

**HARLAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
From September 19th, 2023**

The Harlan County Board of Supervisor's met in regular session Tuesday, September 19, 2023, in the Supervisors Room, of the Harlan County Courthouse in Alma, NE, as advertised, with Supervisor's Chris Schluntz; Max Schultz; Mike Clements; Jeff Bash; Ron Imm; and Tony Gulizia present. Supervisor, Cindy Boehler was absent; Also present were Clerk, DaLynn Burgeson; Highway and Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson; County Treasurer, Sandy Artz; and County Assessor, Kim Fouts.

At 9:45 a.m., Chairman Gulizia called the meeting to order and announced that there is a copy of the Open Meetings Act posted at the south end of the room and will be followed by the Board.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer, Sandy Artz, provided for the Board's review an Imprest Account Calculation Sheet, Account Trial Balance Listing and Delinquent Tax Listing report.

Chairman Gulizia asked the Board if they had reviewed the claims. Discussion was held on a few specific claims, upcoming claims and fund balances currently and through the remaining of 2023. With no further discussion. Motion was made by Clements to approve the claims as submitted. Seconded by Schluntz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. Harlan County citizen, Ronald Sindt of 403 9th Street, Alma, Nebraska, was present and expressed his displeasure towards the joint public hearing that was held the previous evening (September 18, 2023). Mr. Sindt expressed his concerns on the usefulness of the joint public hearing, how the meeting was conducted and the lack of space for such a large crowd. Chairman Gulizia respectfully moved to the business meeting.

At 10:03 a.m., Chairman Gulizia opened the business meeting. He asked the Board if they had reviewed the Minutes from the September 5th, 2023, regular Board meeting and called for any additions or corrections. Motion was made by Bash to approve the minutes from September 5th, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Schluntz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Gulizia then explained the reason for the joint public hearing held the previous evening. Assessor Fouts provided that Nebraska Senator Ben Hansen, during 2021 legislative session, introduced the bill to improve transparency to taxpayers in which the pink cards became a requirement and suggested that concerns in this regard should be directed to Senator Hansen. Bash then addressed the issue of the location of the meeting and that with the timing of setting the date, time and location of the meeting, there was no way of knowing how many citizens would attend. Also, that due to publication requirements, the venue for the joint public hearing could not have been moved at the time based on attendance. Chairman Gulizia added that they estimated 50 to 60 people would be attending, that this was the first time that Harlan County held a joint public hearing that he knew of, and that they will take this into consideration, if there is a next time.

There were two applicants for the Tourism Director position. Applicant, Jennifer Kreutzer of Alma came before the Board, introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her experience and intent to promote Harlan County. Applicant, Jordann Dunlay then came before the Board, introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her experience and a few upcoming Harlan County events that she is assisting with. The Board thanked both applicants.

Treasurer, Sandy Artz, came before the Board to start the required County Tax Sale Process for the 2021 delinquent taxes and to start the tax foreclosure process for the 2018 County Tax Sale Certificates that were not purchased at the tax sale in March of this year. Discussion was held. Motion was made by Schluntz to approve and direct the Harlan County Treasurer to issue tax sale certificates to the County covering the delinquent taxes upon said parcels of real estate as presented and to authorize and direct the Harlan County Attorney to commence the foreclosure of each outstanding Tax Sale Certificate held in the name of the County for six months after the expiration of three years from the date of issuance of such tax sale certificate and then to continue such foreclosure to conclusion. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. Treasurer Artz provided a Pledged Securities Report and the Board reviewed it. Treasurer Artz also advised that she purchased a couple CD's with a good interest rate after comparing rates.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION: Motion was made by Schluntz to go into Board of Equalization at 10:26 a.m. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. Treasurer Artz advised that she had finally received the last two applications for tax exempt license plates and presented the Board with two Applications for Exemption. One was from the Colonial Villa of Alma, NE for five vehicles and the second was from Good Samaritan Society-Alma for one vehicle. Discussion was held. Motion was made by Schluntz to approve the applications as submitted for the tax-exempt plates. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. At 10:30 a.m., Bash made a motion to exit Board of Equalization. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. *The Board returned to regular session.*

Clerk Burgeson addressed the Board regarding days and times that the Interim County Attorney would be available. Discussion was held. The City of Alma Budget billing agreement was discussed and approved.

Tourism Director position. Discussion was held on setting up a committee for new hire interviews. The committee will be two Harlan County Board members and one Tourism Board member. Interviews will be conducted prior to the next Board meeting. The committee shall bring their recommendation to the County Board at the October 3rd, 2023, meeting.

Highway Superintendent, Tim Burgeson, came before the Board regarding space availability at the county shop, upcoming bridge repair projects, when snow fence will be put out, that his operators are moving gravel as needed to prepare for possible rains this week and a couple are assisting with the annual scrap tire collection. Discussion was held on the issue he's having with getting gravel delivered. The motor grader that was ordered in 2022 has finally been delivered to the dealership in North Platte for final specifications. Should be here in 1-2 weeks ready for use. The three surplus vehicles are listed for online auction ending September 26th, 2023, with current bids on all three.

Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson, advised that last week eight noxious weed areas (off river) were sprayed for phragmites by argo, that 2 weeks ago eight spots were sprayed by drone and there are approximately 4 more off river spots to be sprayed. Inspections were done down river in which approximately ten spots will need sprayed and the Corp will be spraying along the lake by helicopter next week.

A motion to recess from the regular board meeting was made by Clements, seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. *Meeting was recessed at 10:58 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. Budget Hearing & Budget Summary. (Budget Hearing was held. See separate minutes)*

At 11:32 a.m., Chairman Gulizia reconvened the regular meeting.

A motion was made by Bash to adopt the 2023-2024 Harlan County Budget, Resolution #2023-19. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried.

Pursuant to Legislative Bill 644 as Amended by LB1250 (LB927), a Joint Public Hearing was held the previous evening, September 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the community room located in the Harlan County Courthouse at 706 W 2nd Street, Alma, Nebraska. 2023 Notice of Proposed Tax Increase pink cards for Alma Public Schools and Harlan County were mailed to all affected property tax payers by the designated State Print Shop September 5, 2023, and September 12, 2023, Notice was also posted on the County's website on September 13, 2023. A designated representative from each political subdivision did attend the joint public hearing on behalf of said political subdivision. There were no other items on the Agenda other than discussion on each political subdivision's intent to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage.

A motion was made by Imm to set the 2023-2024 Final Tax Request, Resolution #2023-20. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried.

There were no new updates on the following: F Road Bridge, Agreement submitted by Railroad per from Tim Burgeson, HWY Superintendent; County handbook update/Credit card policy (*Melodie is working on changes requested*); Extension office - Extension Educator position—advertised/deadline for apps 09/18/2023, (*UNL responsible for hiring*); County Attorney position—advertised/deadline for apps 10/01/2023; and Lady Liberty (located Courthouse front lawn) – restoration/repairs/fund raiser (*Boehler was absent for update*).

Courthouse Custodial/Maintenance position – advertised/deadline for apps 09/29/2023, was discussed. Suggestion was made to revise the job duties. Concerns were expressed regarding courthouse cleaning. Discussion was tabled until after application deadline.

County vehicle discussion was held. Assessor Fouts provided the Board with a current quote from Pony Express Chevrolet of Gothenburg, NE. Comparison vehicle information was reviewed by the Board. Chairman Gulizia said there were three things to consider and discuss regarding the purchase of the vehicle (paying for it, financing option, & purpose). Discussion was held on which courthouse offices would utilize the vehicle, rather to purchase used versus new, where the vehicle would be parked and which budget or fund would be used to purchase said vehicle. A motion was made by Imm, seconded by Clements to approve the purchase of the 2023 Buick Envision AWD for \$34,379.00 from Pony Express Chevrolet, as quoted, and to use ARPA/COVID funds to pay for it. Roll call votes: Schluntz-no; Schultz-no; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried.

Interim County Attorney, Melodie Bellamy, and Planning and Zoning Administrator, Ron Melbye, provided a Resolution for Moratorium (Resolution #2023-17) in regards to accepting any solar farm applications for a six-month period of time, which can be extended accordingly. Motion was made by Imm to approve Resolution #2023-17 for the six-month moratorium on solar farm applications. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schluntz-no; Schultz-no; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. Updates to the County Zoning Regulations are currently being worked on for wind turbines and solar farms.

Building and Grounds update was provided related to the courthouse exterior improvements project. The bid submitted by Duncan Theis was updated after meeting with Chairman Gulizia and Architect, Ryan Stearns. Discussion was held on the proposed improvements, costing of the improvements, and courthouse interior improvements currently not completed. Chairman Gulizia asked for a motion to proceed with the updated Bid provided by Duncan Theis. For lack of motion. The Bid submitted by Duncan Theis Construction Inc. of Kearney, Nebraska, was not approved.

Public Forum: *No citizens came before the Board during this time.*

With no further business, a motion was made by Bash to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-absent; Bash-yes; Imm-yes; Gulizia-yes. Motion carried. Chairman Gulizia adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held October 3rd, 2023, at 9:45 a.m. for consent agenda items and 10:00 a.m. for business agenda items.

ATTEST:

/s/ DaLynn Burgeson, County Clerk

/s/ Tony Gulizia, Chairman

Agenda & Minutes can be found on the County website: harlancounty.ne.gov

CLAIMS:

