

Boone County Board Minutes



BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 27, 2020 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, January 27, 2020 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 Alan Rasmussen, Ben Rutten 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.

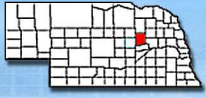
The Board reviewed the County Payroll Claims filed for the pay period of December 22, 2019 through January 21, 2020. Motion made by Rutten, second by Temme to approve the County Payroll Claims filed for payment from the various funds: General \$105,263.60, BCBS \$45,596.16, Ameritas Ret \$7,266.93, EFTPS \$7,872.58, LTD Premiums \$2.27, Section 125 Fees \$10.00, Wellness Program \$109.90; Road \$64,561.72, BCBS \$31,578.68, Ameritas Ret \$4,357.91, EFTPS \$4,874.82; Ambulance \$3,020.41, Ameritas Ret \$90.40, EFTPS \$231.05; and Public Defender Contract \$3,358.21. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Temme and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve the County Board Proceedings of January 21, 2020 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Abstain: Rasmussen. Motion carried.

The Board received an update of activities from Carrie Rodriguez and Melanie Lueders, Probation Officers for District Five Probation. Rodriguez and Lueders presented the "All In For Kids" program and informed the Board that there is a critical need for foster care in Nebraska. They explained the various child foster care programs for infants to age nineteen. Foster care serves several different situations that may be a one night stay, short term of a few days and/or long term where juveniles are placed in foster care through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. A free showing of the movie FOSTER is scheduled for February 9, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. at the Widman Cinema in Central City, NE, followed by a panel discussion with several foster care agencies available to answer questions. The event is organized by The Eyes of the Child Team in order to bring awareness to the public of the shortage of foster care homes in the area counties. The consensus of the Board to allow District 5 Probation to distribute flyers for the free movie event scheduled for February 9, 2020, providing awareness of the need for various foster care situations and that one night of foster care can make a difference in the eyes of a child.

The County Highway Superintendent, updated the Board regarding road equipment repair/replacement, road/bridge maintenance, materials and projects. In addition, the following topics were discussed with no action taken by the Board:

- Road employee wage comparison to be further discussed at the time the 2020-2021 budgets are discussed.
- The County Highway Superintendent informed the Board that one of the motor graders and the 1991 Mack truck-tractor are in need of extensive repairs. A decision will need to be made to either repair or replace.
- The insulation that has been installed in the County Road District #1, Cedar Rapids, shop building appears to be an improvement with lower heating costs the past month and now the breakroom area appears to have water leaking through the roof that needs attention.



Boone County Board Minutes



The County Highway Superintendent submitted a Non-Exclusive Contract For Services for the Board to review. A Non-Exclusive Contract For Services is by and between the County of Boone, Nebraska and truck drivers with a Nebraska Class "A" Commercial driver's license to haul gravel and rock from the various quarries to the county yards stockpiles. The service will be provided on an as-needed basis with compensation to the contractor of \$105.00 per hour. The consensus of the Board that this service is not needed at this time, the County has employees/trucks/trailers that can haul gravel/rock and the Board would like to obtain information on a compensation rate based on loaded mile verses paying an hourly rate for contractual services.

Jacqueline L. Wells, Boone County Veteran Service Officer, submitted a 2019 year-end Veterans report for the Board to review. The numbers within the report includes Veterans that live in other counties/states that are in the Boone County Veteran Service data base. Wells explained the differences of and who receives the Veterans tax free money income through compensation, GI Bill and Nebraska Veterans State Aid of which none of these funds are passed through the County budget system, the funds are directly distributed to the Veterans recipient. Wells informed the Board that there is approximately 535 Veterans residing in Boone County. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Rutten to accept the Boone County Veterans Service Officer 2019 year-end report as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

On January 21, 2020, Randall Bruland, County Ambulance Administrator, and the Board discussed possibly beginning the process to obtain quotes for a new County Ambulance unit. The Board and Bruland discussed that the Boone County Ambulance budget is a self-supporting budget through the revenue received from patient billings and does not receive tax payer funds through a levy. The Board was informed that the County Ambulance Fund may currently have enough funds to pay for a new ambulance unit, but then there may not be enough funds left to operate the ambulance in order to pay drivers, medical personnel, fuel, supplies, etc. The revenue that the County receives from patient transport billings has been dwindling each year in comparison to the expenses per patient transport. The Board discussed paying a portion of the new ambulance unit from the Inheritance Tax fund and a portion from the County Ambulance fund. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve advertising for sealed bids for a new County Ambulance unit for three weeks with sealed bids received through 4:00 P.M. on Friday, February 21, 2020 and opened at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 in the Boone County Commissioners Meeting Room. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The County of Boone used the Indirect Cost Allocation Services of Sequoia Consulting Group, Inc. since February 2011. The Board received a letter that David Lynn, President of Sequoia Consulting Group, Inc. that he asked Wesley J. Ehlers if he would form his own company, WJE Consulting LLC, to continue to provide cost allocation services to the Nebraska County clients. Ehlers has worked for Sequoia Consulting Group for several years. Lynn is dissolving his company due to health issues. Ehlers plans to provide the same services with no changes to the Agreement in regard to the recovered funds to be shared 60% by the County and 40% by the Consultant not to exceed \$3,650.00 annually by the Consultant. The only change is the name of the company. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve and authorize the Board Chairman to sign an Agreement for Indirect Cost Allocation Services with WJE Consulting LLC as presented for the indirect cost allocation plan for FY ending in 2019, which results in cost reimbursement for fiscal year 2020-2021 and prepare a letter of termination to Sequoia Consulting Group, Inc. regarding the agreement executed May 20, 2019. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.



