

Sioux County Board of Commissioners

Harrison, Nebraska

May 1, 2023

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room May 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Commissioners J.W. Geiser and Josh Skavdahl. Also present was County Clerk Michelle Zimmerman. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Josh Skavdahl 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 April 3 and 18, 2023 meetings. On roll call vote Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. The board met with elected and appointed officials.

The Board approved the following claims: GENERAL FUND: PAYROLL, 47,448.15; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 254.74; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 158.10; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,625.95/employee share, 1,789.22; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 16,693.95; Bytes Computer Solutions, e-mail, IT services, computers, 11,114.75; Centurylink, internet, 477.06/phone, 235.93; Cobblestone Hotel, room, 285.00; Crawford Clipper, publications, 139.40; DAS State Accounting, data processing, 163.64; Eakes Office Solutions, supplies, 11.03; Federal Surplus Property; supplies, 300.00; Fire & Ice Mechanical, Inc. repairs, 711.62; First Concord Benefits Group, HR fees, 159.00/reimbursements, 14,216.76; AT & T Mobility, phones, 51.12; David Howell, mileage, 144.10; Robert Allen Jordan, dues, mileage, 520.25; Lotton's, fuel, repairs, 46.80; Marshall & Swift/Boeckh, handbook, 385.95; MASA Global, insurance, 125.00; Chad McCumbers, supplies, 66.45; MIPS, Inc., data processing, 2,322.52; MOCIC, supply, 100.00; NACO, workshop, 125.00; National Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers, dues, 50.00; NE Assn of County Treasurers, workshop, textbook, 415.00; NE Dept. of Labor, penalty, 173.29; NE Public Health Environmental Lab, testing, 52.50; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 1,233.57; NEA, electricity, 1,837.88; Jennifer Nixon, mileage, 34.06; JoElla Norman, mileage, 151.96; Quadient Finance, USA, Inc., postage, 500.00; Quill, supplies, 302.82; Radar Shop, supplies, 128.00; Irene Richey, yrs of service, 19.00; Pine Ridge Service, fuel, 570.08; Riverside Technologies, inc., computers, 6,564.00; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,686.33/employee share social security, 2,686.33/county share medicare 628.26/employee share medicare, 628.26/ withholding, 2,653.10; Sioux Co. Insurance Trust Fund, employee cafeteria plan, 458.33; Skavdahl, Edmund & Stecher, office rent, 200.00/clerical, 150.00/ phone, 21.35/subscription, 45.00/ postage, 5.05/ supplies, 44.09; Staples, supplies, 96.89; Rustin Starkey, custodial contract, 650.00; Transfer to Noxious Weed Fund, 10,000.00; Transfer to Road & Bridge Fund, 130,000.00; Transunion Risk & Alternative, services, 120.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 97.25; Uline, supplies, 332.36; UNL-Lincoln, computer, 2,627.75; USDA,APHIS, Wildlife Services, predator control, 8,370.46; Village of Harrison, utilities, 371.75; Windbreak Cable, fiber, 59.95; Michelle Zimmerman, mileage, room, 297.33.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: PAYROLL: 38,201.14; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 831.48; Ameritas Life Insurance, optical insurance, 189.22; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement,

2,159.22/employee share retirement, 1,439.45; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 14,328.58; Centurylink, internet, 83.07; Cornhusker, room, 98.00; Dooley Oil, fuel, 2,614.46; Federal Surplus Property, pickup, 13,700.00; Floyd's Truck Center, repairs, 87.81; Frank Parts, parts, 278.85; Herren's, repairs, 30.58; Inland Truck Parts, supplies, 1,105.59; Lotton's, repairs, fuel, service, 78.30; Manley Welding, repairs, 588.00; MASA Global, insurance, 87.50; Eric McCoy, mileage, meals, supplies, 1,189.90; Morrill Hardware, supplies, 4.99; Morrill Supply, supplies, 21.99; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 946.41; NE Dept. of Transportation, materials, 248.85; Nebraska Machinery, repairs, 87,466.08; NEA, electric, 283.72; Panhandle Coop System, repair, 2,196.56; James Phipps, fuel, fees, 320.39; Powerplan, repairs, 11,848.99; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, repairs, 8,795.09; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,139.38 /employee share social security, 2,139.38/county share medicare, 500.35/employee share medicare, 500.35/withholding, 1,915.36; Sioux County Treasurer, titles, 20.00; Skeeter's Napa, supplies, 148.68; TDS Environmental Services, garbage, 35.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 427.27; Village of Harrison, utilities, 97.15; Village of Morrill, electricity, 93.74.

