

## CHADRON, NEBRASKA

January 26, 2021

### DAWES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Public convened meeting of the Dawes County Commissioners in regular session was commenced at the hour of 9:00 A.M. on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 pursuant to public notice as required by law. The meeting was also set up on zoom and called to order by Chairman, Jake Stewart. Board Members present were Vic Rivera and Levi Grant. Also present was Cheryl Feist, Dawes County Clerk; Mark Werner and Joseph Johndreau, City of Chadron Mayor and Councilman. Adam Edmund, Deputy Co. Attorney (per zoom). Per LB 898, Commissioner Stewart announced the location of posted information concerning the Open Meetings Act. Copies of the Act are available upon request by anyone attending the meeting. Commissioner Grant, seconded by Rivera, moved to approve the Agenda and noted Mark Werner and Joseph Johndreau were present for Public Comment. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera, Grant and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried. Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Grant, moved to approve the January 12, 2021 minutes as recorded. Roll call vote, Ayes: Grant, Stewart and Rivera. Nays: None. Motion carried. Claims were reviewed. Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Grant, moved to approve all claims as submitted. Roll call vote, Ayes: Stewart, Rivera and Grant. Nays: None. Motion carried. There wasn't any correspondence. The Board reviewed and approved by general consent the monthly fee/mileage reports of the various departments.

Public Comment ensued with Mark Werner introducing himself to the Board. He personally thanked the Board for the red rock laid on Table Road. He then went on to say the City of Chadron is interested in working with Dawes County to save money on projects. Projects being looked at are a centralized communications center and connecting the Forest Service to Tourism. Joseph Johndreau introduced himself to the Board. He indicated communication between the entities is key. The City of Chadron has attempted to work with other entities in the past according to Grant. Board reports ensued to wit: **Grant:** No reports, still waiting to hear back from his Boards regarding meeting dates, etc. **Rivera:** Most of his Boards are meeting by zoom. The Travel Board saw a huge tourism boost with the remodel of the Walmart Supercenter in Chadron, Nebraska. Panhandle Public Health met and discussed the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine with other Agenda items business as usual. Region 1 Mental Health Board ratified policies with business as usual. **Stewart:** NCAP-reorganized board with Jake Stewart as Chairman. They are currently sorting through 23 different grants so the fiscal department is very busy. Region 23 met and reorganized their board with no new members. SWANN reorganized their board with four new board members. NNDC is reaching out to other businesses in other area's and nothing has been received back from the State regarding the CDBG money. Commissioner Stewart reported the Safety Committee will start meeting again in February of 2021.

At 9:30 A.M. Dan Wordekemper, Weed Superintendent, met with the Board. He presented the 2020 Annual Weed Report for the Boards review and approval. Commissioner Grant, seconded by Rivera, moved to approve the report as presented and directed the Chairman to sign such. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera, Grant and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board recessed at 9:36 A.M. and reconvened to regular session at 9:40 A.M.

At 9:41 A.M. Tessa Reece, UNL Extension 4-H met with the Board. She presented 2020 4-H updates which featured a photography challenge and the County Fair. She reported the photography challenge went well as several photo's were entered at the Fair. A copy of the report will become a part of these minutes. In other business the Board opened one (1) sealed bid for two chairs. Commissioner Grant, seconded by Rivera, moved to award the sealed bid to the Methodist Church in the amount of \$5.00. Roll call vote, Ayes: Grant, Stewart and Rivera. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 9:53 A.M. Stacy Swinney joined the meeting. He presented a proposal to the Board to keep up on bridge inspections for Dawes County. He indicated he currently does bridge inspections for Sioux County at \$130.00 per bridge and uses their trained Roads Secretary to input bridge inspection information to the State. He informed the Board he would inspect bridges in Dawes County at a cost of \$150.00 per bridge which would also cover costs to input the bridge inspection information to the State. Discussion ensued. The Board will enter into a contract with Mr. Swinney and Mr. Swinney will report back each quarter until such time a bridge inspector is no longer needed. Commissioner Grant asked Mr. Swinney if he could train a roads crew member to do the bridge inspections and Mr. Swinney indicated

