

## **PROPERTY TAX REQUEST PUBLIC HEARING**

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am, on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, for the Property Tax Request Public Hearing. A motion was made by Karr and seconded by Ratzlaff to open the meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

Notice of Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request was published in the Red Cloud Chief, September 13, 2023 edition and the Blue Hill Leader, September 14, 2023 edition. No members of the public appeared.

At 8:45am, a motion was made by Karr, seconded by Shipman to close the meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

## **BUDGET HEARING**

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:45am, on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, for the Budget Hearing. A motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Shipman to open the meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary was published in the Red Cloud Chief, September 13, 2023 edition and the Blue Hill Leader September 14, 2023 edition. No members of the public appeared.

At 9:10am, a motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Karr to close the meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

## **WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 9:11am on Tuesday, September 19, 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 Gilbert to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff to pay claims and payroll for the September 19, 2023 meeting. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

At 9:15am, The board opened bids for Structure No. C009104010P Replacement. Four bids were received. L&M Contractors, Inc (\$464,432.00); Theisen Construction, Inc (\$554,261.70); Simon Contractors (\$493,000.00); Midwest Infrastructure Inc (\$556,344.99). After discussion, a motion to go with L&M Contractors was made by Shipman, seconded by Gilbert. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

At 9:30am, Road Superintendent, Paul Stoner met with the board. Paul gave an update on tree removal and machinery maintenance. At the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting a purchase agreement will be presented to purchase a lot in Cowles.

At 9:45am, County Clerk, Abbey Harig discussed the term of the County Surveyor and reminded the board that this will now be an elected position and will be on the 2024 ballot.

At 10:00am, three resolutions were presented to the board.

**Resolution 2023-18**, Property Tax Request 2023-2024. A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Shipman to approve this resolution. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

This year's tax levy request went from .358 to .323.

**Resolution 2023-19**, to Adopt the 2023-2024 budget. A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Vance to adopt the 2023-2024 budget. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2023-20, Transfer of Funds & Closure of the Handi Bus -2200 Fund, The Hospital Bond Fund – 3100, The Jail Bond Fund – 3300 and the Bladen Highway North Project Fund – 4600.** A motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Shipman to transfer and close these funds. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

TJ then signed the budget message.

At 10:05am, Abbey presented an Interlocal Agreement with Cowles. A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Shipman to approve this agreement. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Abbey then discussed an upcoming Election meeting on October 12, 2023. With the changes pertaining to voter ID she would like her and her office staff to attend this meeting. Therefore, the Clerk's Office/Register of Deeds/ District Court office will be closed, Thursday, October 12, 2023. The commissioners supported this decision.

At 10:15am, Amy Stephens with STARS met with the board. STARS is a family, school, and community based approach to decrease absences by assessing the risk and needs of each student and family. Amy Dallman and Jason Heldt, with Red Cloud Community Schools, Patrick Moore, with Blue Hill Public Schools, and Ben Jones with Silver Lakes Public Schools were also there to support this program. County Attorney, Patrick Calkins also spoke in favor of STARS. The board asked if the schools were willing to help with the cost of this. Everyone will report back on the October 3, 2023 meeting.

At 10:40am, Sheriff, Troy Schmitz met with the board about the in-car cameras for the police vehicles. The grant for these cameras requires the county to pay 100% and then they will reimburse the county for 75%.

At 10:45am, Monica Montgomery, with the Safety Committee met with the board. She discussed signage, the west door, and the HVAC fence.

At 10:50am, Treasurer, Janet Knehans met with the board to present CD options. A Motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Gilbert to invest in a CD for seven months at South Central State Bank. Voting in favor: Vance, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Karr and Shipman. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion carried.

At 11:20am, Abbey presented the Certificate of Cost Allocation for the IV-D for Chairman, Vance to sign.

