He said he would like to see a 3% increase and believes the amount is fair, and that it would allow Butler County to be more comparable/competitive with other agencies across the State. Supervisors Coufal and Bauer requested to table the motion until the next meeting to allow Board members to research comparables/case information for BCSO and other agencies. Motion tabled.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be February 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff
County Clerk

Scott Steager
Chairman