

HARLAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S  
REGULAR & REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING & BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
MINUTES  
From **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Harlan County Board of Equalization and Board of Supervisor's met for a regular and reorganizational meeting, Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the Community Room of the Harlan County Courthouse in Alma, NE, as advertised, with Supervisor's Chris Schluntz; Max Schultz; Mike Clements; Cindy Boehler; and Jeff Bash present. Supervisor Ron Imm was absent. (District 7 Supervisor-Vacant.) Also, present were Clerk, DaLynn Burgeson; Assessor, Kim Fouts; Deputy County Attorney, Whitney Schroeder, and Highway & Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson.

At 9:53 a.m., Supervisor Clements 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.

Supervisor Clements opened the reorganizational meeting and asked if there were any nominations for chairman. Supervisor Chris Schluntz was nominated by Schultz. Seconded by Boehler. With no further nominations, Schultz made a motion to cease nominations. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-absent; Imm-absent. Motion carried. Schultz made a motion to elect Schluntz as the Chairman. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-absent; Imm-absent. Motion carried. Supervisor Chris Schluntz is the Chairman for 2024.

Supervisor Clements then asked if there were any nominations for vice chairman. Supervisor Cindy Boehler was nominated by Schluntz. Seconded by Schultz. With no further nominations, Schultz made a motion to cease nominations. Seconded by Schluntz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-absent; Imm-absent. Motion carried. (Supervisor Bash joined the meeting.) Schluntz made a motion to elect Boehler as the Vice Chairman. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried. Supervisor Cindy Boehler is the Vice Chairman for 2024.

At 9:59 a.m., Chairman Schluntz opened the regular meeting and asked the Board if they had reviewed the claims. Discussion was held. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Clements to approve the claims as submitted. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Schluntz asked the Board if they had reviewed the Minutes from the January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, regular Board meeting and called for any additions or corrections. With no additions or corrections, a motion was made by Clements to approve the minutes from January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-abstain; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

**BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:** Motion was made by Bash to go into Board of Equalization at 10:07 a.m. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

Assessor, Kim Fouts, came before the Board of Equalization with tax list correction #1406A and provided an explanation for the correction. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Boehler to approve tax list correction 1406A. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

At 10:10 a.m., Boehler made a motion to exit the Board of Equalization. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried. ***The Board returned to regular session.***

Public Transit – starting 3/1/2024 (Senior Center end date for public transit 2/29/2024). Supervisor Clements provided an update from his latest communication with Rex Moore of Good Samaritan Society. Discussion was held. Efforts will continue in the search for viable transit and meal delivery services.

A Transit Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy was received from Bonnie Kresser of the Senior Center and presented to the Board. Discussion was held. The Board tabled the matter and requested that Deputy County Attorney Schroeder or County Attorney Bellamy review the multiple page policy and put it on the next agenda.

Attorney, Whitney Schroeder came before the Board to introduce herself as the newly hired Deputy County Attorney for Harlan County. Ms. Schroeder provided a brief background about herself. Discussion was held. The Board welcomed Ms. Schroeder to Harlan County.

Dustin Will with Benefit Management joined the meeting and came before the Board to provide information for renewing the County employee insurances. Mr. Will provided a Benefits Snapshot handout, for reference, of the current plan held with Medica and explained renewal and new options available. Discussions were held. Bash made a motion to approve an option with Medica and pass 2% of the County's reduced variance percentage on to the employees. Seconded by Boehler. A friendly amendment was suggested to keep it likely to what we are doing currently. Amendment accepted and included in said motion. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried. Mr. Will will provide final numbers to the Clerk by February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The deadline for open enrollment is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Clerk Burgeson-Updates: discussion was held regarding the County Employee Handbook and setting a date for a special meeting to rediscuss the handbook. After discussion, the Board requested that Clerk Burgeson put the Resolution for adopting the handbook on the agenda for the next regular board meeting. Clerk Burgeson provided status of the courthouse phone upgrade with Vyve, the Mid-American account balance, the Sheriff's Quarterly Report from the Sheriff's Department, the USDA predator control summary, and advised of the lack of applicants for the District 7 Supervisor vacancy. Discussion was held. The applications deadline for the District 7 Supervisor vacancy will be extended and readvertised.

Zoning Administrator Melbye provided drafts for a wind turbine and solar farm zoning policy to the Board for their review.

