

# Sioux County Board Minutes



Sioux County Board of Commissioners

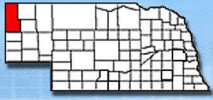
Harrison, Nebraska

July 1, 2020

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room July 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Commissioners Hal Downer and J.W. Geiser, Josh Skavdahl appeared via Zoom. Also present was County Clerk Michelle Zimmerman. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Hal Downer opened the meeting in prayer. Reference was made to the Open Meeting Laws posted in the meeting room. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the minutes of the June 1 and 16, 2020 meetings. On roll call vote Downer, yes; Geiser, yes. Motion carried. The board met with elected and appointed officials.

The Board approved the following claims: GENERAL FUND: PAYROLL, 39,022.51; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 321.95; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 191.20; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,551.55/employee share, 1,735.83; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 18,651.80; Laura Button, mileage, 149.50; Centurylink, internet, 32.50/ phone 220.66; Crawford Clipper, publications, 172.62; Crites & Shaffer Law Office, court appointed attorney, 1,008.31; DAS State Accounting, data processing, 218.84; De Lage Landen Public Finance, lease sheriff pickup, 6,221.71; Audrey M. Elliott, court appointed attorney, 140.00; Herren's, supplies, 22.47; Lacy Klein, mileage, 80.50; Chad McCumbers, mileage, 30.82; MIPS, Inc., data processing, 2,212.04; Mobius Communications, phone service, 245.09; Brad Munson, grounds, 500.00; NACO dues, 1,173.31; NE Assn. of County Clerks, registration, 125.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 1,008.62; NEA, electricity, 719.15; Northwest Auto Body & Paint, repairs, 283.00; Nossaman Pettitt Law Firm, PC, court appointed attorney, 915.25; Office Depot, supplies, 42.49; Panhandle Geotechnical & Environment, asbestos survey, 3,230.00; Quadient Leasing USA, Inc., postage meter, 840.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 583.94; Amy Ragsdale, transcription fee, 315.25; Irene Richey, yrs of service, 19.00; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel 464.55; Sarah Sanderson, custodial contract, 1,200.00; Sarah Sanderson, custodial supply, 95.09; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,130.76/employee share social security, 2,130.76/county share medicare 498.35/employee share medicare, 498.35/ withholding, 2,237.61; Sioux County Historical Society, museum support, 2,000.00; Sioux Co. Insurance Trust Fund, employee cafeteria plan, 508.33; Skavdahl, Edmund & Stecher, office rent, 200.00/clerical, 150.00/ phone, 20.97copies, 2.27; Staples, supplies, 239.88; Scottsbluff Star Herald, subscription, 347.15; Transfer to Library Fund, 2,000.00; Transfer to Noxious Weed Fund, 13,000.00; Transfer to Road & Bridge Fund, 80,000.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 65.36; UNL, supplies, 30.00; UNL Lincoln, equipment, 159.95; Viaero Wireless, phone, 64.37; Village of Harrison, utilities, 455.84; Vistabeam, 68.95; Michelle Zimmerman, mileage, 144.90.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: PAYROLL: 30,189.31; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 235.95; Ameritas Life Insurance, optical insurance, 182.16; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,020.06/employee share retirement, 1,346.67; AVI Engineering, professional services, 1,009.00; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 14,475.24; Donald Brush, survey, 290.00; Centurylink, internet, 58.23; Contractor's Materials, supplies, 962.95; Crawford Clipper, ad, 138.19; Dale's Tire, supplies, 1,148.22; Dooley Oil, Inc., fuel, supplies, 165.23; Floyd's Truck Center, supplies, 10.41; Dan Franks, CDL reimbursement, 100.00; Fuller Construction, materials, 634.00; Herren's, supply, 182.23; Horse Creek Tire, supplies, 25.00; Fay Hughes, hauling, 284.10; Ideal Linen, rugs, 213.24; Inland Truck Parts, parts, 162.96; Lotton's Service & Repair, fuel, 33.35; Colleen Mitchell, gravel, 2,680.00; Morrill Supply, supplies, 36.76; Motor Fuel Division, fuel tax, 679.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 657.60; Nebraska Machinery, repairs, 1,558.15; Nebraskaland Tire, supplies, 234.95; NEA, electric, 68.75; Office Depot, office supplies, 155.41; Panhandle Coop System, supplies, 242.42; Powerplan, repairs,



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1,875.14; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, repairs, 5,519.32; RW Rising & Family Trucking, LLC, hauling, 5,504.50; James Schneider, gravel, 4,500.00; Security First Bank, county share social security, 1,669.56/employee share social security, 1,669.56/county share medicare, 390.48/employee share medicare, 390.48/withholding, 1,194.23; Bill Skavdahl, gravel, 334.00; Josh Skavdahl, gravel, 333.00; Skeeter's Napa, parts, 130.09; Sones Trucking, hauling, 9,646.50; TDS Environmental Services, garbage, 25.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 273.27; V & T, hauling, 10,191.50; Village of Harrison, utility, 96.65; WPCI, drug testing, 62.50; Scott Wilkins, gravel, 6,750.00.