no, they must attend school to get certified and then work under a licensed individual for a set period of time. Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Grant, moved to authorize Stacy Swinney to conduct quarterly bridge inspections at \$150.00 per bridge and reimburse mileage at the Federal rate for mileage. Once a contract is drawn the Chairman is authorized to sign it. Roll call vote, Ayes: Stewart, Rivera and Grant. Nays: None. Motion carried. Mr. Swinney reported he is also available for consulting regarding the One and Six Year Road Plan. In other business Commissioner Grant discussed surplus of equipment. He also reported District 3 is in need of a truck so option available are to fix the Mack Truck at a cost of \$15,000.00 for a rebuilt motor or a used motor at a cost of \$5000.00. He visited with a mechanic and he feels the Mack Truck needs a camshaft at a cost of \$5000.00. He went on to say when trucks are purchased the county should think about buying used so they can be worked on by others, not just the manufacturer. He also expressed concern with parts being taken off vehicles/equipment to fix other vehicles/equipment. This isn't a good practice. The Rock Crusher plant needs addressed as well.

At 10:30 A.M. Nebraska Strong representatives Carolyn Annen and Thalia Wilson, met with the Board. Ms. Annen played a short video. Region 1 Mental Health is their home base and they are available to anyone seeking help during the pandemic. February 17, 2021 is Random Act of Kindness Day across the Panhandle, she encouraged participation. Ms. Wilson reported they have delivered snack boxes to the Fire Hall and Police Department. Sam Wellnitz, Treasurer, joined the meeting and asked if the Board had any questions about the Semi-Annual Treasurer's report. Commissioner Stewart asked if the county ever received the State share of the generator project. Mr. Wellnitz will check into this. The report will be placed on file. Kami Wills, HR Director, joined the meeting. Commissioner Rivera discussed prairie dog control. He feels the county should adopt policies for prairie dog control. Discussion ensued. Dan Wordekemper reported he has received prairie dog calls but it becomes a liability to get involved when one landowner likes the prairie dogs and one landowner doesn't. Adam Edmund, Deputy County Attorney reported with a policy the county would be responsible for all costs, staff, etc. and would also have to meet Federal prairie dog guidelines in the process. The best way to resolve the issue is for landowners to work together to combat the problem. Dan Wordekemper will secure a copy of the prairie dog control policy in Sheridan County and get it to Adam Edmund for review.

At 11:03 A.M. Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Grant, moved to enter executive session to discuss the Highway Superintendent/Roads Foreman positions. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera, Grant and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried. At 11:35 A.M. a motion to reconvene to regular session at 11:35 A.M. with no action taken during executive session was made by Commissioner Grant and seconded by Rivera. Ayes: Grant, Stewart and Rivera. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 11:36 A.M. there being no further business to come before the Board the Chairman adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Dawes County Commissioners will be held on February 09, 2021 beginning at 9:00 A.M. with the Board of Equalization meeting followed by the Commissioner's meeting at approximately 9:20 A.M. Both meetings will be held in the Commissioner room. The Agenda will close at noon on February 04, 2021.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cheryl Feist**  
**Dawes County Clerk**

**DAWES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
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**January 26, 2021 the following claims were audited, allowed and warrant orders drawn on the respective accounts: Key for claims: 100=General Fund; 200=Roads Fund; 650=HwyBridgeBuyback Program Fund; 990=Visitor's Fund; 1100=Reappraisal Fund; 1150=Preservation&Modernization Fund; 1900=Veterans Aid Fund; 2360=Drug Fund; 2500=Grants Fund; 2501=CDGB Fund 2700=Inheritance Fund; 2910-911=Emergency Communications; 2913=Wireless Communications; 4600= Bond Payment Fund.**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TOTCLAIMS</b>
100	ACCS,INC	\$375.00
100	AFLAC	\$1,583.52
100	AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP	\$11,199.17
100	BIG BAT'S LLC-TREASURER	\$23.30
100	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$626.40
100	BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NE	\$33,410.51
100	BLUE 360 MEDIA,LLC	\$325.88
100	THE BUSINESS CONNECTION	\$183.43
100	CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING CO	\$2,503.02
100	CELESTE CATTIN	\$26.86
100	CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS INC	\$84.43
100	CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-CLERK	\$16.33
100	CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-TREASURER	\$24.34
100	CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-WEED	\$5.93
100	CHADRON ACE HARDWARE	\$215.82
100	CHADRON GLASS & WINDOWS,INC	\$300.00
100	CHADRON MOTOR COMPANY	\$57.67
100	ARON CHRISMAN	\$7.60
100	CLERK OF DIST COURT ASSOCIATION	\$50.00
100	ROBERTA COLEMAN	\$1,265.98
100	CONNECTING POINT	\$84.00
100	CRAWFORD CLIPPER/HARRISON SUN	\$475.95
100	CRITES,SHAFFER,CONNELLY,WATSON,HARF	\$190.00
100	CULLERS LAW OFFICE	\$1,080.00
100	CULLIGAN-ASSESSOR	\$36.00
100	CULLIGAN-CO ATTORNEY	\$10.00
100	CULLIGAN-DIST COURT	\$12.00
100	CULLIGAN-PUBLIC DEFENDER	\$10.00
100	CULLIGAN-WEED	\$12.00
100	DAS STATE ACCOUNTING	\$309.04
100	DATASPEC INC	\$898.00
100	DAWES COUNTY TREASURER	\$682.00
100	A ELLIOTT LAW	\$960.00

