

WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 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), and Gary Ratzlaff (District Five). The Board stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman, TJ Vance gave notice of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act Laws. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Karr to approve the minutes of the January 17th, 2023 meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: Gilbert. Motion carried. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert to pay claims and payroll for the February 7, 2023 meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

At 8:35am, Paul Stoner, Highway Manager reported on Roads. Paul gave an update on the tree removal project that they have been working on. Paul is working with County Attorney Patrick Calkins to create a clearer policy for tree removal in Webster County. Paul also gave an update on the new machinery and discussion was held about updates that could be beneficial to certain roads in the County.

At 9:00am, the board reviewed the Imprest Account and the District Court Report provided by the Clerk's office and the Fund Balance report provided by the Treasurer's office. Shipman gave an update on the HVAC fence and discussion was held about the surplus items the County has. The board decided to have a silent auction in March with all of these items.

Discussion was also had about the Courthouse closing due to inclement weather. Motion was made by Shipman seconded by Vance that the Courthouse will remain open during inclement weather events. Employees who are unable to make it can use sick, vacation or comp time or take a voluntary absence with no pay. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried. Clerk Harig will contact Zelle about updating the handbook on this matter.

At 9:30am, Deputy Assessor, Tami Scheuneman met with the board for permissive exempt applications and recertification and tax corrections. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff to go into Board of Equalization. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: Shipman. Discussion was held on the permissive exempt application and a motion was made by Karr, seconded by Gilbert to consider accepting this late application. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: Shipman. Motion carried. A hearing will be held via Zoom on March 7th, 2023 for the board to approve or deny this application.

Deputy Scheuneman then presented a Tax Correction 2023-9 with explanation. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Karr to approve this Tax Correction. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried. Motion was then made by Shipman, seconded by Gilbert to go out of Board of Equalization. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried

At 9:35am, Deputy Scheuneman gave updates on Planning and Zoning, including the Livestock Friendly County Annual Report of no change.

At 9:50am, Jim Farmer met with the board and presented the Trailblazer RC&D annual report. Webster County will be holding a Hazardous Waste Recycling Day on April 22nd, 2023 from 8am-10am in Red Cloud at the ballfield. Jim asked the board if Webster County would be willing to do a sponsorship fee again for 2023. A motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Karr to pay the \$400 sponsorship fees to Trailblazer RC&D. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

At 10:10am, Gene Horne met with the board during open forum in regards to grant money for the Red Cloud Ambulance. Gene told the board they were not granted as much money as they were

hoping and would like to speak with the USDA to see if they can be of any assistance on this. Gene will report back at the next meeting as a decision will have to be made by the end of February if they choose to accept this grant.

At 10:30am, Caleb Johnson, Webster County's budget preparer, met with the board via Zoom. Discussion was held on amending the budget and what the options were on this. Caleb plans on coming down in March to go over all of this in person.

At 11:00am, Lindsay Waechter-Mead with the Nebraska Extension Office met with the board and presented their annual report. Lindsay also gave an update on their board members and terms.

At 11:10am, Deputy Scheuneman met with the board to discuss amending the Webster County Dental Policy. Deputy Scheuneman requested that implants be covered when medically necessary. A motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Karr to move implants from not covered to now be under the orthodontic umbrella of the dental policy. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried

Shipman then made a motion, seconded by Gilbert to amend the policy so dependents are eligible to be covered under the dental plan until the age of 26, married or single, as this meets Federal guidelines. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried

At 11:30am, the board reviewed the ambulance write off report and had a phone conference with Liz Petsch. Liz gave an update on the cleanup process for ambulance.

At 11:40am, Clerk Harig presented the National Opioid Settlements to the board. Motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Gilbert to participate in this settlement. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried. Chairman Vance signed all the papers to participate in this.

At 11:45am, Treasurer Janet Knehans met with the board to make necessary changes to the bank signature cards. Deputy Monica Schmitz will be removed from all accounts and signature cards as of February 10th, 2023 and Avery Brumbaugh and Carmi Mai will be added to all accounts, signature cards, online banking and CD's as of February 13th, 2023. Avery Brumbaugh will be sworn in the morning of February 13th as the new Deputy Treasurer. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert to approve these changes. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried

At 11:55am, Shipman shared with the board that Midlands is asking for a letter approving their funding for year 2023. Clerk Harig will take care of this.

