



Boone County Board Minutes



BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS JULY 26, 2017 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in Albion, Nebraska.

Chairman Maricle called the meeting to order and Commissioners present for roll call were Hilary K. Maricle, Alan Rasmussen and Ken Luettel. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and the convened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Maricle acknowledged the agenda and noted that the Open Meeting Laws are posted and available to the public.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Maricle to approve the County Payroll Claims filed for payment from the various funds: General \$92,107.46, BCBS \$51,758.56, Ameritas Ret \$6,381.94, EFTPS \$6,840.44, Section 125 Fees \$15.00, Wellness Program \$103.46; Road \$54,928.13, BCBS \$30,495.80, Ameritas Ret \$3,707.67, EFTPS \$4,139.60; Ambulance \$2,527.75, Ameritas Ret \$84.58, EFTPS \$193.36; and Public Defender Contract \$3,120.00. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Maricle, second by Luettel to approve the County Board Proceedings of July 17, 2017 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Maricle, Luettel and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to approve the County Board of Equalization Proceedings of July 17, 2017 and 2017 Final Board of Equalization Proceedings as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The County Treasurer submitted to the Board a list of delinquent 2014 real estate taxes not sold at the tax sale held in March 2017, as per Nebraska State Statute. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Maricle to approve Resolution No. 2017-21, hereby directing the Boone County Treasurer to issue Treasurer's Certificates of Tax Sale in favor of Boone County on all parcels of real estate with delinquent real estate taxes for 2014 and subsequent years offered for sale for less than three consecutive years that were not sold for want of bidders as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Maricle and Luettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

As part of the East Central PET & Interoperable Communications Region, the East Central 911 Service Providers in this region recognized the extreme importance of organizing and entering into Interlocal Agreements, thus creating the East Central Equipment Consolidation Project in 2012. This group purchased and are sharing 911 equipment. The County of Boone, Nebraska is part of the ten county member of the East Central PET & Interoperable Communications Region. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to appoint Denny Johnson, Boone County Sheriff, as the primary representative and Pamela Sybrant, Communications Coordinator for the Boone County Sheriff's Office, as the secondary representative, to the EC-911 Consolidation Project, which is part of the East Central PET & Interoperable Communications Region, effective July 26, 2017. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Ross Davidson of Albion discussed irrigation pivots that are spraying water onto county roads and noxious weed problem areas with the Board, Denny Johnson, Boone County Sheriff, and Stacey Robinson, County



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Highway Superintendent. The group held a lengthy discussion in regard to dangerous road conditions caused by the irrigation pivots spraying water onto the county roads. Davidson informed the group that within a two mile area that he travels there are five irrigation pivots that spray water onto the county roads. Sheriff Johnson explained the procedure that his office follows when they receive a telephone call complaint regarding any issue. Johnson showed the Board and Davison a copy of a file showing the date, time, location, type of complaint and any details/information provided during the telephone call. The Board asked the County Highway Superintendent to review state statutes, policies and legal enforcement procedures. Following review of the legal documents/requirements a policy may be drafted in regard to the county road issues. In addition, Davidson inquired of the status regarding the noxious weed issue he discussed with the Board on June 28, 2017. Robinson said that the county weed superintendent started the process with the certified letter notifications. The Board plans to visit with the county weed superintendent to discuss the status of the noxious weed complaint.

Tom Smith, Region 44 Emergency Manager, and Denny Johnson, Boone County Sheriff; presented information regarding the Emergency Management Project EM4420172, a study for a proposed joint communications center for the three counties. The Region 44 Emergency Management counties are Boone, Nance and Merrick. Smith presented comparisons and estimations regarding the operation of a joint communications center. The detailed analysis of costs estimates over five/ten years did show a potential sizeable cost savings for Boone County. The detailed analysis of costs included new building/equipment and costs savings after building/equipment payments are completed. Commissioner Luettel felt that there is a loss of local control when consolidating services. Commissioner Maricle said that from all of the meetings we have attended, we have heard and know that 'Next Generation 911' communications system is coming. Maricle asked the Board, should we be proactive and set up a Regional 44 Communications Center, or wait to see what changes the counties will need or be forced to make when the 'Next Generation 911' becomes effective. The Board asked about the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) communications project that Homeland Security Funds helped place in counties. Smith said that the NRIN communication equipment dishes are in place and that the Homeland Security Funds were to start the project for equipment but not to sustain the operation or maintenance of the NRIN equipment. The maintenance of the equipment will possibly become the county governance responsibility. Smith said that the communications project goal that started in December 2016 was to complete an assessment of each of the three counties communications equipment and the equipment that needs updating/replaced has been accomplished. The Board said that they are open to future consolidation reviews as communication requirements and regulations change. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen saying no to the three county communications center consolidation due to loss of local control. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Lower Loup Natural Resources District submitted a resolution for the Board to review. The purpose of the mitigation plan is to lessen the effects of disasters by increasing the disaster resistance of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District and prioritize mitigation strategies to reduce potential loss of life and property from hazards. FEMA regulations require documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body. This resolution shall supersede/void and take precedence over Resolution No. 2013-01 and all prior resolutions and written/unwritten policies that pertain to a Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County of Boone, Nebraska. Motion made by Luettel, second by Maricle to adopt and approve Resolution No. 2017-22, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Denny Johnson, Sheriff, and the Board discussed base wages for starting a new law enforcement deputy employee. Johnson provided the Board with starting base wages from area counties and counties similar in



