

HARLAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S
And BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
From **May 7th, 2024**

The Harlan County Board of Supervisors and Board of Equalization met in regular session Tuesday, May 7th, 2024, in the Community Room of the Harlan County Courthouse in Alma, NE, as advertised, with Supervisor's Max Schultz; Mike Clements; Cindy Boehler; Jeff Bash; George Scott and Janice Miller-Boston present. Also, present were Clerk, DaLynn Burgeson; Highway & Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson; Assessor, Kim Fouts; and Deputy County Attorney, Whitney Schroeder.

At 9:33 a.m., Vice Chairman Boehler 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. Boehler welcomed newly appointed District 6 Supervisor, George Scott to the Harlan County Board.

Treasurer Artz provided, for the Board's review, an Imprest Account Listing with account balances, an Account Trial Balance Listing and a Delinquent Tax Listing report.

The Board reviewed claims. Vice Chairman Boehler asked the Board if they had all had a chance to review the claims. Discussion was held. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Clements to approve the claims as submitted. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the resignation of District 1 Supervisor, Christian Schluntz. Vice Chairman, Cindy Boehler will conduct the meeting until determination is made for the correct protocol to fulfil the chairman position.

Vice Chairman Boehler asked the Board if they had reviewed the Minutes from the April 16th, 2024, regular Board meeting and called for any additions or corrections. With no additions or corrections, a motion was made by Bash to approve the minutes from April 16th, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-abstain; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; George-abstain; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Bonnie Kresser from the Harlan County Senior Center came before the Board and provided a copy of the South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging Title III C1 & C2 Budget for the Board's information. Ms. Kresser explained the annual budget numbers and the reason for the increase being requested from the County. Discussion was held. A motion to approve the budget increase for the senior center in the amount of \$34,619.00 was made by Bash. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Jacki Haley and Erica Carpenter from Two Rivers Public Health Department came before the Board and presented a handout for the Board's information. Ms. Haley and Ms. Carpenter provided an overview of the information, statistics, current and new programs. The Board expressed their gratitude for the information provided, the time spent preparing and presenting the information and the work of the Two Rivers Public Health Department.

Charlie Rudeen of Nebraska Machine Company/Caterpillar came before the Board with Highway Superintendent, Tim Burgeson. Information and Sourcewell bid pricing were provided for purchasing a new Cat motor grader, trade in value for a 2010 JD grader, credits, and warranty. Discussion was held on two grader options. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of the AWD tandem motor grader at \$393,600 less the trade-in value of \$45,400 was made by Schultz. Seconded by Scott. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. Discussion was held on a new payloader option to replace the road departments 1997 payloader that is having mechanical issues. No decision was made at this time.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION: Motion was made by Clements to go into Board of Equalization at 11:10 a.m. Seconded by Bash. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Assessor, Kim Fouts, came before the Board of Equalization with tax list corrections #1413 and #1414 and provided an explanation for the needed corrections. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Miller-Boston to approve tax list corrections of 2022-2023 #'s 1413 and 1414 as presented. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Assessor Fouts explained the permissive tax exemption process and the need to schedule a public hearing for the 2024 Permissive Tax Exemption applications submitted. The public hearing for the 2024 Permissive Tax Exemptions will be held before the Board of Equalization on May 21, 2024, at 10:05 a.m.

Motion to exit the Board of Equalization at 11:15 a.m. was made by Bash. Seconded by Clements. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. ***The Board returned to regular session at 11:16 a.m.***

Assessor Fouts provided, for the Board's review, a Contract for Referee Services between Harlan County and Cardinal Assessment Group LLC in which Josh Garris will act as referee for hearing tax protests for the 2024 assessment year and transmitting all papers, findings, and recommendations to the Board of Equalization. Discussion was held. A motion to accept and approve the Contract for Referee Services for 2024 was made by Clements. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. Protest hearing dates were set for residential and commercial hearings on Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024, beginning at 2 p.m. and for Thursday, July 18th, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Assessor Fouts inquired about the status of what has been done towards fixing the walls in her office and status of getting the hot water in the restrooms as was quoted previously. Supervisor Clements provided an update. Discussion was held. The repairs will be on hold until the cause of the damage is determined.

