

Sioux County Board of Commissioners

Harrison, Nebraska

November 1, 2023

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room November 1, 2023 at 9:45 a.m. with the following present: Commissioners J.W. Geiser, Hal Downer and Josh Skavdahl. 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 Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 meeting. On roll call vote Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser 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, 48,638.76; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 254.74; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 169.90; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,952.80/employee share, 2,047.21; Beef State Agency, bond, 286.00; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 17,358.37; Laura Button, travel expense, 817.39; Bytes Computer Solutions, e-mail, IT services, 4,439.88; Centurylink, phone, 237.11; Crawford Clipper, publications, 429.64; DAS State Accounting, data processing, 516.00; Dawes County Extension Office, fuel, 101.30; Eakes Office Solutions, supplies, 249.77; J. Adam Edmund, travel expense, 741.50; Employers Mutual Casualty, life insurance, 361.00; First Concord Benefits Group, HR fees, 168.55/reimbursements, 3,060.99; AT & T Mobility, phones, 601.51; J.W. Geiser, mileage, 162.44; Holiday Inn – Kearney, room, 239.90; Robert Allen Jordan, travel expense, 1,398.13; Lotton’s Service, fuel, 94.50; Madison National Life ins., insurance, 227.08; MASA Global, insurance, 125.00; Chad McCumbers, supplies, travel, supplies, 1,723.11; MIPS, Inc., data processing, 1,963.90; Melissa Mracek, mileage, 181.68; NACO, registration, LB644 cards, 2,027.24; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 1,233.71; NEA, electricity, 441.25; Outlaw Printers, supplies, 180.55; Print Express, supplies, 326.33; Quill, supplies, 481.53; Region 23 Emergency Management, FY 2024, 20,375.00; Irene Richey, yrs of service, 19.00; Pine Ridge Service, fuel, 40.15; Robinson Electric, courtroom upgrade, 5,138.00; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,751.19/employee share social security, 2,751.19/county share medicare 643.42/employee share medicare 643.42/ withholding, 2,696.15; Sioux Co. Insurance Trust Fund, employee cafeteria plan, 458.33; Skavdahl, Edmund & Stecher, office rent, 200.00/clerical, 150.00/ phone, 22.39/supplies, 185.45/hotel, 943.08; Smith, King & Simmons, P.C. county court expense, 75.00; Rustin Starkey, custodial contract, 650.00; ARPA FUND, reimburse additional cost, 154.21; Transfer to Courthouse Building Fund, 8,467.11; ; Transfer to Library Fund, 10,000.00; Transfer to Noxious Weed Fund, 10,000.00; Transfer to Road & Bridge Fund, 30,000.00; Transunion Risk & Alternative, services, 120.00; UNL-Box Butte County, fuel, 184.32; USDA-APHIS, predator control contract, 10,771.17; Village of Harrison, utilities, 409.50; Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95; Zelle Human Resource Solutions, HR, 4,608.50; Michelle Zimmerman, mileage, meals, 656.29.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: PAYROLL: 41,713.24; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 831.48; Ameritas Life Insurance, optical insurance, 201.02; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,622.34/employee share retirement, 1,748.21; B&C Steel, supplies, 218.51; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 18,429.33; Cody Bruegger, welding, 4,200.00; Bytes, computer, 1,704.72; Centurylink, internet, 82.48; Crawford Clipper, ad, 42.10; Dooley Oil, fuel, 1,198.19; Herren's, repairs, 336.44; Hotshot Ag Transport, transportation, 1,651.00; Inland Truck Parts, parts, 163.74; Lotton's, repairs, 17.50; Madison National Life ins., life insurance, 247.40; MASA Global, insurance, 87.50; Morrill Supply, supplies, 39.17; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 1,023.84; Nebraska Machinery, repairs, 1,747.23; NEA, electricity, 79.13; ODP Business Solutions, supply, 110.99; Pomp's Tire & Retreading, repairs, 747.07; Powerplan, repairs, 17,978.18; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, 15,364.96; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,305.54 /employee share social security, 2,305.54/county share medicare, 539.20/employee share medicare, 539.20/withholding, 2,102.67; Skeeter's Napa, parts, 815.07; TDS Environmental Services, garbage, 35.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 718.28; Valley Merchantile, supplies, 118.15; Village of Harrison, utilities, 108.90; Village of Morrill, electricity, 89.62, WPCI, employee drug testing, 468.00.

