

HARLAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

From **November 6th, 2024**

The Harlan County Board of Supervisor's met in regular session Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, in the Community Room of the Harlan County Courthouse in Alma, NE, as advertised, with Supervisor's Joe Schnuerle; Max Schultz; Mike Clements; Cindy Boehler; Jeff Bash; George Scott and Janice Miller-Boston present. Also, present were Clerk, DaLynn Burgeson; Deputy County Attorney, Whitney Schroeder; and Highway & Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson. County Attorney, Melodie Bellamy and Treasurer, Sandy Artz joined the meeting.

At 9:32 a.m., Chairman Boehler called the meeting to order, announced that there is a copy of the Open Meetings Act posted at the south end of the room which will be followed by the Board and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer Artz provided, for the Board's review, account balances, Account Trial Balance and Delinquent Tax Listings.

The Board reviewed and discussed claims. A motion was made by Miller-Boston to approve the claims except for claim #2411004 to be further reviewed. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Boehler asked the Board if they had reviewed the Minutes from the October 15th, 2024, regular Board meeting and called for any additions or corrections. A motion was made by Clements to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 15th, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

A motion was made by Bash to go into Board of Equalization at 10:10 a.m. Seconded by Scott. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Sandy Artz, came before the Board and presented two applications submitted by Harlan County Public Transit for tax-exempt license plates for a 2019 Goshen Bus and 2022 Chrysler Voyager. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Bash to approve the applications and grant the tax-exempt license plates for both vehicles. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Burgeson presented an Amended 2024-2025 Tax Rate for Harlan County Dollars Tax per \$100 of Actual Value-Levy Resolution #2024-18a for the boards review. An explanation for the amendment to Resolution #2024-18 was provided in which the Southern Valley Public School had a budget amendment causing a change & the Orleans Township Library & Cemetery names needed switched to match the correct rates. A motion was made by Bash to approve the amendments and amended Resolution #2024-18a. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

With no further business, a motion to exit the Board of Equalization was made by Clements. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. ***The Board returned to regular session at 10:15 a.m.***

Treasurer Artz presented a listing of Distress Warrants for the Boards review, provided an explanation of the process and that there were thirty-two distress warrants totaling \$17,471.73 given to the Sheriff for service.

Stacy Neubauer, Kayla Rhynalds, April Einspahr and Bryon Guthrie appeared on behalf of Harlan County Health Systems. Stacy Neubauer provided hospital updates. Kayla Rhynalds provided a handout and an overview of the hospital's financial status. Bryon Guthrie provided an update on public transit which included that the transit office located in the courthouse is almost finished, transit drivers and a part-time dispatcher have been hired and the status of completing the necessary documentations for Nebraska Department of Transportation. April Einspahr also provided information regarding the

transit and advertising of the public transit services. A request was made, and discussion held regarding the remainder of the county funding for the transit start-up costs. A claim will be submitted for the remainder of the funds.

Micky Blender, Harlan County Extension Educator and Brandi Hilton-Hegemann, with UNL Extension came before the Board. Ms. Hilton-Hegemann introduced herself, gave a Harlan County office personnel update and requested permission to advertise and hire an Extension Assistant due to the resignation of Anna Fisher. The job description for the position was reviewed and discussed. Micky provided details on a school education program she has been working on. Brandi requested that a member of the board of supervisors join the hiring committee. Supervisor Bash will join the hiring committee. Discussions were held regarding the options for advertising, timelines for advertising, interviewing, hiring and tentative start date.

(Supervisor Schultz left the meeting)

Ryan Stearns with Joseph Hewgley & Associates came before the Board to present and discuss two bid proposals that were submitted for the Courthouse upper window replacement project. Duncan Theis and Bristol Windows submitted the bid proposals. Discussion was held regarding the different proposals, make of the windows, warranties, commercial references and lead times. The Board tabled this matter to allow for more time to review and gather further information. The Board also requested that Mr. Stearns provide blueprints for replacing the windows.

Bryan Crowder, Courthouse maintenance, joined the meeting and came before the Board to provide a status on the sprinkler system that has incurred damage due to the lawn renovations. Upon ground conditions, the sod and sprinklers should be attended to early Spring of 2025. Crowder also expressed concern regarding the curbs in the North parking lot. Discussion was held on the status and lack of Courthouse exterior lighting. Ryan Stearns provided the status of the south side lights as part of the renovations and will research options for the east and west side lights and report back to the Board. Discussions were also held on the return of the Courthouse keys from the interior contractor, InstaKey system and an issue with the east side handicap door button.

Highway & Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson and Alex Lindenstein of Oak Creek Engineering came before the Board regarding an engineering proposal for the BNSF and Harlan County RR bridge project located on F Road. Mr. Lindenstein provided an overview of the design and construction of the project. An Agreement for Professional Services was presented with key points explained. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Bash to accept and approve the agreement as presented and for the Chairman to sign. Seconded by Scott. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-no; Schultz-absent; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. Burgeson also advised that he spoke with the representative from BNSF Railroad, and a claim with supporting documentation is required for disbursement of the funds. Burgeson will submit the required documentation.

