

WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 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), TJ Vance, (District Three), Tim Gilbert (District Four) Absent, 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 Ratzlaff to approve the minutes of the December 21st, 2021 meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Karr and Shipman. Absent: Gilbert. Motion carried. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff to pay claims and payroll. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Karr and Shipman. Absent: Gilbert. Motion carried.

At 8:35am, Paul Stoner, Highway Manager met with the Board. The project north of Rosemont has been completed. The crews continue to work on roads and equipment repairs. The Excavator needed repairs and is now fixed.

The Board looked over the Annual Certification Reports for EMTs to be submitted to the State each year. TJ Vance signed the reports for Red Cloud Ambulance and Blue Hill Ambulance.

The Board then reviewed the Clerk of District Court Report, Ambulance Report for write-offs, and the Sheriff's Quarterly Fee Report. They also reviewed a Report sent to the County from DOE that had been sent to Gottsch stating their compliance for the Construction and Operating Permit.

At 9:15am, Treasurer, Janet Knehans met with the Board explaining an Inheritance Tax Overpayment claim that was presented for the meeting to be paid. The Board went into Board of Equalization with a motion by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Karr and Shipman. Absent: Gilbert. Motion carried. Midlands Area Agency is requesting tax exemption on their vehicles. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff to approve this exemption. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Karr and Shipman. Absent: Gilbert. Motion carried. Motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Ratzlaff to go out of Board of Equalization. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Karr and Shipman. Absent: Gilbert. Motion carried.

At 9:20am, Jim Farmer from RC & D gave their year-end annual report to the Board. They were asking for funding of \$400.00 annually. The Board approved and signed a claim for this amount.

County Commissioner Tim Gilbert arrived at the meeting at 9:30am. Commissioner Gilbert also gave an update on the HVAC System.

At 9:45am, Treasurer Knehans asked the Board if she could close the Account with Heritage Bank since there is not much funds there anymore. The Board agreed and motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Karr to close the account. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried. She also discussed with the Board Certificates coming up for renewal at the Cornerstone Bank in Guide Rock and the South Central State Bank in Blue Hill, NE. Janet will check on CD's for the Board.

At 10:00am, Extension Agent Beth Janning met with the Board on their appointments coming up for terms expiring. Ashley Armstrong will replace Doug Hubl. Kristi Allen and Buffy Niemeyer will both renew their terms. The Board accepts these appointments and will be placed on the 2022 Appointment List to go over at 10:45am.

At 10:30am, the Employee Handbook was discussed and the concensus of the group was to have a final meeting once the Handbook has been sent to us for approval and see if Zelle can come to a meeting at the Courthouse with the employees before signing.

At 10:45am, County Board Appointments for 2022 were gone over by the Board and changes made accordingly. The Board had decided to keep all the Board members in their same positions and a unanimous decision was made to keep TJ Vance as Chairman and Gary Ratzlaff as Vice-Chair. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Gilbert to approve this. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. This process was delayed from being done at beginning of the meeting until Commissioner Gilbert was present to participate in these appointments for Board Chairman and Vice Chairman.

At 11:00am, the Board reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and Webster County that had been sent to Commissioner Ratzlaff for review. Motion was made by Vance, seconded by Gilbert to accept this document. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

At 11:05am, Noxious Weed Superintendent, Brian Pedersen met with the Board and went over his State Reports with the Board and for Chairman Vance to sign and he will send them back to the State. The Board also asked him if he would take care of the sidewalks during the day if snow became a hazard for safety. Otherwise, Ken VanWey is keeping them cleaned before Courthouse is opened and after closing.

The following claims and payroll were approved by the Board.

Total Wages - \$14,259.68. **GENERAL FUND:** Ameritas Life Insurance Corp (Health)-\$733.81; AT&T Mobility (Phones)-\$518.04; Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Premium)-\$939.10; Blue Hill Leader (Publish)-\$291.63; Blue360 Media (Supply)-\$87.75; Katie Bolte (Expense)-\$56.00; Calkins Law Office (Contract)-\$1000.00; Patrick Calkins (Expense)-\$50.96; Central Nebr

Cremation/Mortuary Service (Autopsy)-\$1706.75; Jolene K Duffy (Expense)-\$11.92; S.S. (Fica)-\$780.76; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$806.95; Farm & Home Publishers, LTD (Supply)-\$575.00; First National Bank Omaha (Supply)-\$354.03; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$1633.98; Hampton Inn – Kearney (Lodging)-\$2069.10; Abbey Harig (Expense)-\$79.18; Hometown Leasing (Lease)-\$129.00; Elizabeth Janning (Expense)-\$134.96; Jared’s Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$1042.00; LEAF (Lease)-\$424.45; Margaret Anne Meline (Prior Service)-\$42.00; Mips (Supply)-\$145.41; Alexa Pedersen (Expense)-\$68.88; City of Red Cloud (Utility)-\$1467.91; Rod’s Construction & Flooring (Repairs)-\$11,917.00; RPM Collision (Repairs)-\$135.00; Self-Insured Dental Fund (Premium)-\$34.00; Thompson Reuters (Subscription)-\$174.25; Trailblazer RC & D (Fee)-\$400.00; Tru-Built Construction (Tuck Pointing)-\$73.32; Web Co Clk of Dist Court (Fees)-\$71.00; Web Co Sheriff-Petty Cash Fund (Petty Cash)-\$93.94; Webster Co Court (Fees)-\$70.00; Williams Exterminating, Inc (Pest Control)-\$88.00; Woodward’s Disposal Service (Utility)-\$25.00; Zee Medical Service (Supply)-\$66.25. ROAD/BRIDGE FUND: Bladen Sand & Gravel, Inc (Gravel/Borrow)-\$59,587.53; City of Blue Hill (Utility)-\$89.51; Caterpillar Financial Services (Motor Grader)-\$24,373.07; Country Corner (Fuel)-\$873.25; Deisley Excavating & Trucking, LLC (Labor)-\$3250.00; First National Bank Omaha (Supply)-\$361.35; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$50.08; Hometown Leasing (Lease)-\$86.37; Hometown Market (Supply)-\$42.32; Island Supply Welding Company (Supply)-\$532.99; Krueger Land Surveying (Fees)-\$712.50; Nebraska Peterbilt-Ford (Repairs)-\$858.54; Nebraska Truck Center, Inc (Repairs)-\$20.00; Nebraska Machinery Company (Repair/Supply)-\$753.11; Windstream (Phones)-\$76.96. ROAD/BRIDGE FUND: Simon Contractors (Contractor)-\$364,523.40. SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND: Platte Valley Endodontics (Dental)-\$152.00. INHERITACE TAX FUND: Estate of Jeffrey V. Soucek (Refund)-\$2323.33. NOXIOUS WEED FUND: Hampton Inn – Kearney (Lodging)-\$229.90; NE Weed Control Assn/Region IV (Dues)-\$120.00. 5502 RC AMBULANCE SERVICE #1 FUND: S.S. (Fica)-\$204.99; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$49.27; Petsch Billing (Contract)-\$250.00. 5503 BH AMBULANCE SERVICE #2 FUND: S.S. (Fica)-\$98.36; Petsch Billing (Contract)-\$250.00.

Being no further business, Chairman TJ Vance adjourned the meeting at 11:20am. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 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.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2022
Webster County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: Louise Petsch
Webster County Clerk