VISITOR PROMOTIONS FUND: Crawford Clipper, tourism, 3.74.

VISITOR IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUND: Dawes County Travel Board, tourism, 300.00.

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION AND MODERNIZATION FUND: MIPS, data processing, 414.54.

LIBRARY FUND: PAYROLL: \$1,657.56; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 111.89/employee share retirement, 74.59, Books-A-Million, books, 780.72; Centurylink, phone/internet, 88.52; Herren's supplies, 4.99; Junior Library Guild, supplies, 360.00; Mid America Books, books, 137.70; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 76.44; NEA, electricity, 85.40; Quill, supplies, 315.37; Security First Bank, county share social security, 102.77/employee share social security 102.77/county share medicare, 24.03/employee share medicare 24.03/withholding, 100.00; T&T Craig Builders, repairs, 4,487.50; Village of Harrison, water, 93.25; Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95.

INHERITANCE FUND: Transfer to General Fund, 100,000.00.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND: Randal Weber Custom Woodworking, window project, 22,462.50.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND: PAYROLL: 4,295.43; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 33.10; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 289.94/employee share retirement, 193.30; Blue Cross Blue Shield, insurance, 2,459.51; Centurylink, internet, 82.49; Herren's, supplies, 250.30; Lotton's Service & Repair, fuel, 885.50; MASA Global, insurance, 12.50; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 65.97; OP Business Solutions, supplies, 110.99; Nick Sanderson, mileage/meals, 659.07; Noel Santistevan, trailer rent, 50.00; Security First Bank, county share social security, 233.77/employee share social security, 233.77/county share medicare, 54.67/employee share medicare, 54.67/ withholding, 175.00.

Don Brush, County Surveyor met with the board regarding surveying corners for the wind farm project. Brush requested board guidance on how to handle payment for his services, since he is an elected official. County Attorney Edmund stated that since Brush does not receive a salary from Sioux County, he can receive payment for his work directly.

Jon Cannon, NACO Executive Director met with the board to give an update on past and future NACO activities, and to advise the board on resources available to the county through NACO. Cannon said that Josh Skavdahl, as the representative on the National Association of County Officials is working to have Nebraska become part of the WIR – Western Interstate Region. The NACO Board has prioritized issues that will be addressed at the next legislative session, Cannon highlighted several of those issues.

Michelle Zimmerman submitted monthly fee reports to the board. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the audit submitted by Contryman Associates, P.C. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Lacy Klein, County Treasurer submitted financial reports to the Board. The distress warrant list has been turned over to the sheriff.

Nick Sanderson updated the board on spraying being done currently.

Sheriff McCumbers gave an update of recent activities.

Ashley Ahrens updated the board on upcoming extension office programs.

Spike Jordan reported on VSO activities. Jordan has received a security clearance to look up veterans records, making him able to find things that might have been overlooked by the VA. Upcoming legislation was presented. Jon Cannon noted that Spike did a very good job of presenting at the NACO legislative conference.

David Levy, Baird Holm, LLP, Austin Paxson and Eric Wood from NextEra Energy Resources, LLC discussed the wind energy project. The original project was 300 megawatts, with 100 megawatts contracted so far. They will begin the permitting process for the first 100 megawatt project, consisting of 35 to 40 towers. NextEra is working with landowners, locating where the sites will be.

Road Superintendent Jim Phipps met with the board on current road projects. The paint stripers are currently striping Monroe Canyon Road.

Caitlin Schaefer submitted an application for permission to bury a water pipeline in the Hat Creek Road right-of-way. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the request and authorize Chairman Skavdahl to sign the application. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

A request from Sheila DeVries to install a sign in the county right of way was reviewed. More information will be requested.

Discussion was held on closing a portion of Indian Creek Road. A resolution will be presented at the December county board meeting.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to sign Resolution 2023-4, Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes, Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Kerri Rempp, Director of Discover Northwest Nebraska met with the board to request approval of the Sioux County Travel Board bylaws. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the bylaws. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. Rempp also questioned how the budget was approved.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:25p.m. The Sioux County Board of Commissioners will meet December 1, 2023.

/s/Josh Skavdahl
Chairman of the Board

/s/Michelle J. Zimmerman
Sioux County Clerk