



Boone County Board Minutes



MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING PROCEEDINGS County Cropland Lease

Larry Temme, Chairman of the Boone County Board of Commissioners called for a motion to open a public hearing on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the Boone County Courthouse Commissioners Meeting Room in Albion, Nebraska. Motion made by Commissioner Temme, second by Commissioner Rutten to open said public hearing. Notice of the hearing was given in advance by publication and the convened hearing was open to the public. Commissioners present for said public hearing were Larry Temme and Ben Rutten. Also present for the hearing was Larry Bird, Friends of the Trail Committee Chair. Chairman Temme read the notice for the record and noted that the Open Meeting Laws are posted and available to the public.

The County Board of Commissioners has power to lease real estate owned by the county. The County Board shall hold an open and public hearing prior to any such lease at which any interested party may appear and speak for or against the lease and raise any issue concerning the County Board leasing cropland.

Notice of the public hearing was given in advance by publication in the Albion News the weeks of November 23 and 30, 2020, prior to the hearing date set for December 14, 2020. The public hearing notice 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, December 11, 2020.

The County Board is considering a cropland lease for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 crop years ending December 31, 2023 for approximately 26.13± acres of dry cropland (March 19, 2020 boundary survey), located in a fraction of the S1/2NE1/4 of Section 28, Township 20 North, Range 6 West of the 6th P.M., Boone County, Nebraska, located south of and adjacent to the present Boone County Fairgrounds. The County Board shall set a date to offer said real estate for lease to the highest bidder. If the County Board receives no bids or if the bids received are substantially lower than the fair market value, the County Board may negotiate a contract for lease of the real estate if such negotiated contract is in the best interests of the county.

Larry Bird, Friends of the Trail Committee Chair, suggested possible future use of what is known as the county cropland that part of the trail system was constructed across in 2018. Bird suggested the possible idea of planting native grasses or a forage crop that could be cut for hay instead of planting a corn/bean field. Bird suggested a controlled burn to eliminate the weeds on the County cropland that is north of the trail between the two communication towers. The Board plans to review the weed issue in the spring.

Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to close said hearing at 11:13 A.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to advertise in the Albion News the week of December 16, 2020 to accept lease bids for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 crop years ending December 31, 2023 for approximately 26.13 acres of dry cropland. Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at the office of the Boone County Clerk and will be opened and reviewed at 11:00 A.M. at the County Board meeting scheduled for Monday, December 28, 2020. A copy of the Lease Bids advertisement and March 19, 2020 Boundary Survey are attached hereto these proceedings. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kathy Thorberg, Boone County Clerk