Chairman Boehler recessed the meeting at 12:00 p.m. for lunch, to reconvene prior to 1:00 p.m. **1:00 p.m. Public Hearing (separate minutes) The Board returned to regular session at 1:21 p.m.**

County Attorney Bellamy suggested a review of the zoning administrator's job description, planning and zoning commission board and county board processes to ensure that zoning matters are handled from beginning to end.

County Attorney Bellamy provided state statutes in reference to the claim held prior for further review, claim #2411004. Discussion was held regarding the state statute in which the County Board appoints budgetary authority for budget preparations and the clerk's role in reference to said budget preparations. A motion was made by Scott to approve and pay claim #2411004. For lack of second, motion failed. Motion was then made by Bash to table the claim. For lack of second, motion failed. After further discussion, a motion was made by Miller-Boston to approve and pay claim #2411004 as presented. Seconded by Scott. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-no; Schultz-absent; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-no; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

The Board took a five-minute recess and reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

Highway & Weed Superintendent Burgeson provided the Board with information related to the Village of Huntley unincorporating by election ballot votes, status of speed study inquiry for the gravel

road by Brad & Mary Robison's, employee update, status of railroad safety crossing project and road work update. Discussions were held.

County Attorney Bellamy and Hwy Superintendent Burgeson came before the Board regarding union contract. A motion was made by Schnuerle to go into executive session to discuss union contract negotiations. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-absent; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. The Supervisors, Clerk, Highway Superintendent and County Attorney remained in the room. A motion was made by Bash to exit the executive session. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-absent; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. *The Board returned to regular session.*

IT Committee update was provided by Schnuerle.

Clerk Burgeson provided the Board with information that was included in their packets, an election day update and an update on the most recent Courthouse boiler repairs.

Clerk Burgeson presented the Board with the annual Nebraska Department of Transportation Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent for (1) Signing of 2024 Resolution #2024-19; and (2) signing of Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent. A motion was made by Bash to adopt and sign Resolution #2024-19 for year-end certification of County Highway Superintendent. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-absent; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Schnuerle to certify superintendent Tim Burgeson and sign the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent for 2024. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-absent; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding an email received from Chuck Burr, Crops & Water Extension Educator, requesting to park his State vehicle in the Courthouse parking lot. Chairman Boehler will respond to Mr. Burr.

Public Transit – transfer of vehicle ownership was discussed. Chairman Boehler will check into this.

County Attorney Bellamy provided an update on Case #23R 0203 Steve T. Pool, Appellant, vs Harlan County Board of Equalization, Appellee, that went before the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission in which the final decision and order was issued and in favor of the County.

Building and Grounds Committee update was provided by Scott. Dennis Hruska has been hired to fill the vacant courthouse custodial position and discussion was held on the newly renovated courthouse steps and ramp handrails. Upon inquiry, there is no update on lady liberty at this time.

Public Forum: No comments.

With no further business, a motion was made by Schnuerle to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-absent; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. Chairman Boehler adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024, commencing at 9:30 a.m. for consent agenda items and 10:00 a.m. for business agenda items.

ATTEST:

/s/ DaLynn Burgeson, County Clerk

/s/ Cindy Boehler, Chairman

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

CLAIMS:

GENERAL: Payroll \$77,772.54 / Claims: American Family Life \$435.05; Ameritas Life Insurance-Vision \$288.34; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Retirement \$12,613.48; DaLynn Burgeson-Mileage/Budget Prep \$946.50; Community Bank-Payroll Deduction HSA \$1480.00; Trisha Crist-Court costs \$15.45; Daake Law Office-Public Defender Salary \$4375.00; First State Bank-payroll deductions \$23,163.50; Harlan County Senior Center-Center & Transit \$10,676.14; Harlan County Treasurer Cash- County Vehicle Title \$10.00; Medica-Insurance \$13,964.06 & Medica-Insurance Employee deduction \$1600.00; Ron Melbye-Office Supplies \$161.55; NE Department of Revenue-payroll deductions \$3493.12; Justin Pape-Planning Commission mileage \$21.44; Darcie Porter-Phone allowance \$45.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance-premiums \$1529.91; Whitney Schroeder-Child Support Enforcement Salary \$1100.00. **General Fund total:** \$153,669.64. **ROAD FUND:** Payroll \$32,185.44 / Claims: American Family Life \$848.44; Ameritas Life Insurance-Vision \$195.76; Ameritas Life Insurance-

Retirement \$5283.28; Community Bank-payroll deductions \$565.00; Credit Management Services-Garnishment \$384.32; First State Bank-payroll deductions \$10,662.42; Medica-Insurance \$7326.40 & Medica-Insurance Employee deduction \$1000.00; Nebraska Child Support Payment Center-Employee withholding \$1423.50; NE Department of Revenue-payroll deductions \$1588.95; NE Public Employees Local 251-Union Dues \$275.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance-premiums \$662.46. **Road Fund total:** \$62,400.97. *TOURISM:* Jordann Dunlay-Admin Salary \$1200.00. **Grand total: \$217,270.61**