

## WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, February 16th, 2021 for their regular Business Meeting at the Courthouse in Red Cloud, Nebraska. The following Board Members were present for roll call: Dan Shipman (District One), Trevor Karr (District Two) (Trevor arrived at the meeting at 8:45am), TJ Vance (District Three), Tim Gilbert (District Four), and Gary Ratzlaff (District Five). The Board stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Vance gave notice of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act Laws. Motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Gilbert to pay the claims and payroll. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert and Shipman. Voting nay or abstaining. None. Absent: Karr. Motion carried. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert to approve the minutes of the February 2nd, 2021 meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert and Shipman. Voting nay or abstaining. None. Absent: Karr. Motion carried.

At 8:35am, Paul Stoner spoke with the Board about the box culvert on Road C. The project is scheduled to start in March. Paul discussed employee sick time /vacation time/comp time with the Board to clarify proper policy for the road employees due to the fact they have to work sometimes on weekends and vacation days because of weather. Resolution 11-2021 was presented to the Board for approval of Lance Harter doing a road study on Road 800. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Karr to sign this Resolution. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried. Resolution 11-2021 was approved.

Clerk Liz Petsch presented a letter to the Board to sign opposing LB310 on behalf of the Webster County taxpayers. We feel this money should be left in Webster County and not taken over by the State of Nebraska. The County uses this money in an emergency nature and for things that would otherwise be paid for by an increase in property taxes.

At 9:15am, Deputy Assessor Tami Scheuneman met with the Board. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Shipman to go into Board of Equalization. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried. Deputy Scheuneman presented Tax Corrections for Dish Network, Industrial Tower West and Permissive Exemption for Willa Cather. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Shipman to approve Tax Correction on Dish Network. All members voted in favor. Motion carried. Motion was made by Gilbert, seconded by Ratzlaff to approve two Tax Corrections for Industrial Tower West. All members voted in favor. Motion carried. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert to approve of Permissive Tax Exemption for Willa Cather. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert and Shipman. Voting nay: Karr. Motion carried. Motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Ratzlaff to go out of Board of Equalization. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Motion carried. Tax Corrections 202116 thru 202118 were signed.

At 9:30am, Gene Horne and Tricia Allen met with the Board on EMT training expense for the Red Cloud and Blue Hill Ambulances. This training is very expensive and prevents people from taking the courses. We have people who would like to do this service for the County but can't afford to. This is a very important service the County needs and the Board felt they would like to help them in any way they could. Motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Karr to pay 25% up front and 25% when certified/registered. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried. The other 50% will be paid by donations, gifts or fund raisers. This will not put a burden on people taking the training and will in the long run benefit the County in helping to take care of our residents in getting them to the hospital in a timely manner. Gene and Tricia will be working further on this matter with help from Marlys Schmidt also. Gene also informed the Board the Red Cloud Ambulance Barn is in need of new door openers. The Board approved of this purchase from Overhead Door.

At 9:45am, the Board did their annual jail inspection.

At 10:3am, Stephanie Vanous met with the Board by phone conference. She informed the Board the changes she is doing for the County Handbook. They discussed several areas that needed to be addressed and solutions agreed upon in the policy handbook concerning, vacation time, sick time, comp time, maternity leave, short term and long term disability time, maximum cap on sick time, unpaid leave, and using and reimbursement of unearned time due to illness. The Board feels it is necessary to address these issues and asked Stephanie to proceed with the new handbook for the Board to look over before approving it.

At 11:00am, Sheriff Troy Schmitz, Treasurer Janet Knehans and Sara James (by phone conference) met with the Board on money that had been set aside for Sheriff/Jail Building in the General Fund. They would like to somehow earmark this money for that purpose so it cannot be used for anything else and money could be put into this expense item or a new fund established each fiscal year.

At 11:30am, Clerk Petsch spoke to the Board about LB102. The State is trying to pass legislation eliminating ex-official Clerk of District Court offices and turning them over to County Court. Following discussion, the Board signed a Statement of Opposition to this bill and we will email this to the Legislature. NACO has also opposed this bill.

At 11:45am, Andy Forney held a phone conference with the Board on signing the Deemed Final Certificate on the bonds for the Bladen Road and Showboat Road projects. They discussed other aspects of this Document. Chairman T J Vance signed the Certificate and final approval will be done once the bonds have been purchased. Bid letting hopefully will be done sometime in 2021 so project can be completed in 2022.

