

CHADRON, NEBRASKA

April 27, 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 27th day of April, 2021 pursuant to public notice as required by law. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jake Stewart. Board Members present were Vic Rivera and Levi Grant. Also present was Deb Lesmeister, Deputy Dawes County Clerk; Adam Edmund, Deputy County Attorney; Marissa Betson and Chet Ellsworth. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present. 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. Motion by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Rivera to approve the agenda with the additional item of Dawes County Highway Superintendent interviews at 1:00 P.M. at 342 Main Street. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera, Grant and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Grant to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting. Roll call vote, Ayes: Grant, Stewart and Rivera. Nays: None. Motion carried. Claims were reviewed. Motion by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Rivera to approve the claims as presented. Roll call vote, Ayes: Stewart, Rivera, and Grant. Nays: None. Motion carried. Payroll was approved. Public comment was opened at 9:18 A.M. Marissa Betson spoke and gave an update on behalf of Mark Betson. She said that they were approximately halfway on gathering signatures for a petition. A 9:45 appointment time had been set for Chet Ellsworth, however he chose to speak instead during Public Comment. Chet Ellsworth then presented a letter to all Board members and the Deputy Clerk that expressed his concern about Resolution No. 2021-14. Receipt and acknowledgement of this letter as of April 27, 2021 at 9:17 A. M. was noted by the Board and the Deputy County Clerk. Mr. Ellsworth exited the meeting at 9:19 A.M. The Board reviewed Officials Fee/Mileage report.

Board Reports: Commissioner Rivera reported on Region 1, they are now having their meetings in real life, they had the evaluation of the Administrator and had a favorable review, they adopted policy items and made new handbooks. The Panhandle Health meeting was held by Zoom and Commissioner Rivera did not participate. Commissioner Grant reported that the Crawford Senior Citizens meal program participants can now go to the Center and have meals. Commissioner Stewart reported that SWANN is doing preliminary budget planning. In March assessments for some properties located in Sheridan County were removed. Pete Emerson entered the meeting at 9:22 A.M. NCAP is trying to comb through 20 federal grants to see which ones are the best suited for their need. There is going to be a mobile food pantry at the Dawes County Fairgrounds today at 5:00 P.M. for those who wish to go. NCAP has been notified that they are the recipient of 20,000 pounds of food from Salt Lake City LDS church which will be distributed to food pantries in the NCAP area which is from Valentine to Alliance. Region 23 did not meet. NNDC will meet later this month.

Conversation started with Pete Emerson of the Dawes County construction crew. Motion by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Grant to enter into executive session for personnel matters at 9:23 A.M. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera, Grant and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried. At 9:42 A.M. a motion to reconvene to regular session by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Grant. Roll call vote, Ayes: Grant, Stewart and Rivera. Nays: None. Motion carried. No action was taken. At this time Sam Wellnitz, Dawes County Treasurer and Lindsay Adams, Road Secretary entered the meeting.

Road reports by District are as follows:

District #3 Commissioner Grant had previously wanted work done on Squaw Creek Road and then on Haynes Road but after talking to people on those roads he is now aware that there are 12 school age children residing on Haynes Road. He may want to shift his attention on fixing Haynes Road first where Boone Huffman has access to gravel and then work on Squaw Creek after that. Pete Emerson is pushing sand on the Ferguson pit. There is also work to be done on Brown Road. There was also an issue with the Soester pit which used to belong to the Junge family. He also wants the 2 Federal FEMA grants closed out as soon as possible, One is on Mansfield road and the other is for a culvert needed on Lawrence Road. A need to spray the weeds on Galey Road was mentioned. Commissioner Grant expressed the public is welcome to contact him at 308-430-1850 with any concerns.

District #2 Commissioner Rivera said Squaw Mound Road is a priority. There is also a need for touch up work on Hollibaugh Road. The bridge on Hollibaugh Road will receive some work on the guard rail and decking. He also wants the gravel project on Deadhorse Road to be finished and there are trees that will need to be removed. There is possibly a grant available to reimburse the landowner for up to 75% of cost for removal of trees after completion of project. Kami Wills, HR Director entered the meeting at 10:00 A.M. as did Gary Bacon.

