Chase County Commissioners

September 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order at 8:00am on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 in the meeting room of the Chase County Courthouse by Chairman Jacci Brown. Also in attendance were commissioners Kurt Bernhardt and Billie Muehlenkamp and county clerk Wendy Moe. The meeting was advertised in the Imperial Republican and the agenda was posted to the county website the day before the meeting. Agenda and open meetings act were posted.

Highway/Road Superintendent Dick DeWester was present to visit with commissioners about current needs and projects in the road department. This included anticipated potato truck traffic on Road 744 and the Spring Creek Bridge project on 347 Avenue. Joe Johnston also joined the meeting to discuss plans for maintenance on road 744. Dick also discussed fuel needs; commissioners directed him to seek bids for fuel. Road Secretary Jeni Lotspeich joined the meeting to explain the fuel audit process and necessary changes that will be implemented to better track fuel use for audit purposes.

Duane Dreiling joined the meeting for open forum to report on Emergency Management updates concerning siren covers and the generator.

Claims were reviewed. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve claims as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| PE=payroll exp, TE=travel exp, SU=supply, | |  |
| SE=service, CC=court cost, RP=repairs, |  |  |
| PT=parts, L=labor, UT=utility, AP=Appt. Counsel, | |  |
| PS=Prior Service EQ=Equipment JD=Juv Div | |  |
| AFFILIATED BENEFITS CONSULTANTS INC | SE | 50.00 |
| AFLAC | PE | 361.09 |
| AFLAC (AFTER TAX) | PE | 17.74 |
| AMERITAS LIFE INS. | PE | 38.45 |
| AMERITAS LIFE INS. | PE | 11232.12 |
| APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECH | SE | 3124.80 |
| AT & T MOBILITY (FIRSTNET) | SE | 614.64 |
| BLACK HILLS ENERGY | UT | 43.45 |
| BCBS OF NE | PE | 25537.23 |
| BOMGAARS | SU | 812.80 |
| BWTELCOM | UT | 145.06 |
| CARTER, KARON DENISE | SE | 1120.00 |
| CHARM-TEX, INC. | SU | 313.50 |
| CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA | PE | 133.32 |
| CHASE CO CDC | CC | 72.00 |
| CCCH | SE | 1153.00 |
| CHASE CO COURT | CC | 286.00 |
| COCHRAN, MELISSA | TE | 195.19 |
| COLONIAL LIFE | PE | 66.82 |
| COMFORT INN-KEARNEY | TE | 239.90 |
| DAS STATE ACCTG | SE | 448.00 |
| DEVENY MOTORS LLC | SE | 59.36 |
| DICKINSON LAND SURVEYORS | SE | 310.00 |
| EAKES, INC | SU | 392.65 |
| EFTPS | PE | 21262.09 |
| ESRI | SE | 765.00 |
| FRENCHMAN AUTO | SE | 304.50 |
| GREAT PLAINS COMM INC | UT | 1170.66 |
| GROTZKY, R. LEIGH | TE | 49.78 |
| HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOC | UT | 215.10 |
| HILLS FAMILY FOODS | SU | 52.26 |
| HOMETOWN LEASING | SE | 174.10 |
| IMPERIAL COUNTRY FORD | SU | 39768.08 |
| IMPERIAL, CITY OF | UT | 2543.87 |
| JAEGER, JANICE E | SE | 1916.00 |
| LINCOLN CO DETENTION CENTER | SE | 2090.00 |
| MCNAIR AGENCY, INC | SE | 40.00 |
| MIPS,INC. | SE | 1411.35 |
| MOE, WENDY | TE | 62.35 |
| MUELLER, KEVIN | SU | 423.83 |
| NACO (REGS.) | SE | 150.00 |
| NE CHILD SUPPORT PMT CNTR | PE | 320.00 |
| NE STATE INCOME TAX | PE | 3213.11 |
| NE NEB JUVENILE SVCS INC | SE | 2668.75 |
| OFFICE SERVICE INC | SU | 221.18 |
| OPTUM FINANCIAL | SE | 6.50 |
| OWENS TRUE VALUE INC | SU | 3.85 |
| PRAIRIE PLAINS CASA | SE | 4500.00 |
| PRAIRIE STATES COMM | SU | 31.50 |
| RAVE MOBILE SAFETY | SE | 3825.00 |
| RED WILLOW CO TREAS | CC | 1145.75 |
| REGION II HUMAN SRVCS | SE | 4128.41 |
| SCOTTIES POTTIES | SE | 320.00 |
| STROMBERGER, SHEILA | SE | 186.00 |
| US BANK | SE | 1094.85 |
| WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC | FUEL | 300.98 |
| WESTFIELD PHARMACY | SU | 58.78 |
| WILCOX RYAN R. | AP | 3660.00 |
| YCG, INC | SU | 4321.00 |
| Net Payroll | | 56932.20 |
| **General Fund Total** | | **206103.95** |
| ADAMS LUMBER | SU | 27.48 |
| ADVANCED AUTO | PT/L | 1980.23 |
| AFLAC | PE | 110.16 |
| AJK SERVICES, LLC | SE | 2141.46 |
| AMERITAS LIFE INS. | PE | 5.95 |
| AMERITAS LIFE INS. | PE | 1355.20 |
| B T QUALITY MACHINE | SU | 18.88 |
| BLACK HILLS ENERGY | UT | 38.99 |
| BOMGAARS | SU | 504.60 |
| BWTELCOM | UT | 97.25 |
| CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA | PE | 40.00 |
| EFTPS | PE | 4813.36 |
| EQUIPMENT BLADES INC | SU | 154.79 |
| FRENCHMAN AUTO | PT/L | 109.75 |
| GB AUTO SERVICE INC. | PT/L | 243.58 |
| GREAT PLAINS COMM. | UT | 220.53 |
| HANDY HITCH MFG. INC. | SU | 243.94 |
| HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOC | UT | 99.18 |
| HUSKER STEEL | SU | 40094.00 |
| IMPERIAL CARQUEST | SU | 6.05 |
| IMPERIAL COUNTRY FORD | PT/L | 1283.14 |
| IMPERIAL NAPA | SU | 508.42 |
| IMPERIAL YOST FARM SUPPLY | SU | 44.98 |
| IMPERIAL, CITY OF | UT | 293.86 |
| LAMAR DIESEL & IRRIGATION, LLC | SU | 21.00 |
| LILLEY, BRENDAN C. | SE | 2250.00 |
| MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC. | SE | 35.00 |
| NE CHILD SUPPORT PMT CNTR | PE | 225.00 |
| NE STATE INCOME TAX | PE | 1310.05 |
| NMC | PT/L | 9873.39 |
| OWENS TRUE VALUE INC | SU | 22.97 |
| PETTY CASH-CHASE CO.TRANSIT/ROAD | SU | 13.24 |
| PRAIRIE STATES COMM | RP | 74.25 |
| SAPP BROS | FUEL | 5509.26 |
| SOUTH PLATTE EXCAVATING, LLC | SE/L | 39630.00 |
| TITAN MACHINERY-IMPERIAL | SU | 7.99 |
| WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC | FUEL | 2215.12 |
| WAUNETA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES | UT | 112.09 |
| 21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT, LLC | SU | 86.99 |
| Net Payroll | | 23265.72 |
| **Road Fund Total** | | **139087.85** |
| SPORER LAND DEVELOPMENT, INC | SU | 2272.40 |
| **Hwy Buyback Fund Total** | | **2272.40** |
| MIPS,INC. | SE | 135.20 |
| **P&M Fund Total** | | **135.20** |
| YCG, INC | SU | 3359.00 |
| **STOP Program Fund Total** | | **3359.00** |
| BWTELCOM | UT | 278.90 |
| CENTURY LINK | SE | 1061.12 |
| **E911 Fund Total** | | **1340.02** |
| AT & T MOBILITY (FIRSTNET) | UT | 591.71 |
| BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC | SE | 2132.10 |
| BWTELCOM | UT | 52.02 |
| GREAT PLAINS COMM | UT | 319.87 |
| STRYKER SALES CORPORATION | SE/SU | 2422.50 |
| US BANK | SE | 138.10 |
| WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC | FUEL | 88.02 |
| **Ambulance Fund Total** | | **5744.32** |
| **Grand Total All Funds** | | **358042.74** |