Boone County Board Minutes



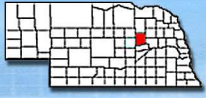
A new telephone system was installed in the County Courthouse and Law Enforcement buildings in 2015 by Applied Connective Technologies. The leased complete program agreement for the new telephone system (hardware, software and maintenance) began September 16, 2015 and ending March 16, 2020. In March 2020 the County will own the current telephone system in the County Courthouse and Law Enforcement buildings.

Ed Knott, Applied Connective Technologies, presented the Board with a history of the previous telephone system and the current telephone system. Knott presented a Managed Remote Service & Maintenance Agreement for the current telephone system that the County will own on March 16, 2020. The Maintenance Agreement is \$265.00 per month for one year and renewable for a successive twelve months. Knott informed the Board that the current telephone system installed in 2015 should have ten more years of serviceable life span. Motion made by Temme, second by Rasmussen to approve and authorize the Board Chairman to sign the Managed Remote Service & Maintenance Agreement with Applied Connective Technologies for the Boone County Courthouse and Law Enforcement/Sheriff's office buildings telephone system for \$265.00 per month for one year for remote programming, software upgrades, etc. as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rasmussen and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board held a Public Hearing on January 27, 2020 at 10:30 A.M. in the Boone County Courthouse Commissioners Meeting Room in Albion, Nebraska for the purpose of hearing public comments and to discuss the issue of the elected office of a County Surveyor. The Nebraska Revised Statute §32-525, County Surveyor; election; when required; terms; qualifications was discussed. The Board did not adopt a resolution to continue to elect the County Surveyor for the County prior to February 1, 2020. Therefore, the Board decided to submit to the voters of Boone County, Nebraska the question of electing a Boone County Surveyor at the November 3, 2020 General Election. At the 2020 General Election the voters will decide the future of the County Surveyor office to either continue to be an Elected Office or becomes an Appointed office by the Board of Commissioners.

The Board held a Public Hearing on January 13, 2020 in accordance with Nebraska State Statute for the purpose of hearing public comments for or against the County owned property to be leased, specifically a fractional part of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Twenty (20) North, Range Six (6) West of the 6th P.M., Boone County, Nebraska commonly known as the Boone County Fairgrounds. The Board advertised to receive sealed bids for said property to be leased until 4:00 P.M. on Friday, January 24, 2020, at the Boone County Clerk's office with bids to be opened/reviewed at 11:00 A.M., on Monday, January 27, 2020 in the Boone County Commissioners Meeting Room located in the courthouse, Albion, Nebraska. No sealed bids were received for the Board to open for said lease of the advertised property known as the Boone County Fairgrounds. Present for the bid opening: County Board; Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. members Dave Noble, Mike Mapel, Jeryl Kettelson and Chuck Rolf; UNL Extension Educator, Steve Pritchard; Pat Neidhardt; and Pam Jochum. If the County Board receives no bids, the County Board may negotiate a contract for lease if such negotiated contract is in the best interests of the County. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to negotiate a Lease Agreement with the Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. for the County owned property to be leased, specifically a fractional part of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Twenty (20) North, Range Six (6) West of the 6th P.M., Boone County, Nebraska commonly known as the Boone County Fairgrounds. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board, Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. board members and individuals present for the lease bid opening reviewed and discussed a proposed lease document. A proposed Lease Agreement was discussed at the January 21, 2020 Board meeting. Some members of the Agricultural Society have met since January 21, 2020 to review and have some questions, concerns and would like to make some suggestions to the Lease Agreement document.



Boone County Board Minutes



A few of the questions, concerns and/or suggestions are:

- The Agricultural Society requested that a survey of the fairgrounds property and an aerial photo of the fairgrounds showing the buildings with the buildings being identified on the aerial photo to be included with the Lease Agreement.
- Each of the buildings on the fairgrounds be identified with signage to further aide emergency personnel.
- The Agricultural Society earlier request to address the ownership of the building contents has been completed in the Lease Agreement.
- Agricultural Society proposed the County pay for the electricity metered for the new Boone County Agricultural Education Center building.
- Agricultural Society to pay for all other utilities associated with the Boone County Agricultural Education Center building and all utilities for the fairgrounds leased property and improvements.
- Questions and clarification relating to the responsibly and expense of the insurance coverage of the property and improvements. The Board plans to visit with NIRMA.

The Board plans to clarify the various questions/concerns of the proposed Lease Agreement and further discuss/consider the Lease Agreement issues at their February 10, 2020 Board meeting.

The chief deputy salaries shall be fixed by the County Board at such times as necessity may require. The Board and Denny Johnson, Sheriff, discussed the wage process for the Sheriff Chief Deputy. The consensus of the Board is to not change the wage process that was set in 2017 for the Elected Official term of 2019-2022, the chief deputy being a percentage of the respective elected official salary.

Public Comments:

- Meetings: Boone County Health Center - January 29, 2019.

Chairman Rasmussen declared the meeting adjourned at 1:20 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2020.

Kathy Thorberg,
Boone County Clerk