Discussion was held for the Harlan County Planning Commission reappointment of the members. Bash made a motion to keep the Planning Commission members the same and reappoint Doug Horwart, Jeff Artz, Galen Kronhofman, Doug Winz, Brandon Wright, Richard Ohrt and Kelsi Bose (upon their willingness to continue) for the term starting January 2024. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

Clerk Burgeson presented a Lakeview K-Lawn 2024 Estimate for Lawn Care that was received. Discussion was held. Supervisor Clements was designated as the County contact person. A motion to approve the 2024 Lakeview K-Lawn 2024 estimate and pay the balance in full by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, was made by Boehler. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

Hwy Superintendent, Tim Burgeson came before the Board with a Federal Funds Purchase Annual Program Certification covering July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, that he was just presented with. Discussion was held. Clements made a motion to grant Tim Burgeson the authority to complete and sign the Annual Certification Form. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried. There were no new ROW or driveway permits. T. Burgeson provided that his crew was pushing snow last week and had also worked both Saturday and Sunday pushing snow to get as many roads open as possible. Updates were provided on machinery, fuel, progress on roads, and equipment. T. Burgeson asked the Board if there were any questions on the year-end road gravel and dirt report that he had emailed to them. T. Burgeson provided information on the projects listed on the One & Six Years report that he had also emailed the Board to review. Discussion was held and the public hearing for the One & Six Years Plan was set for February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. There were no new updates on the F Road Bridge and Railroad crossing projects. The Board thanked T. Burgeson.

Lady Liberty (located at Courthouse). Boehler provided information she received about an upcoming article to be published in a statewide paper focusing on statues located throughout Nebraska, which could include Lady Liberty. Discussion was held regarding restoration funding. Boehler advised that there have been donations collected at the Banner Capital Bank, but more funding would be needed.

Tourism-new shelter on walking trail repair/replacement funding. No new updates.

Building & Grounds. Clements advised that he spoke with Eric Rose regarding the project to get warm water in the women and men's restrooms in the Courthouse, the quote, and his schedule to complete installation. An update on the hardware issue and solutions for the south Courthouse doors was provided. Clements also provided that Holdrege Electric will be inspecting the Courthouse electrical wiring. Boehler provided information from a meeting she and Clements had with the architect regarding the outside of the Courthouse proposed projects

(Phase II of Courthouse updates). The architect will be updating the specs. Boehler also had a discussion with Treasurer Artz about restrictions for using ARPA funds. Discussions were held.

**Public Forum:** *No citizens present.*

The Board moved onto Reorganization. Discussion was held on the appointment of committees. A motion was made by Clements to keep the committees the same as 2023 except for removing Bash from the safety committee. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

Designation of NIRMA contact person for Harlan County, legal newspaper, and Harlan County website were discussed. Motion was made by Boehler to designate for 2024 NIRMA Harlan County contact-DaLynn Burgeson, legal newspaper-Main Street Media/Harlan County Journal, and Harlan County Website-harlandcounty.ne.gov. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

Treasurer Artz joined the meeting with a letter requesting that the First State Bank of Alma NE, the Heritage Bank of Orleans NE, the Community Bank of Alma NE and Stamford NE, the Commercial Bank of Republican City NE, and the Banner Capital Bank of Alma NE be designated as official depositories of Harlan County funds. Motion was made by Bash to designate the First State Bank of Alma NE, the Heritage Bank of Orleans NE, the Community Bank of Alma NE and Stamford NE, the Commercial Bank of Republican City NE, and the Banner Capital Bank of Alma NE as official depositories for Harlan County funds. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

Appointment of County Road Superintendent-Tim Burgeson (2024), Civil Defense Director-Sheriff Chris Becker (2024) and Harlan County Surveyor-Wayne Dietz were discussed. Motion was made by Clements to appoint for 2024 County Road Superintendent-Tim Burgeson, Civil Defense Director-Sheriff Chris Becker and Harlan County Surveyor-Wayne Dietz. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried.

South Central Economic Development District membership dues and representative(s) were discussed. Motion was made by Bash to pay the membership dues on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Seconded by Boehler. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried. Supervisor Chairman, Chris Schluntz, will continue as the 2024 County representative for Harlan County. There is no alternate at this time.

Clerk Burgeson presented, for signatures, the Nebraska Secretary of State's Annual Report for County Officers.

With no further business, a motion was made by Boehler to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schluntz-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Imm-absent. Motion carried. Chairman Schluntz adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held February 6, 2024, 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/ Chris Schluntz, Chairman

Agenda & Minutes can be found on the County website: [harlandcounty.ne.gov](http://harlandcounty.ne.gov)

