



Boone County Board Minutes



BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
AUGUST 21, 2017 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, August 21, 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, Ken Luettel and Alan Rasmussen. 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 Rasmussen to approve the County Board Proceedings of August 14, 2017 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to approve the County Board Public Hearing Proceedings of August 14, 2017 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed allowing the employee's time to view the total solar eclipse. The Board notified the public that the courthouse offices will not be available for normal business from 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on August 21, 2017 to allow employees to view the solar eclipse. The Board said it is not considered a closing with locked courthouse doors, that it is a notification to the public that someone may not be available in an office during the advertised time frame. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to allow the employee's time to view the solar eclipse between 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on August 21, 2017. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Andy Devine, Albion City Administrator, Chuck Rolf, Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc., and Rex Mahoney, Recreational Trails System Committee, presented information to the Board regarding a potential Boone County Recreational Trails System project. The Recreational Trails System Committee discussed a potential trails project with the Board on June 19, 2017. The trails committee presented a map of a proposed trail around the Albion City Park, County Fairgrounds and the County owned property south of the present fairgrounds. The trails committee presented the following:

- Phase 1 Project – The Fairgrounds & Fuller Loop - approximately 1.8 miles - \$250,000.00 estimated project budget – Goal is to start construction in 2018 utilizing local fundraising and local contractors.
- Project Entails: Complete a Fuller Park Loop and create a larger loop through and around Boone County Fairgrounds and then along the 8th Street new subdivision.
- Funding Plan: City is proposing to allocate \$45,000.00 of Capital Improvement Funds to the project; the trails committee is requesting that the County consider a similar commitment; remaining funds to be raised via the Big Give and facilitated by partnership with the Boone County Area Foundation Fund; and the trails committee recommends foregoing the Recreational Trails Program Grant that was previously discussed due to time, red-tape and additional costs associated with pursuing such grant.
- Upon successful fundraising – stakeholders from the County, the City, and the Committee will coordinate and direct the placement and construction of this trail section.
- Future phases of the trail system may also be considered in the future, but the committee is not requesting financial commitment for such future phases from the County at this time.
- The Recreational Trails System Committee: Rex Mahoney, Jay Wolf, Chuck Rolf, Ben Edwards, Mollie Sullivan, Michelle Keele, Mitch Glesinger, Hilary Maricle and Andrew Devine.



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The group discussed recent area surveys that indicated there is interest for an area for individuals to walk safely and to not be walking in the city/village streets. The proposed trail is for the area around the City of Albion Fuller Park and extending south along Eighth Street, thence west to connect to County property at the southeast corner of the property the County purchased in November 2016, running thence west to the Fairgrounds Road, thence North along the County property and County Fairgrounds property, thence East through the County Fairgrounds property to Fuller Park. Devine informed the Board that the trails committee is proposing the trail to be 6' wide concrete. Commissioner Luettel asked if they thought about starting the trail with cinder material and change over to concrete as the funds become available. The group said they were proposing concrete. The group discussed maintenance when there is inclement weather, upkeep/replacement of concrete and liability insurance. Devine said that the City of Albion is asking for a participation partner. Motion made by Maricle, second by Rasmussen to table a decision to the August 28, 2017 Board meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Maricle, Rasmussen and Luettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The primary use of the Boone County Visitors Promotion Fund is to promote, encourage and attract visitors to come to the county through advertisement of the event. The Boone County Visitors Promotion Committee received a request for advertisement funding. The Rae Valley Heritage Association, Inc. requested assistance to advertise the Nebraska State Antique Tractor and Horse Plowing Bee event scheduled for August 25-27, 2017. Motion made by Luettel, second by Maricle to approve the application requesting funding assistance for advertisement from the Visitor's Promotion Fund as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Russell Stokes, Eric Petsche, Corey Strokes and Roger Beckman were present to discuss their concerns regarding the asphalt portion of a county road known as 145th Street west of Petersburg with the Board and Stacey Robinson, County Highway Superintendent. The Board heard similar concerns from the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department/Rescue Squad on June 12, 2017 regarding the same portion of 145th Street. The group said that 145th Street west of Petersburg is a main route for areas west and northwest of Petersburg. The first mile of asphalt that is mostly in Petersburg village limits is in good condition with a thicker base and the remaining length of asphalt is what is in need of good repair. The asphalt has been ground up and relayed with armor coat over the years, but is not holding up with increased traffic, weight of trucks and farm equipment. Even with the asphalt portion being patched often it is still not holding up which makes for a dangerous road. The discussion the last few years has been to keep the first mile as asphalt and restore the rest of the asphalt to a solid gravel surface or to appropriate funds for the present asphalt portion of 145th Street for a five inch asphalt road to handle the weight of trucks and equipment. Motion made by Maricle, second by Luettel to approve Stacey Robinson, County Highway Superintendent, to have an engineer study completed to determine costs and options for permanent repairs for the asphalt portion of 145th Street. Roll call vote: Yeas: Maricle, Luettel and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board held a meeting with the department heads:

- County officials/department heads reported on activities with regard to their respective office.
- Boone County Government Day has been changed to November 1, 2017.
- County Clerk reminded those present that the adopted Legislative Bills take effect on August 24, 2017, except the Bills passed with an emergency clause or specific operative date.
- 2017 Valuation Certifications have been delivered to the State of Nebraska and respective entities and shows a County valuation loss from previous year of \$13,835,719.00.
- The department heads present reviewed some of the County Employee/Employer Handbook changes that have been approved by the Board of Commissioners through the respective Board Proceedings since the approval of the newly revised handbook adopted in 2016. The 'Travel Expenses' Exhibit "F-1" in



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the employee handbook was the main discussion. The County Handbook language updates are to be approved at a later date.

Laurie Krohn, County Treasurer, presented a quote from Applied Connective Technologies, LLC for two Dell OptiPlex 7450 All-in-One Non-Touch 23" Workstations with Microsoft wireless desktop set, office 365 business and quick books pro 2017 for \$2,793.50. Krohn informed the Board that the current units were purchased in 2012 and that they work together/share the same programming. One of the units has been needing technical service. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to approve the quote of two Dell Workstations for the County Treasurer's office from Applied Connective Technologies for \$2,793.50 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The County budget document was prepared and filed with the Board on July 31, 2017 by Richard Martinsen, CPA. The fiscal year budget documents are to be filed with the County Board on or before August 1st each year. The Board discussed the respective office budget requests submitted for fiscal year 2017-2018 for possible adjustments with elected official(s) or department head(s) as requested. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to correct the July 26, 2017 Board Proceedings motion by including the \$.44 per hour wage increase for permanent part-time, part-time and as needed employees all being effective December 22, 2017 to coincide with the 22/21 pay period. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Luettel excused himself at 12:55 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. medical appointment.

James Ely, County Attorney, asked to be placed on the Board agenda regarding 2017-2018 attorney's office budget. Ely did not file a preliminary budget with the Board by the July 31, 2017 Board meeting. The preliminary county budget on file included figures for a county attorney budget of \$97,701.00, more than the requested amount from the prior fiscal year. Ely submitted a budget request for \$109,675.48 on August 2, 2017. A quote of \$2,307.50 was submitted by Ely for a new Apple 27" iMac computer for his use for the Board to consider. Ely also submitted the following for the Board to review to support his request of a \$2.50 per hour wage increase for the office legal assistant vs. the \$.44 per hour January 2018 cost of living approved for county employees: letter of appreciation from U. S. Department of Justice for Pam's involvement from 2013-2017 of the Big Drive Cattle feedlot fraud case; replies from the survey sent to other Nebraska County Attorneys; base pay wage for starting new employees; letter from August 2014 former county attorney; and a revised January 2017 job description for a county attorney office legal assistance. The Board plans to review Ely's information and will be on the August 28, 2017 Board agenda.

The Board received the County Officers Inventories that have been filed for the close of the fiscal year end June 30, 2017. The Board plans to review the respective office inventories with the department heads this week.

Public Comments:

- Meetings: Boone County Ag Society, Inc. – August 21, 2017 and Boone County Health Center – August 22, 2017.
- BCDA, Inc. is co-sponsoring a marketing workshop with presenter Jon Schallert, Marketing Expert and Small Business Strategist, on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Cardinal Inn in Albion.
- The Board observed the solar eclipse.

Chairman Maricle declared the meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2017.

Kathy Thorberg,



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Boone County Clerk