Deputy County Attorney, Whitney Schroeder came before the Board regarding a Preliminary Agreement and Understanding for Harlan County Public Transit Services between Harlan County and Harlan County Health Systems that was provided for the Boards review. Discussion was held. Boehler will take a copy of the Preliminary Agreement to the Harlan County Health Systems for review also and it will be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Resolution #2024-08 was presented to the Board for their review and approval. Said resolution is for the correction of 2022 annual salaries for elected officials that were found to be in error by the State Auditors. A motion to approve Resolution #2024-08 correcting the 2022 annual salaries for elected officials was made by Schultz. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Highway & Weed Superintendent Burgeson came before the Board and presented a Driveway Permit Application #2024-4 submitted by Gary Blum to access his hay field north of Orleans. Discussion was held. Burgeson then provided updates on one new hire, an interview for another possible new hire, current road department job openings, road and equipment matters, fiber optic line issues, gravel status, and septic system update. Discussion was held on the County's current Right-of-Way agreement. Burgeson will confer with the County Attorney to review and update the agreement. Burgeson provided information on an agreement received between BNSF Railway and Harlan County for transfer of ownership and funding on a county bridge project. The road committee will meet to review and discuss the agreement in depth and report to the Board at the next meeting.

Clerk Burgeson advised of what information was in the Boards packets which included the Sheriff's Quarterly Report for January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024, a CASA Newsletter and other board information. A motion was made by Clements to accept Christian Schluntz's resignation as District 1

Supervisor pursuant to Schluntz's letter of resignation submitted to the Board effective May 1, 2024. Seconded by Scott. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-no; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. Proposals for auditor services for the upcoming 2024 and 2025 County audits were discussed. The Board was presented with a copy of two proposals, one submitted by Lengemann & Associates, PC for Financial Statement Audit and Single Audit in the amount of \$18,500 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and \$19,500 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and one by Dana J. Weber, CPA for similar auditing services in the amount of \$15,500, not to exceed \$16,500 for 2024 and an estimate with explanation for 2025 of \$16,275 to \$17,000, not to exceed \$18,150. Upon discussion of the proposals as submitted, a motion was made by Bash to accept the proposal submitted by Dana J. Weber, CPA. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on county committees and the vacant spots previously held by supervisors. A few spots were filled, and the remaining spots were tabled until the next meeting.

Clements provided a buildings and grounds update regarding opening of bids for outside work to the courthouse sidewalks, retaining walls and landscaping, the hardware issue on the south doors, and scheduling for the finishing of the countertops in the Clerk, Treasurers and Assessors offices. Discussion was held regarding a job description and job ad for a courthouse maintenance position. Fouts advised that she had notes that the walls in her office had been since the new roof was completed. Boehler thanked Fouts for that information.

Further discussion was held on the request by the Senior Center for increased funds and insurance, ownership and transferring of the public transit vehicles. Miller-Boston left the meeting.

Public Forum: Citizens were in attendance, but no comments were made.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bash to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-absent. Motion carried. Vice Chairman Boehler adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held May 21st, 2024, 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, Vice Chairman

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

CLAIMS:

GENERAL: Payroll \$71,577.33 / Claims: American Family Life \$435.05; Ameritas Life Insurance-Vision \$286.20; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Retirement \$11,824.25; Melodie Bellamy-Meals, Mileage & fees \$148.65; Community Bank-Payroll Deduction HSA \$1,580.00; Daake Law Office-Public Defender Salary \$4375.00; First State Bank-payroll deductions \$21,489.28; Kim Fouts-Meals \$57.41; Harlan County Senior Center- Feb&March \$3540.58; Harlan County Treasurer-Sheriff Vehicle Title Fee \$15.00; Medica-Insurance \$13,693.15 & Medica-Insurance Employee deduction \$2400.00; Mid-American Benefits-Insurance \$176.00; NACT -Treasurer Continued Education Workshop \$150.00; NE Department of Revenue-payroll deductions \$3208.56; Darcie Porter-Phone allowance \$45.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance-premiums \$1686.24; Whitney Schroeder-Child Support Enforcement Salary \$1100.00. **General Fund total:** \$137,787.70. **ROAD FUND:** Payroll \$33,912.22 / Claims: American Family Life \$879.38; Ameritas Life Insurance-Vision \$173.86; Ameritas Life Insurance-Retirement \$5228.88; Community Bank-payroll deductions \$895.00; First State Bank-payroll deductions \$10,861.14; Roger Gehrig-CDL License fee reimbursement \$35.50; Medica-Insurance \$5537.91 & Medica-Insurance Employee deduction \$500.00; NE Department of Revenue-payroll deductions \$1683.98; NE Public Employees Local 251-Union Dues \$220.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance-premiums \$556.41. **Road Fund total:** \$60,484.28. **TOURISM** Jordann Dunlay-Admin Salary \$1200.00. **Grand total: \$199,471.98**