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population with some of the figures including the insurance benefits to review. Johnson explained that the law enforcement academy is a sixteen week training that is available three times a year. Johnson said that a new non-certified law enforcement employee basically rides with a certified law enforcement employee for approximately a year. Johnson asked the Board to change the employee handbook starting base wage for new hired certified and non-certified law enforcement employees to a base wage range depending on their completed certifications and years of experience. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to approve a change to the employee handbook starting base wage to a range base wage for non-certified law enforcement to be \$15.00 – \$16.00 per hour and certified law enforcement to be \$15.58 - \$18.50 per hour based on the certification(s) completed and years of experience and any cost of living increases that are figured on the base wages, will be figured on the lower amount of a base wage range effective January 1, 2018. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Cost of Living scenarios that included two, three and four percent figured on the employee handbook current base wages for the respective employee's base wage. In addition, the two, three and four percent was figured by using the Elected Official's base wage including the respective sixty-five percent of the official's base for the chief deputies. In addition, the Board reviewed the June 2017 consumer price index of 1.6% that is sometimes used for a cost of living wage increase. The following figures using the official's base wage: 2%-\$50.00/month-.29/hour; 3%-\$76.05/month-.44/hour; and 4%-\$100.00/month-.58/hour. The Board reviewed the health insurance premium increase that the county full time employees receive based on monthly premium: Employee only - \$.63/hour; Employee & spouse/children - \$1.27/hour; and Employee & family - \$1.45/hour. Motion made by Maricle, second by Luettel to approve the following cost of living wage increase as follows: \$.44 per hour wage increase for all full-time employees added to the employees present hourly wage at the end of the 2017 year; and Elected officials are to receive a 3% cost of living increase on their base wage and the four chief deputies to receive 65% of the respective elected official's cost of living, all being effective December 22, 2017 to coincide with the 22/21 pay period. Roll call vote: Yeas: Maricle, Luettel and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Stacey Robinson, County Highway Superintendent, updated the Board regarding road maintenance, hauling of aggregate materials, bridge projects and equipment repairs. Robinson said that the bridge project by St. Edward is completed and open to the public. Robinson plans to attend the Nebraska Department of Roads LTAP meeting/training in Lincoln on August 1 and 2, 2017.

The Board and Tanya Sharp, Boone County Health Center Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the applications and interviewed the applicants, beginning at 11:00 A.M., for the Boone County Health Center Board of Trustees. The Health Center Board of Trustees meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Motion made by Maricle, second by Rasmussen to table the Boone County Health Center Board of Trustees decision to the July 31, 2017 Board meeting at 10:00 A.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: Luettel. Motion carried.

The Board informed Tanya Sharp, Boone County Health Center Chief Executive Officer, of the information they received in regard to hospital real estate ownership. There were some changes made in regard to medical facilities operation and ownership authority within the Nebraska State Statutes Chapter 23 in 2012. The County Clerk's office will forward the information to Sharp for review.



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The Board discussed the necessary procedure(s) in accordance with Nebraska State Statute 23-107.01, real estate owned by the County. The County is the owner of Lots 6, 7, and 8, Block 9, Mansfield's 2nd Addition to Albion, Boone County, Nebraska, known as the Boone County Fitness Center, Inc. Motion made by Luettel, second by Maricle to advertise the required two weeks for a public hearing in accordance with state statute prior to any such lease to be held on Monday, August 14, 2017 at 11:00 A.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to go into executive session at 2:04 P.M., per the Open Meeting Act §84-1410, for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board met with the County Highway Superintendent and the County General Road Foreman to discuss a personnel issue. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Luettel to come out of the executive session at 2:22 P.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Luettel and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Maricle, second by Rasmussen to approve the recommendation of the County Highway Superintendent. Roll call vote: Yeas: Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: Luettel. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

- Commissioner Maricle informed the Board that BCDA, Inc. has hired a new executive director.
- Commissioner Maricle informed the Board that the potential trail project at the Albion City Park and Boone County Fairground areas is on hold at this time.

Chairman Maricle declared the meeting adjourned at 2:28 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, July 31, 2017.

Kathy Thorberg,
Boone County Clerk