

# Boone County Board Minutes



## BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS MARCH 11, 2019 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, March 11, 2019, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in Albion, Nebraska.

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

The Board reviewed and discussed the Accounts Payable Vendor Claims filed for payment. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Rutten to approve the Accounts Payable Vendor Claims filed for payment from the various funds: General - \$39,250.53; Road/Weed - \$417,718.99; Boone County Visitor's Promotion - \$1,264.50; 911 Emergency Management (2910) - \$393.91; 911 Wireless Service (2913) - \$471.49; Ambulance - \$2,206.94. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve the County Board Proceedings of February 26, 2019 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Rutten, second by Temme to approve the County Board of Equalization Public Hearing Proceedings of February 26, 2019 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Temme and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

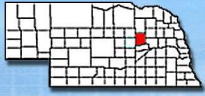
Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Temme to approve the following reports of the County Officials as presented for February, 2019:

- Clerk - \$9,250.00 (State of Nebraska \$5,398.90)(County of Boone \$3,851.10)
- Clerk of the District Court - \$950.61 (State of Nebraska \$559.00)(County of Boone \$391.61)
- Sheriff - \$2,414.18
- Treasurer – Misc. Receipt Nos. 16865-16912 - \$231,036.62; Total Collections - \$709,643.68

Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32, all in Block 5, West Petersburg, Petersburg, Boone County, Nebraska. The said vacant lots are zoned residential. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to advertise the required two weeks for a public hearing in accordance with state statute prior to any such sale to be held on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jacy Spencer, Community Liaison/Agriculture Specialist for Congressman Adrian Smith's office, updated the Board of the congressman's activities and federal issues. The Board and Spencer discussed several agricultural issues. Citizens that have any issues with Federal agencies are to direct the issues to the congressman's office in Grand Island, Nebraska for assistance. Following the meeting with the Board, Spencer held constituent services by holding a local office in the courthouse from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.



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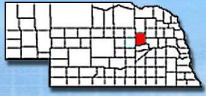
The County of Boone DBA Boone County Ambulance Service and EMS Billing Services, Inc. (EMS) of Omaha, Nebraska signed an Agreement in March 2014 for EMS to provide the patient transport billing services. EMS submitted documents for the Board to review that are in need of updated information regarding personnel contacts, collection agreement, and transport billing rates, etc. for the Boone County Ambulance Service. The Board reviewed the information provided by EMS and decided to increase the following base rates: BLS Non-Emergency \$400.00 to \$500.00; BLS Emergency \$550.00 to \$600.00; ALS Non-Emergency \$450.00 to \$500.00; ALS Emergency Level 1 \$600.00 to \$650.00; ALS/Emergency Level 2 \$700.00 to \$750.00; Specialty Care Transport \$850.00 to \$900.00; and no change to the \$15.00 per loaded mile rate. The Board understands that the rate increases still fall in the lower range of the current industry rates. The Board reviewed and discussed the billing and collection agreements. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve the base rate for BLS Non-Emergency-\$500.00; BLS Emergency-\$600.00; ALS Non-Emergency-\$500.00; ALS Emergency Level 1 \$650.00; ALS/Emergency Level 2 \$750.00; Specialty Care Transport \$900.00; \$15.00 per loaded mile rate to be effective April 1, 2019; and EMS Billing Services, Inc. for collections from start to finish for Boone County Ambulance Service retroactive to January 1, 2019. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board approved changes in regard to the Boone County Ambulance Services for patient transports and billing services. The Boone County Ambulance is an ALS Unit and is used primarily for transport of patients from one hospital to another and a doctor in charge must recommend the ambulance services. This resolution shall void and take precedence over Resolution No. 2016-70 and all prior resolutions that pertain to the operation of the Boone County Ambulance Service. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Rutten to approve Resolution No. 2019-03, operation of the Boone County Ambulance Service. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Denny Johnson, County Sheriff, presented a quote to re-route the computer and radio wires in the County Law Enforcement building for the Board to review. Due to recent building renovation and new equipment that will be installed for the Boone County and Nance County 911 Communications merger project, the wires under the counters need moving and the wires that are no longer in use need to be removed. Motion made by Temme, second by Rasmussen to approve the estimate of approximately \$3,942.36 from Applied Connective Technologies, LLC to re-route the computer/radio wires in the County Law Enforcement building as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rasmussen and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Denny Johnson, County Sheriff, presented quotes to the Board for review for new mobile radios, portable VHF, accessories and repeaters for six patrol units. The three estimates from Platte Valley Communications were \$100,807.20, \$110,596.35 and \$146,620.33. The Board and Johnson plan to review the preliminary new radio estimates before deciding the radio package that is needed for communication with the new Statewide Radio System (SRS).

Tanya Sharp, Boone County Health Center Chief Executive Officer, presented the Boone County Health Center audit report for year ending September 30, 2018 to the Board for their review. Sharp reviewed areas of the financial audit in regard to the statements of net position, revenue, expenses, cash flow and statistical highlights with the Board. The audit report shows composition of patient receivables to consist of the following: Medicare – 40%; Medicaid – 7%; Private Pay – 24%; and Other Third-party pay – 29%. Sharp noted that as of the year ending September 30, 2018 the employees full-time equivalent at the Health Center were 182 and the Clinics were 48. The Boone County Health Center Clinics are located in Albion, Elgin, Fullerton, Newman Grove and Spalding. A copy of the Boone County Health Center fiscal year audit of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018 is on file at the Boone County Clerk's office.