FEDERAL FUNDS PURCHASE PROGRAM FUND: Stacey Swinney, bridge, 34,000.00

LIBRARY FUND: PAYROLL: \$1,663.75; Amazon, supplies, 197.12; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 112.30/employee share retirement, 74.87; Bluffs Facility Solutions, supplies, 139.97; Centurylink, phone/internet, 146.50; Herren's, supplies, 1.08; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 54.08; NEA, electricity, 94.24; Security First Bank, county share social security, 103.15/employee share social security 103.15/county share medicare, 24.12/employee share medicare 24.12/withholding, 100.00; Village of Harrison, utilities, 93.00.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND: PAYROLL: 4,801.10; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 33.10; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 324.07/employee share retirement, 216.05; Blue Cross Blue Shield, insurance, 2,088.28; Centurylink, internet, 58.23; Farmer's Coop Elevator, chemicals 4,807.00; Heritage Seed, chemical, 314.35; Herren Brothers, supplies, 60.14; Lotton's, fuel, 592.70; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 64.47; Office Depot, supplies, 42.50; Security First Bank, county share social security, 269.72/employee share social security, 269.72/county share medicare, 63.08/employee share medicare, 63.08/ withholding, 235.90.

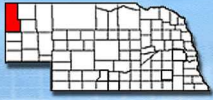
Michelle Zimmerman, County Clerk/Assessor submitted monthly reports and the Assessor's Three-Year Plan of Assessment. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to accept the plan. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to appoint Michelle Zimmerman budget making authority for the 2020-2021 budget. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes. Motion carried.

Lacy Klein, Sioux County Treasurer provided the board with financial reports for the road department.

Weed Superintendent Sanderson updated the board, regarding spraying of weeds. Sanderson discussed an agreement with the US Forest Service regarding spraying on Oglala National Grasslands. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to enter into the agreement. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff McCumbers submitted his monthly fee report and updated the board on recent activities. McCumbers advised the board that Deputy Taylor has resigned and an ad will be in the Crawford Clipper today to fill that position. Certification is not required, so it is possible to hire someone and send them to the academy at the county's expense. Lyle Staudenmaier will be working weekends as a part-time deputy. Five applications have been received for the shared position with the treasurer, and interviews will be held Monday and Tuesday. McCumbers advised the board of a quote on a new pickup. McCumbers offered to get three informal estimates on repairs of the courthouse roof, and to paint the old library that is now part of his office after the repairs are made.

Jenny Nixon discussed the summer interns working in the extension office this summer. Sioux County Fair activities are being finalized. Nixon advised that the recent guidelines are that a mask is not required if there is a distance of six feet between people, if not, a mask is required.



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The board reviewed a drought state of emergency. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to sign the declaration. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes. Motion carried.

The asbestos survey submitted by MCS will be reviewed by the board.

Road Superintendent Gary Thayer and Road Foreman/Asst. Superintendent Jim Phipps met with the board. A quote for crack sealing Monroe Canyon Road was reviewed. One bid was opened for armor coating Morrill Road. Motion by Geiser, seconded by Downer to accept the bid from Topkote for \$2.25 per square yard. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes. Motion carried. Phipps provided the board with quotes on mowers. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the purchase of a TRX15 mower for \$13,800 from Platte Valley Equipment in Wahoo. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes. Motion carried.

Stacey Swinney advised the board that canal bridge C058302820 is finished.

The board adjourned for lunch from 12:05 to 1:00.

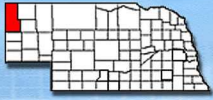
Mike Kesslering provided the board with an update on the Sioux County Travel and Tourism Board. The July 4 celebration at the Sioux County Courthouse was discussed.

Sioux County United Taxpayers and other concerned citizens met with the board regarding the estimated 25% increase to the sheriff/jail budget that Sheriff McCumbers submitted at the June commissioner meeting. Patrons asked the Sheriff specific questions as to the need of four full-time plus one part-time employees in the sheriff's office, stating there has to be a legitimate reason to expand our police department. Sheriff McCumbers told those in attendance that he has had 172 incidents so far this year, He believes that there will be an average of two incidents per day this calendar year. McCumbers said that he will replace the officer who resigned, and that he needs more help if he can get them. Questions regarding the nature of the calls, whether felonies or misdemeanors were asked. Sheriff McCumbers answered that most are petty vandalism, trespassing and theft, with some domestic and child abuse cases, with about half of the calls being prosecutable. One patron stated that you have a constituent base and the best form of communication to the public is the newspaper. Last year it was requested a call log be put in the paper, but he hasn't seen one yet. Sheriff McCumbers stated that he had contacted the paper, and she didn't follow up with him, so she didn't seem to want the call log. County Attorney Edmund added that patrolling on state highways is discretionary. Patrons asked if the sheriff had a split of how many calls were in the southern part of the county verses north. Sheriff McCumbers stated that most calls are on Highway 71, being traffic violations. The calls used to be weighted to the south end, but now is more like 50/50 or 60/40. Sheriff McCumbers stated that the State Patrol does not have the manpower to help out, so the sheriff's office does the investigating.

The taxpayers were concerned that with the state of the agricultural economy, and factors that are out of their control, such as drought, they don't feel that they can keep up with the increases to the budgets. Sheriff McCumbers said he feels that the proposed budget is what is required to maintain the department.

Commissioner Geiser advised the group that budgets will be reviewed on July 21.

Commissioner Geiser thanked those in attendance for showing up and expressing their concerns.



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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M. The Sioux County Board of Commissioners will meet August 3, 2020.

/s/Joshua Skavdahl  
Chairman of the Board

/s/Michelle J. Zimmerman  
Sioux County Clerk