

THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDING
May 5th, 2025

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 May 5th, 2025. Present were Davin French, Georgia Mayberry, Mark English, Jim Mueller, James Price, Robb Roeber. And Ben Walker. Also, present Patty Bessmer County Clerk, Emergency Manager Tom Perez, County Attorney Tammy Maul Bodlak, Sheriff Russ Briggs, Dan Duran Representative Benefit Management, Mike Boden and Luke Bonkiewicz NACO Representatives and Matt May. Notice of the meeting was given to all members of the Board of Supervisors and a copy of their acknowledgement of their notice and receipt of the notice on 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 shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Mueller to approve the minutes of April 21st, 2025. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, and French. Motion carried.

Fund Balance was discussed.

Unfinished business: None

Public comments: Luke Bonkiewicz from NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) gave the board an update on what they have been working on with Legislation to advocate for County Officials. Their job is to educate and empower the senators to make informed decisions. NACO is currently working on a salary study for Elected officials. Last year they did the employees' salary study. NACO is a nonprofit organization that serves to represent the interests of all elected and appointed officials in the state.

Committee reports: Mayberry reported she had attended the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department meeting by zoom. They reported that all grants are on hold with the programs due to the process being halted by the President. They had to lay off one full-time and one part-time person and they had to cut hours on two part-time employees. The governor asked them to reduce their budget by four and half million dollars. This is not definite, I will know more at the next meeting. They will be moving into the new building on 7/29/2025. The new building will have so much more space available.

Dan Duran with Benefit Management appeared before the board to ask for the opportunity to give a second opinion, second bid on employee benefits for the upcoming year. Dan asked for permission to get the information from the Clerks' office so that they can put together some possible insurance benefits for the county employees.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Roeber to approve County Clerk Patty Bessmer fee report for April 2025 in the amount of \$20,692.75. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, and French. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Mueller to approve District Court Clerk Gina Roth fee report in the amount of \$277.59. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, and French. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Roeber to approve Sheriff Russ Briggs signature on the ECC contract for the new security System for the jail. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, and French. Motion carried.

James Price informed the board that the Winnebago Tribe is just in the planning stage on D Ave and passing the information on to the county.

Tom Perez Emergency Manager has been working with the Pender Hospital getting programs together for the new Emergency Manager. After the last LAPC meeting the Winnebago Hospital has been asking him to get some stuff for them, this has taken a lot of his time. Tom has also heard from some tower companies about AT&T and Verizon, as there has been a lot of flood plan stuff with the towers, that has come up. Tom stated that the grants and everything else is still vulnerable. We can submit as much paper work as we want but until the release of the funding is done it will not be administered.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Roeber to approve claims as presented. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, and French. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Walker to adjourn at 9:29 a.m. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, and French. Motion carried.

Patty Bessmer County Clerk

Davin French Chairman