The following payroll and claims are listed below:  
GENERAL FUND: Adams County Sheriff's Dept (Fees)-\$18.50; Ameritas Life Ins Corp (Retire)-\$6645.14; Anderson, Klein, Brewster & Brandt (Counsel)-\$95.00; Black Hills Energy (utility)-\$112.40; Blue Cross Blue Shield (health)-\$18,458.68; Blue Hill Furniture (carpeting)-\$2372.81; Blue Hill Leader (publish)-\$536.02; Busch Construction (repairs)-\$220.00; Business World (supply)-\$56.00; Carrot-top Industries (supply)-\$211.50; CEI Security (support)-\$3462.00; Centec Cast Metal Products (markers)-\$550.79; Central Nebr County Assessor Assn (dues)-\$20.00; CPI (fuel)-\$1186.90; DAS State Acctg (fees)-\$225.52; Des Moines Stamp (supply)-\$71.00; FICA -\$7013.84; Eakes (supply)-\$1270.95; Energized Electric (repairs)-\$65.00; First Concord Benefits (fees)-\$15.00; First Concord Benefits (fees)-\$225.00; First National Bank (supply)-\$112.33; Grace's Locksmith (repairs)-\$180.0; Helena Agri-ent (supply)-\$279.00;

Hometown Leasing (Lease)-\$596.32; Hometown Market (supply)-\$581.64; J&A Auto (repairs)-\$245.99; Jared's (repairs)-\$123.20; Kenny's Lumber (repairs)-\$139.57; Madison National (Life)-\$28.04; MIPS (supply)-\$1278.20; MIPS, Inc (support)-\$2273.22; NE Assn Co Clerks (dues)-\$75.00; Nebr Tech & Telecom (phone)-\$67.99; Red Cloud Chief (publish/renewals)-\$745.74; Ryan Law Office (counsel)-\$1164.92; Self-Insured Dental (premiums)-\$2607.00; Skalka & Baack Law (counsel)-\$218.50; Theobald Law Office (counsel)-\$1163.75; Turner Technology (support)-\$78.75; Verizon Wireless (phones)-\$240.06; Viaero Wireless (phone)-\$19.42; Village Pharmacy (supply)-\$22.24. ROAD FUND: Ameritas Life Ins Corp (retirement)-\$2625.73; Blue Cross Blue Shield (health)-\$10,002.08; FICA \$2916.18; First Concord Benefits Group (fees)-\$5.00; Madison National Life Ins (life)-\$4.10; Self-Insured Dental (premiums)-\$918.00; Ace-Eaton Metals (culverts)-\$1513.60; Nevin Arterburn (expense)-\$149.95; Black Hills Energy (utility)-\$524.79; Bladen Sand & Gravel (gravel)-\$1962.40; Village of Bladen (utility)-\$59.63; C & D Service Center (supplies)-\$89.07; Century Lumber (repairs)-\$133.06; CPI (fuel)-\$752.48; Fleetpride (repairs)-\$32.46; Glenwood Telecom (phones)-\$162.43; Village of Guide Rock (utility)-\$80.55; Hometown Leasing (lease)-\$6000.00; Island Supply Welding (supply)-\$60.40; J & A Auto (repairs)-\$507.55; Kenny's Lumber (repairs)-\$86.30; MIPS (support)-\$108.98; NAPA (repairs)-\$611.71; Nebraska Machinery Co (repairs)-\$1102.52; Olson Enterprises (fuel)-\$5604.79; Power Plan (repairs)-\$530.10; R & M Disposal (utility)-\$53.50; Charles Stokes (repairs)-\$150.00; Timm's Service (fuel)-\$1401.83. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND Oak Creek Engineering (culverts)-\$3203.36. MODERN RECORDS FUND: Hometown Leasing (lease)-\$484.00. MIPS (support)-\$138.00. COUNTY MEDICAL: Ne Health & Human Services (Lincoln)-\$401.63. NOXIOUS WEED FUND: Ameritas Life Ins (retirement)-\$233.10; C & D Service (supply)-\$51.90; CPI (fuel)-\$47.49; FICA - \$264.18; Madison National Life (life)-\$3.15; Self-Insured Dental (premiums)-\$34.00. AMBULANCE: Black Hills Energy (utility)-\$265.16; Bound Tree Medical (supply)-\$78.24; CPI (fuel)-\$78.79; Olson Enterprises (fuel)-\$97.84.

Being no further business, Chairman TJ Vance adjourned the meeting at 12 :10pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2nd 2021 at 8:30am. A current agenda and complete minutes are on file in the County Clerk's Office and at [www.co.webster.ne.us](http://www.co.webster.ne.us).

Dated this 16th day of February, 2021  
Webster County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: Louise Petsch  
Webster County Clerk