

Boone County Board Minutes



BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS APRIL 24, 2019 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 24, 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 Ben Rutten, Alan Rasmussen and Larry Temme. 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 Payroll Claims filed for payment. The Board acknowledged overtime hours in the road department due to the March/April adverse weather conditions. The Board reviewed and adjusted payroll claim ID No. 74 regarding hours submitted for attending training that was discussed at the March 18, 2019 Board meeting. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve the County Payroll Claims, with the adjustment to ID No. 74, filed for payment from the various funds: General \$98,447.15, BCBS \$51,604.02, Ameritas Ret \$6,806.45, EFTPS \$7,346.91, Section 125 Fees \$10.00, Wellness Program \$91.38; Road \$60,779.39, BCBS \$31,541.18, Ameritas Ret \$4,102.59, EFTPS \$4,588.36; Ambulance \$2,113.75, Ameritas Ret \$81.19, EFTPS \$161.69; and Public Defender Contract \$3,213.60. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Rutten to approve the County Board Proceedings of April 15, 2019 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jack Nordeen, County Weed Superintendent, updated the Board regarding the condition of the weed spraying equipment. The present spraying equipment was purchased in 2009 and has had nozzle, etc. repairs the past years. Nordeen said that the condition of the pickup is good, but would be easier to work with the spraying equipment if the pickup had a flatbed instead of the box. The present spraying equipment includes two tanks, a 100 gallon and a 200 gallon, and runs electrically from the pickup. Nordeen and the Board discussed longer booms to swing out when spraying the road ditch areas. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Temme to authorize the County Weed Superintendent to obtain quotes for the Board to review at a future meeting for a flatbed for the pickup to possibly replace the current box and spraying equipment with accessories that may attach to the front of vehicle or mounted to flatbed/box of vehicle. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The County of Boone DBA Boone County Ambulance Service has an Agreement with EMS Billing Services, Inc. of Omaha, Nebraska to provide billing and collection services for the county ambulance services. The patient billings mailed by EMS Billing Services and then the Boone County Ambulance liaison are then considered uncollectible following the procedural time frame set for collections. The County Attorney's office has received several uncollectible ambulance accounts where the Board approves to remove the uncollectible amounts from the EMS Billing Services account for purposes of bookkeeping and turn the accounts over to the County Attorney to attempt further collection. There are different deadlines, depending on the type of ambulance service claim, for the County Attorney to file action for collection of the unpaid Boone County Ambulance Service accounts. There are two accounts where the time to file action for collection has lapsed. The following date of service for the unpaid accounts are as follows: 10/19/2015 - \$2,260.00 and 01/24/2016 - \$2,890.00, three years have lapsed since date of service. Motion made by Rutten, second by Rasmussen to designate said unpaid Boone County Ambulance Accounts in the amount of \$5,150.00 as uncollectible for



Boone County Board Minutes



auditing purposes as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Rasmussen and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Ed Knott, Applied Connective Technologies, LLC (Applied), the Board and Denny Johnson, County Sheriff, discussed the Communication's Towers located on County fairgrounds and cropland areas. Applied owns the 260 foot utility tower and 10' x 10' cement block transmitter building located on the County cropland. Applied has a Lease Agreement with the County of Boone for approximately 1.20 acres of the County cropland area. Knott explained to the Board the rural wireless internet services that Applied provides within Boone County and to the surrounding areas beyond Boone County. Knott asked the Board if they would consider leasing space on the County Communications Tower located on the fairgrounds to Applied to install their equipment that services wireless internet to rural communities. Johnson said that he would like to involve Michael Epley, Platte Valley Communications of Kearney, in the discussion. Platte Valley Communications are involved with the installation of the Nebraska Statewide Radio System (SRS) equipment and the new equipment for the Boone/Nance 911 Communications merger on the County Communications Tower located on the County fairgrounds. Knott informed the Board that there is a 3-4 month scheduling for Great Plains to move fiber optic. Applied would pay to have the fiber optic moved to the County Communications Tower located on the County Fairgrounds. Knott felt that if Applied could move to the County Communications Tower then the tower Applied owns on the County cropland would be removed. The consensus of the Board is for Ed Knott and Denny Johnson to visit with Michael Epley, Platte Valley Communications, this week in regard to the frequencies, etc. involving Applied to install and lease space on the County Communications Tower and report back on the April 29, 2019 Board meeting.

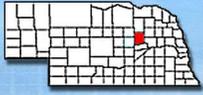
The Boone County Highway Superintendent updated the Board regarding equipment repair/replacement, road/bridge maintenance, infrastructure damage from the March/April adverse weather, materials and projects. The County Highway Superintendent informed the Board that the County Road Department will continue the regular scheduled work time of five days per week at eight hours per day and that there will be no regular scheduled time periods of four ten hour days this year.

The County Highway Superintendent and Board discussed advertising for hiring a full-time road employee. The Highway Superintendent said that she heard a road employee may be retiring at the end of the year. The consensus of the Board is not to hire a full-time road employee until they receive a written resignation from the employee.

The Board, Denny Johnson, County Sheriff, Stacey Ziemba, County Highway Superintendent, Mary Ziemba, Zoning Administrator, and Pam Jochum, employee, discussed paying of employees work hours for meetings/classes. The County Employee Handbook Exhibit "F-1" update August 2017 addresses meetings/classes travel expenses per one day or more than one day, travel time paid and how meeting time is figured per conference/meeting agenda.

In addition, the County Highway Superintendent, asked the Board to approve bridge certification training for the County General Road Foreman. The road foreman/safety manager 2017 job description addresses the road foreman performing annual bridge inspections required by the state and federal governments. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve the bridge inspection training for the County General Road Foreman in accordance with the County Employee Handbook travel expenses and meeting time. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

In addition, the County Highway Superintendent, asked the Board to approve continued hours expenses each year for the General Road Foreman's Highway Superintendent License. Commissioner Rasmussen updated the Board that when the General Road Foreman was hired by the County, he was not hired as the County Highway Superintendent. If he chooses to keep his Highway Superintendent License current, the continuing education



Boone County Board Minutes



hours for certification are self-funded and the employee uses vacation time. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Rutten that the General Road Foreman continued hours certification for his Highway Superintendent License continues to be self-funded and with the use of vacation time. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

- Meetings: County Board of Equalization workshop – June 5, 2019; County Board workshop – June 6-7, 2019.
- Commissioner Rasmussen updated the Board regarding the Region IV, Inc./NorthStar Services meeting, Boone County Fitness Center meeting and met onsite of the County cropland with Nathan Olson, lessee.
- Commissioner Temme updated the Board regarding the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging meeting and Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. meeting.
- Commissioner Rutten updated the Board regarding Region 44 Emergency Services, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting and a FEMA meeting held in St. Edward.
- Denny Johnson, Sheriff, and Rod Nelson, Maintenance, informed the Board that the former Albion Fire Hall is being sold and that the County has some equipment and supplies stored in said building.

It shall also be the duty of the County Board of each county of this state to visit the jail of its county per Nebraska State Statute §47-109. The Board conducted a routine visit of the Boone County Jail per Nebraska State Statute.

Chairman Rasmussen declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, April 29, 2019.

Kathy Thorberg,
Boone County Clerk