Total Wages - \$149,791.07. **GENERAL FUND:** Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation (Health)-\$7025.61; Applied Connective Technologies (Email)-\$111.29; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$137.08; Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Premium)-\$39,635.25; Blue Hill Leader (Publish)-\$461.20; Carrot-Top Industries Inc (Supply)-\$259.14; CINTAS (Supply)-\$65.52; Cooperative Producers Inc (Fuel)-\$3010.80; Culligan of Hastings (Water)-\$70.95; DAS State Accounting/Central Finance (Dues)-\$92.00; DAV Chapter 9 (Misc)-\$1500.00; S.S. (Fica)-\$21,262.60; First Concord Benefits (Buydown)-\$1294.12; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$45.00; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$305.35; Hamilton Information Services (Services)-\$220.50; Hometown Market (Supply)-\$442.36; J&A Auto Supply (Supply)-\$5.79; Carla Jameson (Expense)-\$19.65; J13 Enterprises, LLC (Budget)-\$2468.87; Lieske Law Firm (Counsel)-\$138.00; Med-Tech Resource LLC (Supply)-\$54.19; Mid-American Benefits, LLC (COBRA)-\$54.00; Midland Area Agency on Aging (Handibus)-\$1372.00; NACO (Registration)-\$150.00; Nebraska Tech & Telecom, Inc (Phones)-\$14.88;

Physicians Laboratory, PC (Misc)-\$2619.00; Quadient Finance USA, Inc (Postage)-\$2000.00; Sam's Club (Supply)-\$157.69; Self-Insured Dental Fund (Premium)-\$2697.00; Skalka & Baack Law Firm (Counsel)-\$138.00; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$24.80; Theobald Law Office (Counsel)-\$2213.75; Thomson Reuters – West (Subscription)-\$18.30; TK Elevator Corporation (Maint)-\$4927.92; Ken Vanwey (Mow/Trim)-\$1455.00; Viaero Wireless (Phones)-\$19.21; Village Pharmacy (Supply)-\$1.19; Vision Service Plan (COBRA)-\$19.31; Webster Co Hospital Clinic (Misc)-\$144.00. ROAD/BRIDGE FUND: Ameritas Life Insurance Corp (Health)-\$3124.77; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$69.98; Village of Bladen (Utility)-\$59.73; Blue Hill Leader (Publish)-\$61.94; Cencon of Kansas Utility Contractors (Supply)-\$4778.50; Century Lumber Center (Supply)-\$16.35; Cooperative Producers Inc (Fuel/Supply)-\$2081.04; Country Corner (Fuel)-\$76.68; S.S. (Fica)-\$3505.20; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$72.85; Glenwood Telecommunications (Phones)-\$107.20; Village of Guide Rock (Utility)-\$106.32; J&A Auto Supply (Supply)-\$130.52; Jared's Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$564.96; Kenny's Hardware and Home Center (Supply)-\$39.18; Kohmetscher Feed Service (Supply)-\$56.50; Monica Montgomery (Expense)-\$20.15; NAPA Auto Parts (Supply)-\$43.97; Newman Signs, Inc (Supply)-\$107.04; Nebraska Machinery Company (Repairs)-\$20,217.27; Olson Enterprises LLC (Repairs)-\$19,707.61; Power Plan, Dept 77871 (Supply)-\$42.76; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$250.20; Timm's Service (Fuel)-\$3508.09; Union Bank & Trust Company (Bond Payment)-\$5315.59. SHERIFFS DEPT FUNDRAISING FUND: Axon Enterprise Inc (Supply)-\$2983.73. SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND: Sean M Daly, DDS (Dental)-\$1567.20; Minden Dental Clinic (Dental)-\$380.60. COVID AMERICAN RESCUE ACT FUND: Van Kirk Contracting (Misc)-\$26,297.18. BRIDGE BOND FUND: Union Bank & Trust Company (Bond Payment)-\$7576.05. NOXIOUS WEED FUND: Ameritas Life Insurance Corp (Health)-\$225.79; Cooperative Producers, Inc (Fuel)-\$647.03; S.S. (Fica)-\$255.89; Norder Supply, Inc (Supply)-\$78.64. RC AMBULANCE SERVICE #1 FUND: Matherson Tri-Gas, Inc (Supply)-\$70.56; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel)-\$216.13. BH AMUBLANCE SERVICE #2 FUND: Cooperative Producers Inc (Fuel)-\$151.35.

Being no further business, Chairman TJ Vance adjourned the meeting at 11:30am. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 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](http://www.co.webster.ne.us).

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023  
Webster County Board of Commissioners

Abbey Harig  
Webster County Clerk