

## **BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

April 7, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 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, Robert Coufal, Brad Vandenberg. Absent: Jan Sypal.

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.

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

### **Certificates of Service**

Chairman Steager presented Certificates of Service to Tony Krafka (County Supervisor – 20 years) and Heidi Loges (Human Resources – 5 years).

### **County Clerk Monthly Fee Report**

The County Clerk fee report for the month March 2025 was reviewed, 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 March 2025 reviewed, accepted, and placed on file.

### **Monthly Sheriff Report**

The Monthly Sheriff Report for the month of March 2025 was reviewed, accepted, and placed on file.

### **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (See Separate Minutes)**

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Bauer to move into the Board of Equalization at 9:05 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Vandenberg to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:13 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

### **Discussion/possible action regarding application of dust control on north side of Ulysses Fire Department**

Historically, dust control has been applied from the black top to the railroad tracks. Representatives from the Ulysses Fire Department requested that it be extended to the tree pile. It is a high traffic area and a safety issue because dust is kicked up and hangs in the air, causing poor visibility. Cost is estimated at \$3600. Discussion held. Moved by Griess, seconded by Vandenberg to apply dust control for approximately 3250 feet on Road 23 from the end of State maintenance to the tree pile. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

### **Review/discussion regarding proposed update to the employee handbook**

This modification was proposed prior to last month's blizzard. The handbook currently states that if the courthouse closes due to inclement weather, non-essential staff do not report or get paid; however, they may use vacation or comp time. The proposed modification is intended to address the senior center, which sometimes closes even when the courthouse remains open. Potential discussion/action was tabled until Senior Center Director Diana McDonald can review the proposed modification to ensure it meets her needs.

### **Taxes Not Sold for Want of Bidders**

County Treasurer Karey Adamy presented the board with a list of unsold taxes. This report was accepted and placed on file.

### **Authorization to Issue County Certificates**

County Treasurer Adamy requested authorization to issue county certificates on unsold taxes. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Krafka to issue county certificates on unsold taxes. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

Minutes from the February Butler County Development (BCD) Board were reviewed.

Chairman Steager left the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

### **Other Discussion**

Scot Bauer noted that Hot Meals USA delivered meals during the first couple of days of storm cleanup after the blizzard. This was very much appreciated.

### **Discussion/possible action regarding vehicle purchase**

Thays Silva, UNL Extension, requested approval to purchase a 2025 Ford Explorer for the Extension Office at a cost of \$38,306. They currently have \$38,348 available in their sinking fund for the purchase. Silva suggested that the Extension Office's existing vehicle, a 2018 Ford Explorer with 26,600 miles, be kept and designated as a general County vehicle for use by other offices within the Courthouse. Bauer asked County Assessor Vickie Donoghue if her office could use the vehicle; Donoghue stated that the Assessor's Office's current vehicle was in fine working order and did not need replacement. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Bauer to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford Explorer by the Extension Office. Discussion held; Griess stated that regardless of how the existing vehicle will be used going forward, it is not necessary to purchase a new vehicle at this time. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Coufal, Bauer, Krafka.

Nay: Griess, Vandenberg.

Absent: Sypal, Steager.

Motion carried.

### **Update on Roads**

Highway Superintendent Randy Isham reported that the Roads Department is in the process of graveling, pulling down snow fence, cleaning ditches, and starting summer maintenance. Gravel orders are out to both companies. There is a road south of the Platte River that needs rebuilding as the landowner is currently landlocked; once rebuilt it will be maintained by the County. Isham and County Attorney Julie Reiter are working on a contract for the new gravel pit. Authorization for an engineering study to comply with State law will be added to the next meeting agenda.

### **Review of Nebraska Department of Agriculture 2024 Butler County Noxious Weed Program Evaluation**

Weed Superintendent Max Birkel presented the Weed Program's 2024 evaluation report. They received a perfect score with no deficiencies and no open files. County Attorney Reiter commended Birkel for doing such a good and conscientious job as Weed Superintendent. Moved by Bauer, seconded by Vandenberg to approve the Reports and Requirements Summary, to be signed and returned to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal, Steager.

Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 10:22 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

### **Expenditures Report for July 1, 2024-March 31, 2025**

The expenditures report for July 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, was reviewed by the board, accepted and placed on file.

### **Executive Session – 911 Department Issues**

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Griess at 10:29 a.m. to enter Executive Session to discuss 911 Department issues, inviting in Julie Reiter, Jami Bowers, and Heidi Loges. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal, Steager.

Motion carried.

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal to exit Executive Session at 12:32 p.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal, Steager.

Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Krafka announced that action on the 911 Department issues will be tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be April 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff  
County Clerk

Tony Krafka  
Vice Chairman