GENERAL: Jeff Artz-Zoning Mileage \$5.00; Bauer-Torrey & Mach Funeral Home-Removal, Transport of deceasedx2 \$1620.00; DaLynn Burgeson-Mtg & Workshop Mileage \$139.25; Dianne Calkins-Supplies \$7.98; CHS-Sheriff's Supplies \$90.73; City of Alma-Utilities \$421.64; Cummins Sales & Service-Mtc Agreement \$932.48; Dawson County Sheriff's Office-Safekeeping of Inmate \$2475.00; Eakes-Office Supplies \$205.43; First National Bank-Supplies, Postal Supplies, Office Equipment, \$4443.06; Anna Fisher-Mileage \$455.31; Kim Fouts-Meals/Mileage \$96.80; Franklin County Chronicle-publication \$61.20; Franklin County Sheriff-Service Fees \$48.14; Furnas County Sheriff-Sheriff's Fees \$66.64; Tana Fye Henry, Attorney-Court Appointed Attorney \$1749.67; Glass Edge Central-Glass \$1750.00; Harlan County Court-Court costs \$34.00; Harlan County Health Systems-Jail Meals/Inmate Medical \$9621.09; Harlan County Museum-Damages \$20,000.00; Harlan County Journal-publications \$896.00; Harlan County Senior Center-Transit & Senior Center \$3302.74; Harlan County Sheriff-Sheriff's Fees \$33.50; Harlan County Treasurer-Reimburse Petty Cash \$14.25; Hays Pharmacy-Jail Medical \$66.26; Hogeland Market-Office Supplies \$262.63; Holdrege Daily Citizen-printing/publishing \$68.75; Hometown Leasing-Office Equip \$115.72; Douglas Horwart-Zoning Mileage \$9.17; Intellicom- Anti-virus \$27.00; Kearney County Clerk-Harlan County District Judge Expenses \$7231.84; Galen Kronhofman-Zoning Mileage \$6.55; Lynn Peavey Company-Supplies \$138.77; Mighty Tidy-Contractual Cleaning \$660.00; MIPS Inc.-Data Processing, \$1460.03; NE Public Health Environmental Lab-Blood tests \$105.00; NE Public Power District-Utilities \$1044.34; Oliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel-Transport Deceased \$573.75; Paper Tiger Shredding-Bulk Shredding \$116.75; Phelps County Sheriff-Safekeeping of Inmate \$45.00; Plains Radiology Services-Prisoner Medical \$62.50; Platte Valley Communications-Sheriff Equip \$1196.65; Quadiant Leasing USA-Postage Machine \$500.88; Quill-office supplies \$414.98 & 475.42; Secretary of State-Election Div-Supplies \$10.00; DAS State Accounting-Data Processing \$1046.50; Trustworthy Hardware-Supplies \$8.17; Tripe Motor Co-Vehicle Repairs \$292.90; Twin Valleys Public Power Distr-Utilities 250.95; UNL Haskell Ag Lab-Extension Dues \$95.00; Urbom Law Office-Court Appt'd Fees \$415.20; Verizon Wireless-Sheriff Cell Phones \$242.81; Viaero Wireless-Cell Phones \$107.42; Vyve Broadband-Phone Service, Internet, Data Processing \$1835.92; Waggoner Ins. Agency-Notary Bond \$40.00;

Doug Winz-Zoning Mileage \$22.92; Brandon Wright-Zoning Mileage \$10.48; (General Fund Total: \$67,430.17). **ROAD FUND:** Alma Auto Parts-Parts/Supplies \$98.60; B.H. Hesemann Shop-Bolts Etc. \$87.00; Bosselman Energy Inc.-Fuel \$25,045.50; Bosselman Enterprises-Fuel \$1754.70; CHS Agri Service-Tank lease \$36.00; City of Alma-Trash Service \$60.55; Jim Dietz-Retirement \$25.00; Eakes-Office Equip \$1631.43; First National Bank-NACO Conf Reg \$150.00; Harlan County Health Systems-Drug & Alcohol Testing \$228.66; Intellicom-Road Office, Setup computers \$849.00; M.J. Lubeck-Rent \$300.00; MIPS Inc-Data Processing \$183.41; NACO-Central District Mtg Reg \$55.00; NMC Exchange-Parts/Labor \$2590.51; Oak Creek Engineering-Contractual Services \$10,700.00; Paddington Station-Fuel \$124.74; Paulsen Inc.-Gravel/Rock \$1635.85; Platte Valley Communications-Radio Equip. \$504.35; Pro Building Supply-Blding Supplies \$21.98; Quill-Office Supplies \$500.87; Reliable Pest Control-Pest Control \$265.00; S&W Auto Parts-Tool & Shop Supplies \$417.54; Sappa Valley Farm & Auto-Fuel \$264.33; Sign Solutions-Signs/Posts \$596.16; Titan Machinery-Equip repair \$1969.50; Tripe Motor Co-Parts/Labor \$144.95; Trustworthy Hardware-Shop Supplies \$143.85; Twin Valleys Public Power-Utilities \$300.12; Verizon-Phone Service \$131.90; Village of Republican City-Utilities \$30.13; Vyve Broadband-Phone Service \$35.00; XBS Welding-Mower Repairs \$85.00; (Road Fund Total: \$50,966.63) **TOURISM:** Byway 136 Heritage Highway-Advertising Applefest/HC Thrifts \$575.00; First National Bank-Media Advertising \$228.00; Rockit Event Pros-Kiddie Ferris Wheel Rental/Applefest \$955.76 (Tourism Fund Total: \$1758.76) **911 EMERGENCY FUND:** City of Holdrege-911 \$423.60; Vyve Broadband-911 \$44.00 (911 Emergency Fund Total: \$467.60) **Grand Total: \$120,623.16**