ROD PRESERVATION & MODERNIZATION FUND: Bytes Computer Solutions, computer, 1,404.49.

LIBRARY FUND: PAYROLL: \$1,712.09; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 115.57/employee share retirement, 77.04, Books-A-Million, books, 629.61; Centurylink, phone/internet, 37.94; Crawford Clipper, publications, 8.16; Mid America Books, books, 177.60; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 77.62; NEA, electricity, 306.98; The Penworthy Co, supplies, 185.00; Quill, supplies, 193.65; Sarah Sanderson, books, program, 282.79; Security First Bank, county share social security, 106.15/employee share social security 106.15/county share medicare, 24.83/employee share medicare 24.83/withholding, 100.00; Village of Harrison, water, 57.50, Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95.

ARPA FUND: Sioux County Treasurer, reimbursement, 1,947.00; Zelle, human resources fee, 4,260.69.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND: PAYROLL: 3,497.93; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 33.10; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 236.11/employee share retirement, 157.41; Blue Cross Blue Shield, insurance, 2,365.37; Centurylink, internet, 83.08; Federal Surplus Property, supplies, 135.00; Herren's, supplies, 42.59; Holiday Inn, Kearney, room, 249.90; Lotton's Service & Repair, fuel, 32.50; MASA Global, insurance, 12.50; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 58.34; Nick Sanderson, mileage, meals, 121.65; Security First Bank, county share social security, 185.49/employee share social security, 185.49/county share medicare, 43.38/employee share medicare, 43.38/withholding, 175.00.

David Levy, Baird Holm, LLP and Matt Jones and Austin Paxson from Nextera Energy Resources met with the board with an informal update on the wind project. 65,000 acres have been leased, with an additional 10,000 to 15,000 more to go. Permitting and finalization of the plan will be ongoing for the next year or so. The plan is to have it operating by the end of 2025 with 100 to 106 towers. They are working on a road plan, and will coordinate that with Road Superintendent Phipps.

Michelle Zimmerman submitted monthly fee reports to the board. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation regarding courtroom upgrades was reviewed.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to sign the MOU. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on Blue Cross/Blue Shield rates raising by 3.98%.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve a contract with Contryman Associates for 2023, 2024 and 2025 audits. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Lacy Klein, County Treasurer submitted financial reports to the Board.

Nick Sanderson gave an update on spraying. A contractor will start on the White River spraying project next week. They will be working on the Niobrara River as well. Nick has requested funding to spray north of the ridge. Chairman Skavdahl signed an office evaluation for Sanderson.

Sheriff McCumbers submitted his fee report to the board. McCumbers reported that the Charger is broke down, so the Dodge Ram is still in service. He will sell the Charger on Purple Wave if it is not fixable. The new Tahoe is not here, but on its way. McCumbers has submitted a grant request for equipment for the Tahoe. New computers have been ordered. McCumbers is considering charging mileage for onsite VIN inspections. An auditor from the training center will be coming out to audit the office's training.

Allen Jordan VSO updated the board on training he has taken and projects he is working on. Jordan gave a legislative update and also discussed other items of interest.

Jenny Nixon met with the board to discuss how to go forward with the 4-H program, as far as staffing in the county following her retirement.

Road Superintendent Jim Phipps reported on research he has done on purchasing a drag for the county roads. Phipps would like to demo one. Jory Geiser asked about ranchers pulling it with the tractor the county leases to spray weeds. Attorney Edmund will look into the liability issue of that.

Charging an Occupancy Fee for companies using the county rights-of-way was discussed. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the Road ROW application submitted by Lumen. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Current road projects were discussed.

Micah Neill, Zelle reviewed updates to the personnel handbook. The handbook should be ready for final reading in the next week or two.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The Sioux County Board of Commissioners will meet June 1, 2023.

/s/Joshua Skavdahl
Chairman of the Board

/s/Michelle J. Zimmerman
Sioux County Clerk