100	FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE	\$19,288.40
100	LAW OFFICE OF RHONDA FLOWER	\$2,331.03
100	LOLA GARNER	\$38.00
100	JANICE GERMAN	\$10.00
100	GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS	\$1,979.22
100	HARRIS SALES COMPANY INC	\$129.64
100	HILLS TIRE & SUPPLY	\$381.64
100	INTRALINKS,INC	\$170.00
100	KONE,INC	\$474.72
100	MANNA SYSTEMS AND CONSULTING	\$100.00
100	MIDWEST SPECIAL SERVICES	\$1,297.50
100	MIPS INC	\$207.83
100	NE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM	\$93.00
100	NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$2,628.60
100	NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	\$1,932.26
100	CANDACE NOLLETTE	\$10.00
100	NORTHEAST NE JUVENILE SERVICES	\$318.75
100	NORTHWEST RURAL PUBLIC POWER DIST	\$192.03
100	PETERSEN DRUG	\$48.22
100	QUILL CORPORATION	\$393.00
100	RAPID CITY JOURNAL/COMMISSIONERS	\$229.18
100	SADDLE ROCK ONE STOP	\$773.08
100	SOUTHERN HILLS FIRE & SAFETY	\$373.00
100	JACOB STEWART	\$8.70
100	UNL EXTENSION DAWES COUNTY	\$30.00
100	VERIZON WIRELESS/SHERIFF	\$362.86
100	VIAERO WIRELESS-WEED	\$81.26
100	VSP VISION PLAN	\$210.06
100	WALMART COMMUNITY-TREASURER	\$33.45
100	WALMART COMMUNITY-VETERANS	\$18.88
100	WALMART COMMUNITY/CLERK	\$56.65
200	ACTION COMMUNICATIONS INC/SHERIFF	\$92.79
200	AFLAC	\$343.92
200	AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP	\$1,178.77

200	BAUERKEMPER'S INC	\$72.54
200	BEGUIN PROPANE	\$589.56
200	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$508.71
200	BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NE	\$1,160.82
200	CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-DIST #1 ROADS	\$11.86
200	CHADRON ACE HARDWARE	\$29.66
200	COE ENGINEERING	\$1,330.00
200	CRAWFORD CLIPPER/HARRISON SUN	\$66.20
200	DAWES COUNTY TREASURER	\$75.00
200	FIRST BANKCARD/CHERYL FEIST	\$24.75
200	FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE	\$3,323.41
200	FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER,INC	\$128.66
200	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL-ROADS	\$360.62
200	LAWSON PRODUCTS INC	\$520.88
200	MONTANA CSED SDU-WAGE WITHOLDING	\$165.00
200	NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$735.64
200	NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	\$129.92
200	NKC TIRE	\$284.54
200	NMC EXCHANGE LLC/NEBRASKA MACHINERY	\$10,024.96
200	NORTHWEST RURAL PUBLIC POWER DIST	\$164.03
200	PHILLIPS F & T INC	\$3,911.74
200	QUALITY TIRE	\$245.00
200	SIMON CONTRACTORS OF SOUTH DAKOTA	\$4,022.40
200	STURDEVANT'S AUTO PARTS	\$81.50
200	VERIZON CONNECT NWF,INC-ROADS	\$194.28
200	VSP VISION PLAN	\$120.18
200	YOUNG'S REPAIR INC	\$828.00
990	AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP	\$70.29
990	BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NE	\$94.74
990	FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE	\$126.34
990	NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$26.55
990	VSP VISION PLAN	\$9.32
2500	CHADRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$5,824.27
2910	AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP	\$3.38

2910	CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-E 911	\$39.26
2910	FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE	\$14.14
2910	INTRALINKS,INC	\$92.19
2910	NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$3.33
2913	CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-E 911	\$287.91