District #1 Commissioner Stewart said his District will be down to 2 employees next week as the third person in that district will be working with the Construction Crew.

Commissioner Rivera reported that he is very concerned about there being no consistency within the County concerning contracts for sand and gravel. Lindsay Adams, Roads secretary shared with the Board a list of Sand and Gravel Agreements they have on file. Some of the verbal agreements have been problematic and some agreements are expired. Discussion ensued and the need for written and up to date contracts to be on file was expressed that before the Construction crew enters a pit to do any work. Pete Emerson suggested to the Board that a Grizzly machine be considered for purchase as it could size rock that has already been piled in some of the pits. It is not a mechanical machine it just sizes the rock as it goes through it. It was reiterated the Pete Emerson is on the Construction Crew and will be in charge of construction and drainage issues to make the roads ready for gravel to be laid. A new job description is forthcoming that will define his duties. Mr. Emerson left the meeting at 10:07 A.M.

Gary Bacon who was the Crew Chief for Road District #1 was recognized for his years of service as he has retired as of April 15, 2021. Mr. Bacon started working for Dawes County in 2007. He was presented with a gift and thanked for his service to Dawes County by the Board. Mr. Bacon exited the meeting at 10:12 A.M. along with Lindsay Adams.

Road Department surplus information. Commissioner Grant reported that District Shop #3 yard is still in the process of being cleaned in preparation of surplus items for sale. It was noted that Pete Emerson and Steve Loop had spent a considerable amount of time doing cleanup at that shop site. Commissioner Grant said there is still more to be done before items are ready for surplus. The Sheriff's office has for sale a surplus item which is a 1950 Pontiac. Motion by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Rivera to surplus a 1950 Pontiac that was stored at District #3. Roll call vote, Ayes: Stewart, Rivera, and Grant. Nays: None. Motion carried. Sealed bids are being accepted and will be opened at the May 25, 2021 Commissioner Meeting. It will be stipulated that there will be a 7 day time limit after winning bid is accepted for individual to remove the property and it will be done during the work week of Monday to Thursday during the working hours of the Road Department and winning bidder will provide equipment for said removal.

Kami Wills, HR Director approached the Board. She handed out the new updated General Assistance Policy Manual. It has not been updated since 1986. She pointed out the individuals will need to meet eligibility requirements for assistance. She shared other changes that had been made which will include have the HR Director, a General Assistance Representative and a County Commissioner meet and make decisions on a case by case basis. Commissioner Grant thanked Ms. Wills for her hard work on this project. Kami Wills exited the meeting at 10:27 A.M. at the same time Gale Kittell and Rick Hickstein entered the meeting.

Commissioner Stewart reported on the CDBG loan status. He has been in contact with Tom Stevens and stated there is approximately \$118,000.00 available at this time. This money will need to be used within a 2-year time frame.

Commissioner Rivera reported on the flooding in the west jail cell. Recently a prisoner broke a sprinkler head in the cell and flooding resulted with approximately \$5,000.00 in damage and the insurance deductible is \$1,000.00. Custodian Brad Streeks is contacting someone to weld a cage for sprinkler heads that would prevent the prisoners from being able to access them.

At 10:30 A.M. Newly appointed Chief of Police Rick Hickstein and Gale Kittell from the Police Department met with the Board about the Communications budget. The main radio console and also the console that is located in the back are nearing the end of the life span. Both products are Motorola brand.

The main console replacement cost could be near \$3000,000.00 and the back one around \$50,000.00. Motorola does have a lease plan or finance program for that type of equipment. The County owns the equipment and the City of Chadron owns the radios and there is a cost share between the two entities. Discussion ensued if CDBG monies could be spent for any of these items to be upgraded. Commissioner Grant suggested that a workshop would be helpful and should include Nan Gould with Region 23 and local fire district personnel and Sheriff's department and one County Commissioner so that everyone could have input on their needs and see what the best plan for updating equipment. Mr. Kittell reported that there is a new VIPER 7 communication product available but Kimball County has it and others that he has talked to and they do not have favorable things to say about it. Chief Hickstein stated that after 911 attacks equipment was updated but since that time it has not been. Outside of the 2 major items that need replaced the overall budget would remain about the same. At this time they do not have a budget worksheet to turn into the Budget Coordinator. Chief Hickstein and the Commissioners both indicated they were looking forward to working together in the future. Chief Hickstein and Gale Kittell left the meeting at 10:54 A.M.