Total wages - \$15,623.15. **GENERAL FUND:** Ameritas Life Insurance Corp (Health)-\$687.95; Applied Connective Technologies (Services)-\$60.70; AT&T Mobility (Phones)-\$518.22; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$89.72; Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Premium)-\$1977.56; Blue Hill Leader (Publish)-\$323.87; Business World Prod/Hastings (Supply)-\$80.41; Culligan of Hastings (Water)-\$90.00; DAS State Accounting/Central Finance (Teletype)-\$896.00; Dunse Nutrition Consultings, LLC (Consult)-\$10.00; S.S. (Fica)-\$745.33; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$1535.98; First Concord Benefits (Buydown)-\$117.45; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$321.10; First National Bank Omaha (Supply)-\$180.22; First Concord Benefits Group LLC (Fees)-\$600.00; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$1444.36; Hamilton Information Systems, Inc (Support)-\$527.45; Hometown Market (Supply)-\$481.59; Jared's Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$2674.46; Kenny's Hardware and Home Center (Supply)-\$4.99; Webster County Sheriff's Dept (Fees)-\$202.02; Lieske Law Firm (Counsel)-\$1399.00; Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc (Life)-\$429.35; Midland Area Agency on Aging (Handibus)-\$1274.00; Mips (Services)-\$75.00; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$2459.81; NE Assn of County Treasurers (Dues)-\$50.00; Nebraska.gov (Fees)-\$100.00; Owens Educational Services, Inc (Services)-\$602.00; Alexa Pedersen (Exp)-\$34.38; Petsch Billing (Contract)-\$1460.00; Red Cloud Chief (Publish/Subscription)-\$358.16; City of Red Cloud (Utility)-\$1971.54; Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (Funding)-\$2257.30; Tami Scheuneman (Expense)-\$90.00; Self-Insured Dental Fund (Premium)-\$75.00;

South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$24.55; Sullivan Shoemaker P.C. L.L.O. (Counsel)-\$397.04; Theobald Law Office (Counsel)-\$3111.25; United States Postal Service (Postage)-\$126.00; USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services (Funding)-\$332.16; Ken Vanwey (Repairs/Snow Removal)-\$635.00; Web Co Clk of Dist Court (Fees)-\$36.00; Web Co Sheriff-Petty Cash Fund (Petty Cash)-\$441.22; Webster County Court (Fees)-\$116.15; Webster County Hospital Clinic (Misc)-\$1062.60; Williams Exterminating, Inc (Pest Control)-\$88.00; Woodward's Disposal Services (Utility)-\$30.00. ROAD/BRIDGE FUND: Bill's Transmissions, Inc (Repairs)-\$2252.61; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$708.27; City of Blue Hill (Utility)-\$176.49; Country Corner (Fuel)-\$130.31; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc (Repairs)-\$899.29; First National Bank Omaha (Supply)-\$156.81; Glenwood Telecommunications (Phones)-\$108.31; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$49.73; Hastings Equity Manufacturing (Supply)-\$760.00; Hometown Leasing (Lease)-\$88.03; Hometown Market (Supply)-\$38.17; Island Supply Welding Company (Supply)-\$143.61; Jim's OK Tires (Repairs)-\$2178.50; Kully Pipe & Steel Supply (Supply)-\$26.89; LRNRD Rural Water Project (Utility)-\$26.40; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc (Supply)-\$11.26; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$112.25; NAPA Auto Parts (Supply/Repairs)-\$1269.76; Nebraska Peterbilt (Supply)-\$270.59; Nebraska Machinery Company (Supply)-\$742.36; Oak Creek Engineering, LLC (Services)-\$2988.94; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel/Repairs)-\$8634.24; R&M Disposal LLC (Utility)-\$63.00; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$116.45; Windstream (Phones)-\$86.46. ROAD/BRIDGE CONST FUND: Oak Creek Engineering, LLC (Services)-\$635.00; Van Kirk Contracting (Supply)-\$207,733.89; Vontz Paving, Inc (Services)-\$1484.15. MODERN RECORDS FUND: Mips Inc (Fees)-\$140.24. SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND: Kory L Bumgardner D.D.S. (Dental)-\$506.00; Webster County Dental Clinic (Dental)-\$360.00; Minden Dental Clinic (Dental)-\$96.00; Matthew J. Webber MD, DDS, PC (Dental)-\$479.00. COUNTY MEDICAL/RELIEF FUND: NE Health & Human Services System (Beatrice/Norfolk)-\$186.00. NOXIOUS WEED FUND: Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$210.75. RC AMBULANCE SERVICE #1 FUND: Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$250.64; S.S. (Fica)-\$207.76; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$48.93; Gene Horne (Expense)-\$12.72; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc (Supply)-\$88.20; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel)-\$134.04. BH AMBULANCE SERVICE #2 FUND: Bound Tree Medical LLC (Supply)-\$3369.99; S.S. (Fica)-\$207.76.

Being no further business, Chairman TJ Vance adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023 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 7th day of February, 2023
Webster County Board of Commissioners

Abbey Harig
Webster County Clerk