CLAIMS: GENERAL: Anderson, Klein, Swan & Brewster-Court appointed attorney \$1713.50; Melodie Bellany-County attorney ½ Dues \$204.00; Blue 360 Media-Sheriff Supplies \$93.75; Camas Publishing-Advertising Custodian \$59.40; City of Alma-Utilities \$926.00; Daake Law Office, LLC-Court Appointment \$138.00; Dept. of Correctional Services-Safekeeping of Inmate \$813.15; DeWald, Deaver-Court appointed attorney \$1957.00; Double D Cleaners-Dry Cleaning \$57.50; Eakes-Office Supplies \$927.15; First National Bank-Supplies, Postal Supplies, Office Equipment, \$3259.95; Anna Fisher-Extension mileage \$139.76; Franklin County Chronicle-Publishing \$144.00; Tana Fye Henry, Attorney-Court appointed attorney \$609.50; Gray Law Firm-Court Appointed Attorney \$2679.50; Harlan County Court-Court costs/dismissals \$51.00; Harlan County Health Systems-Jail Meals \$1162.50; Harlan County Journal-publications \$695.48; Harlan County Senior Center-Transit \$1085.00; Harlan County Sheriff-Sheriff's Fees \$18.50; Hays Pharmacy-Jail Medical \$123.30; Dawn Hetrick-Extension supplies \$16.11; Hogeland Market-Supplies Extension \$156.28, Supplies Sheriff \$386.19, Supplies

County Court \$11.49; Holdrege Electric LLC-Service \$375.00; Holdrege Soft Water Service-Salt \$21.00; Hometown Leasing-Office Equip \$1542.48; Intellicom-Microsoft 365 \$21.00 & Sheriff Computer Consult, County Attorney Laptop \$666.50; Johnson Controls-Courthouse Heater repair \$3297.25; LaQuinta Inn & Suites-NACO Lodging \$359.85; Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker-County Attorney Lodging \$187.50; Main Street Variety-Supplies \$5.98; Mighty Tidy-Cleaning services \$780.00; MIPS Inc.-Data Processing, \$1636.79; NACO Planning & Zoning-Dues \$40.00; NE Clerks of District Court Assn-Clerk Dues \$50.00; NE Public Health Environmental Lab-Blood tests \$105.00; Phelps County Sheriff-Safekeeping of Inmate \$113.12; Phillips County EMS-Dues \$60.00; Physician's Lab Services-Autopsy x2 \$4700.00; Pitney Bowes Global-Postal Services \$100.56; Platte Valley Communications-Service Sheriff's Equip \$6422.51; Quill-office supplies \$1145.67; Region III Behavioral Health Services-2023/2024 County Match \$2015.41; Republican Valley Animal Center-Stray dog care \$46.50; S&W Auto Parts-Supplies \$86.94; DAS State Accounting-Sheriff Teletype Service \$888.35; Thomas S. Stewart-Court appointed attorney \$484.45; The Radar Shop-Radar Recert \$192.00; Tripe Motor CO-Sheriff vehicle service \$159.15; Trustworthy Hardware-Supplies \$10.99; Twin Valleys Public Power District-Utilities \$108.77; Urbom Law Office-Court Appointed Attorney \$557.70; USDA Wildlife Services-Predator Control \$2893.62; Verizon Wireless-Cell Phones \$243.02; Viaero Wireless-Cell Phones \$108.62; Vyve Broadband-Phone Service, Internet, Data Processing \$1,884.23 (General Fund Total: \$49,016.97).

ROAD FUND: Alma Auto Parts-Shop Tools \$111.11; Bosselman Energy Inc.-Fuel \$2238.28; Bosselman Enterprises-Fuel \$1480.47; CHI Agri Service Center-Heating fuel \$1121.27; Cooperative Producers-Fuel \$897.40; Jim Dietz-Retirement \$25.00; First National Bank-Drug & Alcohol Testing \$25.00; Hireright Solutions-Drug & Alcohol Testing \$112.10; Hogeland Market-Supplies \$52.22; Holdrege Auto Parts-parts \$107.36; Holdrege Daily Citizen-Publishing \$100.00; Huntley Service-Repair \$129.68; Intellicom Radio Connection \$1043.00; LaQuinta Inn & Suites-NACO lodging \$239.90; M.J. Lubeck-Rent \$300.00; Mac's Alignment-Equip Repair \$95.00; Midwest Truck Equipment-Equip Repair \$3174.29; MIPS Inc-Data Processing \$127.16; Nebraska Rural Radio-Job Ads \$350.00; NMC Exchange-Equip Repair, Supplies \$33,626.41; Oak Creek Engineering-Engineering Fees \$1944.80; Paddington Station-Fuel \$46.04; Paulsen Inc-Gravel/Rock \$29,491.94; Quill-Office Supplies \$45.26; Reliable Pest Control-Pest Control \$265.00; Rudy's Tire Alma-Tire Repair \$41.84; S&W Auto Parts-Tool & Shop Supplies \$1825.61; Sappa Valley Farm & Auto-Fuel \$198.02; Titan Machinery-Grader Blades, Bolts \$469.52; Tripe Motors-Repairs \$4811.55; Trustworthy Hardware-Shop Supplies \$68.33; Twin Valleys Public Power-Utilities \$596.47; Verizon-Phone Service \$132.00; Village of Republican City-Utilities \$35.00 (Road Fund Total: \$85,327.03)

911 EMERGENCY FUND: City of Holdrege-911 \$62.00

Grand Total: \$134,406.00