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Sharp prepared binders for the Board that included a history of the medical facilities, board of directors and bylaws, administrative team, medical providers, services offered, health care terms, etc. In addition, Sharp introduced Don Casper, Jody Choat and Ken Schmitz, Board of Directors members that were present at the Board meeting. They updated the Board in regard to an anticipated health center new building project that would provide new clinic facilities, outpatient clinic, laboratory and other departments that would be adjacent to the south of the present health center clinic area. The present clinic was built for a physician staff of five and today they have fourteen physicians in the clinic. Also, Sharp acknowledged that Board of Director member, Jody Choat, will be stepping down as her second six year term will be completed in June. A Board of Director position may serve two six year terms.

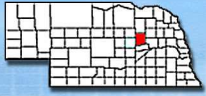
The County Highway Superintendent, updated the Board regarding road equipment repair/replacement, road/bridge maintenance, materials and projects. The new CAT Wheeled Excavator has been delivered and is currently located at the County Road Shop District #2, Albion.

Stacey Robinson, County Highway Superintendent, prepared a Non-Exclusive Contract for Services for each of the interested truckers to back-haul aggregate for the County. The contracts are for the year 2019 with the contractor compensation being \$7.00 per ton for road gravel and \$11.00 per ton for other aggregate. The interested truckers needed to attach a copy of the truck driver's CDL and Certificate of Liability Insurance coverage to the contract. In addition, the back-hauler is to contact the County Highway Superintendent before any load is accepted by Boone County. The Board reviewed the Non-Exclusive Contract for Services submitted by Ron Beckman/Beckman Lumber, Inc., Ken Luettel, JACK Dynamic, LLC, and Corey Dobson, Dobson Transfer, LLC. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to authorize the Board Chairman to sign the Non-Exclusive Contracts for Services as accepted and approved by the County Highway Superintendent. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The County Highway Superintendent presented a radio quote for the Board to review from Platte Valley Communications, Inc. of Kearney, Nebraska for the County Road Department new excavator. The quote is for a new mobile radio XPR5350E 136-174 45W GOB BT/GNSS/WIFI for \$953.23. In addition, the road department may possibly need an additional new radio for the recently purchased truck tractor. The Highway Superintendent informed the Board that the radio quote may be used for both the excavator and truck tractor. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Temme to approve and authorize the County Highway Superintendent to purchase new radio(s) for the County Road Department's newly purchased equipment for \$953.23/per radio from Platte Valley Communications, Inc. as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board authorized the County Highway Superintendent on January 22, 2019 to purchase a truck tractor and pup trailer for County Road District #1, Cedar Rapids to replace the 1991 truck/pup trailer. The Board reviewed purchase contracts for a 2015 Mack Truck Tractor for \$87,000.00 and a 2014 Cornhusker Pup Trailer for \$30,500.00 from RDO Truck Center, Co. of Norfolk, Nebraska. Motion made by Rutten, second by Temme to approve and authorize the Board Chairman to sign the purchase contracts for the 2015 Truck Tractor and 2014 Cornhusker Pup Trailer from RDO Truck Center, Co. for \$117,500.00 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Temme and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Steve Pritchard, UNL Extension, presented an As-Needed employee application for the Board to review. Pritchard informed the Board that the applicant is a 4-H Council Board Member and club leader. The applicant may be familiar with some of the office activity. Motion made by Rutten, second by Rasmussen to approve the As-Needed employee application of Vanessa Cumming, St. Edward, Nebraska as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Rasmussen and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.



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The Board approved a ninety (90) day Introductory Period with an evaluation for the County Road Department employees and that the designated ninety day Introductory Period be communicated to the employee upon employment on February 19, 2019, following a discussion with the County Highway Superintendent. The County introductory period is for the department head to assess the employee's performance for continued employment. The history of the county introductory period has not included a pay raise. The County Road Department hired two new full-time road employees in November 2018. The two new road employees did receive a cost of living in January that was the same amount for all road employees. The two new road employees did not receive the new Performance Evaluation merit based pay of (0-12 cents) that was a new benefit beginning in November 2018 that replaced the former 1979 longevity program benefit. The consensus/suggestion of the Board is for the Highway Superintendent to complete a Performance Evaluation merit based pay of (0-12 cents) program benefit for the two new road employees after completing the introductory period.

The Board and County Highway Superintendent discussed disposition of surplus property. The annual FFA auction is scheduled for April 7, 2019. The road department plans to consign surplus equipment. Motion made by Temme, second by Rasmussen to approve County surplus equipment to be consigned on the annual FFA auction. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rasmussen and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed disposition of County surplus property of office equipment/furniture and smaller items that are valued under \$100.00. At times some of the surplus items may be used/needed by another government entity such as another County office, schools, fire departments, etc. The consensus of the Board is for the smaller items valued under \$100.00 to be at the discretion of the department head to either donate to another government entity, set a price and tagged for sale in the courthouse hallway or advertise for sale. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Temme to approve the disposition of the County surplus property valued under \$100.00 to be at the discretion of the department head as stated. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jacqueline Wells, Veteran Service Officer, was unable to attend the Board meeting and asked to be re-scheduled at a later date.

## Public Comments:

- Meetings: BCDA, Inc. – March 12, 2019; Northeast Nebraska Association of County Officials – March 15, 2019; Area Agency on Aging – March 21, 2019.
- Commissioner Rasmussen updated the Board regarding the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Conference held in Kearney last week.
- Commissioner Rasmussen updated the Board regarding the East-Central District Health Department committee meeting.

Chairman Rasmussen declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2019.

Kathy Thorberg,  
Boone County Clerk