After review, motion by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Rivera to accept the Articles of Incorporation for the Aging Office. Roll call vote, Ayes: Grant, Stewart and Rivera. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Stewart read aloud Resolution No. 2021-15 for recognition of Larry Dix on September 13, 2021. Motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Rivera to adopt Resolution No. 2021-15 Larry Dix Day. Roll call vote, Ayes: Stewart, Rivera and Grant. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence e-mail from Sheridan County concerning prairie dog costs was reviewed.

The meeting was recessed at 11:06 A.M. and will reconvene at 1:00 P.M. for the purpose of interviews of the Dawes County Highway Superintendent. Roll call vote, Ayes: Stewart, Rivera, and Grant. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Interviews

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021 with Dawes County Board present, Jake Stewart, Levi Grant, Vic Rivera, Dawes County Road Administrative Assistant, Lindsay Adams, and Dawes County Human Resource Director, Kami Wills we opened the meeting at 1:45 pm in the Dawes County Veterans Service Office at 342 Main St., Chadron, Nebraska to begin the interview process with interviewing 5 Applicants for the Highway Superintendent position. At 1:50 pm we met with Applicant #1 and ended the interview at 2:38 pm. We began Applicant #2's interview at 2:40 pm and ended it at 2:58 pm. Applicant #3 began their interview at 3:15 pm and the interview came to an end at 4:09 pm. At 4:12 pm Applicant #4 began the interview process and at 4:37 pm the interview was over. Applicant #5 was in at 5:08 pm to begin the interview and the interview ended at 6:25 pm. The interview process came to an end and at 6:30 pm the meeting was adjourned.

Kami Wills
Human Resources Director

The next meeting of the Dawes County Commissioners will be held on May 11, 2021 beginning at 9:00 A.M. with a Board of Equalization meeting, followed by the Commissioner meeting at approximately 9:20 A.M. Both meetings will be held in the Commissioner room. The Agenda will close at noon on May 6, 2021. **All Resolutions adopted by the Dawes County Board of Commissioners are available for public inspection during normal business hours of the County Clerk's Office.**

ATTEST: _____
Deb Lesmeister
Deputy Dawes County Clerk

DAWES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 27, 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.

| FUND | NAME | TOTCLAIMS |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 100 | ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE | \$66.74 |
| 100 | AFLAC | \$1,596.96 |
| 100 | AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP | \$11,061.06 |
| 100 | ARROW BUILDING CENTER | \$155.80 |
| 100 | BLACK HILLS ENERGY | \$102.21 |
| 100 | BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NE | \$33,959.89 |
| 100 | THE BUSINESS CONNECTION | \$279.59 |
| 100 | CANYON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | \$50.00 |
| 100 | CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING CO | \$1,950.12 |
| 100 | CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-CLERK | \$18.15 |
| 100 | CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-TREASURER | \$29.51 |
| 100 | CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-WEED | \$7.40 |
| 100 | CHADRON ACE HARDWARE | \$136.46 |
| 100 | CHADRON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL & HEALTH | \$2,036.68 |
| 100 | CHADRON LOCK | \$155.00 |
| 100 | SEAN D CONSIDINE | \$20.00 |
| 100 | CRITES,SHAFFER,CONNEALY,WATSON,HARF | \$2,020.00 |
| 100 | CULLERS LAW OFFICE | \$680.00 |
| 100 | CULLIGAN-PUBLIC DEFENDER | \$10.00 |
| 100 | CULLIGAN-WEED | \$6.00 |
| 100 | DAS STATE ACCOUNTING | \$309.04 |
| 100 | DAWES COUNTY COURT | \$187.00 |
| 100 | DAWES COUNTY EXTENSION | \$93.62 |
| 100 | DAWES COUNTY TREASURER | \$1,157.77 |
| 100 | FIRST BANKCARD/HR DEPT | \$28.00 |
| 100 | FIRST BANKCARD/ROBERTA COLEMAN | \$18.03 |

