



Boone County Board Minutes



BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS OCTOBER 19, 2020 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, October 19, 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 and Ben Rutten. Commissioner Larry Temme arrived at 9:08 A.M. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Albion News, Petersburg Press and St. Edward Advance on October 14, 2020 and the convened meeting was open to the public.

The agenda was posted on the Boone County website; posted on the information board located in the Courthouse north entrance; emailed to the Board of Commissioners; and emailed to the Elected Officials and department heads on Friday, October 16, 2020. Chairman Rasmussen acknowledged the agenda and noted that the Open Meeting Laws are posted and available to the public.

Denise Ziemba, Region 44 Emergency Manager, updated the Board in regard to Emergency Management activities. Ziemba reported that she is applying for siren grants for Belgrade, Clarks and Genoa. The Board and Ziemba discussed the area increase of positive COVID-19 cases. Ziemba reported that a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020 at the Albion Fire Hall.

Motion made by Rutten, second by Temme to approve the County Board Proceedings of October 13, 2020 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Abstain: Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve the County Board of Equalization Proceedings of October 13, 2020 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Abstain: Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Rod Nelson, Courthouse Maintenance, met with the Board to set a fire drill date. Each year a fire drill is usually conducted in the months of May and October. The Courthouse fire drill date is set for Friday, October 30, 2020 at 8:15 A.M.

The Board reviewed a written resignation from a full-time County Road Department employee. Motion made by Rutten, second by Temme to accept and approve the resignation of Matthew Klug with an effective date of October 8, 2020 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Temme and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Stacey Ziemba, County Highway Superintendent; Pam Jochum, County Attorney office employee; and the Board discussed reimbursement to employees for safety-toe footwear. Ziemba said that the road employees do not want to submit their bank/credit card statement along with the receipt to receive expense reimbursements. The submission of a signed County claim with attached signed itemized receipt and a copy of bank/credit card statement all blacked out except for and only showing the employee's name, last four of card number to match receipt and purchase amount has been the documents submitted for reimbursement for several years.

Ziemba said that the road department employees want documentation as to what may be reimbursed and what documents are required to submit in order to receive reimbursement for supplies, materials, recommended safety items, etc. Ziemba contacted the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts asking what the proper protocol



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in reimbursing county employees is. The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts suggested the County Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution setting policy and procedures regarding documentation required to support the reimbursement for amounts paid for expenses.

Jochum commented on a prior year reimbursement document request from the County Attorney office. The Boone County Employee Handbook addresses reimbursement protocol for Travel Time and Travel Expenses. The agenda discussion is in regard to reimbursement for supplies, materials, recommended safety items, etc. The Board plans to prepare a resolution to address the reimbursement for expenses issue at a future Board meeting.

The County of Boone, Nebraska entered into a Lease on May 2, 1972 with the Boone County Historical Society, Inc. for a period of ninety-nine (99) years for the purpose of constructing a building. The said building would be used for the Boone County Museum and for Boone County Historical Society purposes. The Lease was recorded with a metes and bounds real estate description outside the city limits of the City of Albion. In 2018 the real estate was surveyed, platted and annexed by the City of Albion. A Warranty Deed dated August 17, 2020 conveyed the real estate to the Boone County Historical Society, Inc. The County of Boone, Nebraska is no longer the owner of the property and does hereby terminate the Lease dated May 2, 1972. Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Temme to approve and authorize the Board Chairman to sign the Termination of Lease document as the property has been conveyed to the Boone County Historical Society, Inc. and the County of Boone, Nebraska is no longer owner of the property. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

County of Boone has been a member of the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) pool since the agreement for the formation of the pool was signed in November 1987. NIRMA was formed pursuant to the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §44-4301 et seq.) and the Nebraska Interlocal Cooperation Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-801 et seq.); and counties and other public agencies as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §44-4303 are allowed to participate in said cooperative undertakings. The current Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreements (NIRMA and NIRMA II) will expire on June 30, 2021. The Board discussed the NIRMA insurance renewal and prior local insurance agencies requests to submit proposals. The Board acknowledged that NIRMA is focused on county government insurance needs and dividends received by County of Boone from NIRMA is a cumulative sum of \$339,292.00 since the NIRMA program began. Motion made by Rutten, second by Rasmussen to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2020-33 to extend Boone County's commitment to participate in NIRMA and NIRMA II for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 as submitted. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Rasmussen and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

- Meetings: Boone County Agricultural Society, Inc. – October 19, 2020; LEPC – October 20, 2020; Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services, Inc. – October 23, 2020.
- Rod Nelson, Maintenance, updated the Board in regard to the issues with the furnace located in the County Annex building known as the BCDA, Inc. office.
- The County Road Department employee resignation sparked another lengthy discussion with Stacey Ziemba, County Highway Superintendent; Denny Johnson, Sheriff; and Pam Jochum, County Attorney office employee, in regard to wages, health insurance, longevity pay, etc. with the Board.
- County Highway Superintendent updated the Board on road/bridge projects and equipment issues.
- County Board addressed public questions/concerns regarding the Pilot Knob Bridge; possible cost share repairs of a bridge on Boone/Madison County line; weight limit signs posted on both ends of bridges;



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and to check a bridge that the Board received a call on that may need to be closed due to the condition of bridge until it is repaired, with the County Highway Superintendent.

- The Board acknowledged and reviewed a letter from the Village of Cedar Rapids regarding an issue with road dust.
- The Board acknowledged and reviewed a document from the Boone County Attorney in regard to the pending litigation concerning a road issue.
- Mike Pribnow of Primrose visited with the Board concerning the use of Village of Primrose roads by truckers.
- Steve Pritchard, UNL Extension, updated the Board on UNL Extension activity and events possibly being planned for the new building at the fairgrounds.

Chairman Rasmussen declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2020.

Kathy Thorberg,
Boone County Clerk