

THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDING
January 29, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Thurston County, Nebraska was held at the regular meeting place of the board room in Thurston County, Nebraska Courthouse in Pender, Nebraska on January 29, 2024. Present were Glen Meyer, Georgia Mayberry, Mark English, Jim Mueller, James Price, Davin French, and Arnie Harlan. Also, present were Patty Bessmer County Clerk, County Attorney Tammy Maul Bodlak, Emergency Manager Tom Perez, Road Supervisor Mat Frazey, Road Superintendent Dan Alexander, Treasure Robin Christiansen, County Extension Staff Jennifer Hansen, Sydney Williams, Bobbie Hingst, Applied Connective Representatives Brandon Petersen, Erich Henn, and Will Zoucha. Notice of the meeting was given to all members of the Board of Supervisors and a copy of their acknowledgement of notice and receipt of notice of the agenda is attached hereto. The availability of the agenda was communicated in advance and in the notice to the Board of Supervisors of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Glen Meyer at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Meyer stated that the open meeting laws will be followed during this meeting and are posted in the back of the board room for anyone that would like to review them.

Pledge Allegiance was recited.

Motioned by English seconded by French to approve the minutes of January 16, 2024, meeting. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Price, French, Meyer. Abstain: Mueller and Harlan. Motion carried.

Balance fund was reviewed.

Unfinished Business: None

Committee reports: Glen Meyer reported he had attended the Region IV Mental Health meeting last week. Glen received a packet indicating all the emergency protective custody, they provide this on a month-to-month basis. Everything is broken out on a county basis in the reports. Thurston County investment is around \$20,000.00, this is a prorated basis from the state formula based on population. Last year our return was about \$94,000.00 for our investments based on services rendered to our county. This is a very worthwhile committee and is doing a lot of good for our county and the others in this district. They deal with primarily drug addiction, drug interdiction and mental health issues.

Public Comments: None

Mark Heckenliable gave his report on his annual plan for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Mark had informed the board that he was using the new software, he had converted the old software over and it was fairly complicated, and he is still working on figuring it out. James Price had talked to him about some concerns with hemlock in Winnebago area. Mark had informed him that it was not considered a noxious weed for the state, so he is not able to do anything legally with that. James Price had asked Mark to get him some information on what to use on this type of weed and what product would work best to use on this weed.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Price to approve Chairman Glen Meyer's signature on the Noxious Weed Control Plan to the State for 2024. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Price, French, Meyer. Abstain: Mueller and Harlan. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Mueller to approve Resolution #24-07 to transfer \$5,000.00 from the General Fund to the Building Fund. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Price, French, Meyer. Abstain: Mueller and Harlan. Motion carried. [See Resolution Book page 519.](#)

Jennifer Hansen Extension Coordinator presented her programming and financial summaries for 2023. Jennifer reports included her budget expenditures her current fiscal year budget and the County impact report. She also introduced her new staff member Bobbie Hingst, and a summary of what each educator and assistant job entails.

Emergency Manager Tom Perez reported that he has been busy the past couple of weeks with the weather. Paperwork has been started; however the state has not decided if it will be declared a disaster. Tom stated he had spent a lot of time on the phone back and forth with NDOT, Mat Frazey and area

Emergency Managers. Tom said that all costs of this storm are being tracked for the possibility of a declaration of some sort.

Eric Henn, Will Zoucha, and Brandon Petersen with Applied Connective were here to talk about a new phone system and the internet services to offer solutions to fix some of the issues that have occurred in the offices in the courthouse. Not only can they solve the problems, but it would also save the county a substantial amount of money by switching from Lumen. Eric explained each of the cost and the breakdown of all items that were in his proposal.

Brandon Petersen with Applied Connective, account manager for Thurston County spoke on all the issues they had working with Lumen when they began their process of getting cybersecurity and new emails up and running. The main issue was the cloud hosted firewall with the ADTRAN router was at end of life. Lumen was very difficult to work with, they worked with several people on this for several months. Applied Connective finally put their firewall in behind Lumen's so they could at least get the County some cybersecurity protection. The end goal would be to do a fresh start with Lumen and get them to put an internet circuit in here so Applied Connective can have a static IP address. Patty Bessmer Clerk will see when the Lumen contract ends.

Robin Christiansen spoke on the issues that her office has had with the phones.

Road Supervisor Mat Frazey the roads department has been busy moving snow and breakdowns. When the weather is as cold as it was it causes more hoses to break, hydraulic leaks, breakdowns and just maintenance on the equipment. The guys all worked good together on this storm and put in a lot of extra hours. They are still moving snow and winging back some roads.

Dan Alexander Road Superintendent handed out the FC bridge inspections. These will need to be filed with the roads department. The only thing found in the inspections was on G Ave. This was closed due to its condition. Dan had met with NDOT about a month ago on the bridge East of Pender on Hwy 94 as they are looking at replacing the bridge trust. Update on CBMP for 2023 that the state rather than taking RFP's and applying for the funds are in a transition with legislature, they are going to decide how much they're going to put back into that fund and how they will distribute it in the future. The State just took the year prior application, and we did not receive anything there. That is how it was done this year. Dan informed the Board that the one-and-six-year plan will be done in February.

Correspondence: There was some information on the Consumption tax that is being proposed. This was just for information only.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by English to approve claims with the charge of taxes to be removed on the John Deere claim and Fastwayre. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Price, French, Meyer. Abstain: Mueller and Harlan. Motion carried.

Motioned by French seconded by Mayberry to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Price, French, Meyer. Abstain: Mueller and Harlan. Motion carried.

Attest _____
Patty Bessmer County Clerk

Chairman Glen Meyer