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| 100 | FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE | \$18,411.51 |
| 100 | GRP & ASSOCIATES,INC | \$91.00 |
| 100 | HARRIS SALES COMPANY INC | \$211.25 |
| 100 | HILLS TIRE & SUPPLY | \$58.95 |
| 100 | IDEAL LINEN SUPPLY,INC | \$130.94 |
| 100 | MIDWEST SPECIAL SERVICES | \$1,368.00 |
| 100 | NE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM | \$93.00 |
| 100 | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE | \$2,409.27 |
| 100 | NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DIST-WEED | \$182.35 |
| 100 | NORTHWEST RURAL PUBLIC POWER DIST | \$198.88 |
| 100 | OUTLAW PRINTERS,INC | \$371.45 |
| 100 | PESTS GO | \$35.00 |
| 100 | PETERSEN DRUG | \$153.35 |
| 100 | QUILL CORPORATION | \$574.48 |
| 100 | RAPID CITY JOURNAL/COMMISSIONERS | \$241.11 |
| 100 | RAPID CITY JOURNAL/TREASURER | \$801.00 |
| 100 | RELIABLE PAINTING, LLC | \$625.20 |
| 100 | SCOTTS BLUFF CO DETENTION CENTER | \$7,020.00 |
| 100 | SMITH,KING AND SIMMONS,PC | \$1,888.65 |
| 100 | UNIVERSITY OF NE LINCOLN-TECH | \$1,961.35 |
| 100 | UNIVERSITY OF NE-LINCOLN-WAGES EXT | \$10,062.11 |
| 100 | VERIZON WIRELESS/SHERIFF | \$365.51 |
| 100 | VIAERO WIRELESS-WEED | \$81.38 |
| 100 | VSP VISION PLAN | \$225.08 |
| 100 | WALMART COMMUNITY-TREASURER | \$27.43 |
| 100 | XEROX CORPORATION/E911 | \$455.44 |
| 100 | XEROX CORPORATION/SHERIFF | \$86.45 |
| 100 | XEROX CORPORATION/TREASURER | \$123.22 |
| 100 | XEROX CORPORATION/VETERANS OFFICE | \$157.09 |
| 200 | AFLAC | \$323.31 |
| 200 | AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP | \$1,473.49 |
| 200 | BEGUIN PROPANE | \$471.86 |
| 200 | BLACK HILLS ENERGY | \$116.46 |
| 200 | BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NE | \$1,066.08 |
| 200 | JAY BRUNS | \$3,920.00 |
| 200 | CENTURYLINK LONG DIST-DIST #1 ROADS | \$12.00 |
| 200 | DAWES COUNTY TREASURER | \$75.00 |
| 200 | PETER EMERSON | \$66.43 |
| 200 | FIRE & ICE MECHANICAL | \$356.00 |
| 200 | FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE | \$5,731.31 |
| 200 | JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL-ROADS | \$313.38 |
| 200 | MEDICAL ENTERPRISES,INC | \$110.00 |

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| 200 | MONTANA CSED SDU-WAGE WITHOLDING | \$165.00 |
| 200 | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE | \$1,269.13 |
| 200 | NORTHWEST RURAL PUBLIC POWER DIST | \$131.96 |
| 200 | RON'S REPAIR SHOP | \$1,145.35 |
| 200 | VERIZON CONNECT NWF,INC-ROADS | \$194.28 |
| 200 | VSP VISION PLAN | \$111.05 |
| 200 | XEROX CORPORATION/ROADS | \$91.46 |
| 990 | AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP | \$71.49 |
| 990 | BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NE | \$94.74 |
| 990 | FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE | \$130.92 |
| 990 | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE | \$27.80 |
| 990 | VSP VISION PLAN | \$9.32 |
| 2500 | CHADRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | \$4,316.45 |
| 2910 | AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP | \$3.38 |
| 2910 | CENTURYLINK | \$39.34 |
| 2910 | FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH PLATTE | \$14.14 |
| 2910 | GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS | \$157.50 |
| 2910 | INTRALINKS,INC | \$92.19 |
| 2910 | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE | \$3.33 |
| 2913 | CENTURYLINK | \$288.53 |