



Boone County Board Minutes



BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS NOVEMBER 20, 2017 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, November 20, 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.

The County Safety Committee met at 9:00 A.M. to discuss routine business. The following committee members were present for the quarterly meeting: Commissioners Alan Rasmussen, Hilary K. Maricle, and Ken Luettel, Denny Johnson, Laurie Krohn, Rod Nelson, Tom Smith and Kathy Thorberg. Nelson addressed old business regarding the county safety assessment meeting held with Terry Baxter, NIRMA Safety Specialist; solar eclipse observed in August; and courthouse fire evacuation drill in October. The courthouse fire drill went fairly well, as some of the employee participants did not join the briefing and discussion. Smith said that the employees that joined the briefing held a good discussion and questions that prompted some office responsibilities to be assigned in checking for people in the courthouse for an evacuation. Nelson and Johnson completed their responsibilities to make sure everyone was out of courthouse and said the evacuation took about four minutes for everyone to be across the street to an off-site location. New business was discussed: (1) Monday, December 4, 2017, county employees are highly encouraged to participate in the NIRMA Fire Extinguisher Training and Loss Leader Prevention Training that will be held at the courthouse; (2) Tornado awareness is a national/statewide drill one time a year in the spring the last Wednesday of March at 10:00 A.M.; (3) Smith said the suggestion is to have two fire evacuation drills a year, one in the fire safety month of October and one other time during the year. The group suggested spring season for a fire evacuation drill; and (4) The departments of Emergency Management, Road and Sheriff have applied for grant assistant through the NIRMA ASSIST program for the purchase of safety equipment. The committee discussed preventability and safety suggestions were addressed by the committee regarding a worker's compensation claim. The next safety committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. The Safety Committee meeting was adjourned by Alan Rasmussen at 9:20 A.M.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to approve the County Board Proceedings of November 13, 2017 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. 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 Petersburg Community Club requested assistance to advertise the Petersburg Community Club Christmas Supper and Entertainment event scheduled for December 18, 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.



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The Board; Richard Martinsen, CPA, Schmeits, Mueller & Martinsen, P.C.; Chuck Rolf, Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc.; and Steve Pritchard, UNL Extension discussed funding/budgeting scenarios of a proposed building project for the fairgrounds. The group discussed some options when determining ways to finance the project. The Boone County Board of Commissioners have the authority to issue County of Boone, Nebraska limited tax building bonds without the vote of the people for a set amount of years not to exceed twenty years. The Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. cannot issue limited tax building bonds statutorily. Also, in accordance with State Statutes the Boone County Board of Commissioners have the authority to approve/allow the Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. budget to levy an additional Building Levy of three and five-tenths cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable valuation, or any part thereof, separate from their general operation levy. Total cost of the building is estimated at \$4,250,000.00. The Board of Commissioners plan to appropriate \$1,300,000.00 from the County Inheritance Tax Fund. The \$2,950,000.00 is the portion being discussed to bond or levy. If the County issues bonds for the project, the building becomes County owned until the bonds are paid. If the Agricultural Society budget institutes a building fund levy they pay on a loan for a set number of years.

The 2017-2018 levy for the County of Boone, Nebraska governmental entity is 0.150708. The Board asked Martinsen if he foresees a significant change in the County of Boone levy if the Board appropriates the \$1,300,000.00 from the Inheritance Tax for said building project. The Inheritance Tax Fund acts as a reserve for the County of Boone, Nebraska. Martinsen said that the Inheritance Tax Fund balance (cash reserve) would be reduced by said amount, but probably would not affect the asking levy percentage unless there is a significant drop in the county valuation. The group discussed an estimate on financing/bond payments of \$2,950,000.00, over 10 years at three percent interest. Based on the current county valuation, a levy of approximately 1.47 cents on each one hundred dollars of valuation would amount to \$14.70 in property tax on a home valued at \$100,000.00. Martinsen noted that county entities are under an annual levy lid, allowing a maximum increase of 3.5 percent each year in operating budgets. A building fund levy is outside the operation levy and levy lid.

The actual cost of the proposed building has not been determined yet. The financing of the \$2,950,000.00 has not been determined yet. The Board needs to decide either County ownership (bonds) or Agricultural Society ownership (building levy). No contract has been signed yet with an architect and architect fees are usually based on a percentage of total project cost. A public meeting regarding the fairgrounds building project is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Albion Country Club. The Board encourages all county residents to attend.

Steve Pritchard, Extension Educator, presented the Boone-Nance County Extension Board's member recommendation. The Boone-Nance County Extension Board has four representatives from each county. The board members may serve two consecutive three-year terms. The board meets quarterly, alternating the meetings between the counties. Mark Grundmayer has completed two consecutive three-year terms. Ken Schriver has completed a one year term. The Boone-Nance County Extension Board recommends the appointment of Jeri Wies of Petersburg to serve her first three-year term and re-appoint Ken Schriver of Albion to serve his second three-year term on the Boone-Nance County Extension Board beginning January, 2018. Motion made by Luettel, second by Maricle to appoint Jeri Wies to serve her first three-year term and re-appoint Ken Schriver to serve his second three-year term on the Boone-Nance County Extension Board beginning January, 2018. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.



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Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to go into executive session at 11:00 A.M., per the Open Meeting Act §84-1410, strategy session threatened litigation. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to come out of the executive session at 11:25 A.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried. No action was taken by the Board.

Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Maricle to go into executive session at 12:01 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: Rasmussen, Maricle and Luettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Luettel to come out of the executive session at 1:02 P.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Luettel and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried. No action was taken by the Board.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to go into executive session at 1:03 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. Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to come out of the executive session at 1:15 P.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried. No action was taken by the Board.

Public Comments:

- The Board discussed clarification of responsibilities of the County Board and Elected Official(s) offices.
- The Board received an appreciation thank you from the Nebraska Attorney General's office for their assistance and preparation of the October 3, 2017 Nebraska Attorney General's office press conference on the courthouse lawn regarding the resolution of the Smoyer-Wathen shootings that occurred June 17, 1937.
- Meetings: Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. - November 20, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.; Boone County Health Center – November 28, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.; Fairgrounds building committee meeting – December 4, 2017; and Informational public meeting for a proposed new Boone County Fairgrounds Agricultural and Educational Activities Building – December 6, 2017.

Chairman Maricle declared the meeting adjourned at 1:21 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2017.

Kathy Thorberg,
Boone County Clerk