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to approve minutes from the August 22, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Leanne Klein joined the meeting on behalf of Wauneta EMS for signing of the purchase order for Stair Chairs. Leanne presented a purchase order for two Stair Chairs from Stryker for a total price of $30,960.29. The original agreement for the ambulance purchase stated that each EMS service would use $35,000 of their $49,999 equipment grant towards the Stryker Cot in each ambulance then have the remaining $14,999 to use as they chose. With the early purchase of the cot approved at the last meeting and the savings of approximately $13,000 on the overall price, Wauneta EMS is requesting that the board let the $13,000 savings be used toward a second Stair Chair. Commissioner Brown moved to approve purchase of a second stair chair for Wauneta EMS using the savings of $13,000 from the early cot purchase plus funds raised by Wauneta EMS to go toward the remaining balance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. Chairman Brown to sign purchase order.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to ratify the signing of the Imperial EMS purchase orders for Stryker Power Load Cot in the amount of $60,265.26 and Stair Chair in the amount of $15,511.60. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp gathered informal bids for a new mower for the Wauneta shop. Bids were requested from four separate entities, only two provided bids as sought. The first was from 21st Century for a 2022 John Deere FC15R Flex Wing Rotary Cutter for $30,667.30; the second was from Yost Farm Supply for a Land Pride RC2525 Rotary Mower for $16,436.00. Commissioner Brown moved to accept the bid from Yost Farm Supply for the Land Pride RC2515 Rotary Mower for $16,436. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Surplus property requests submitted from County Court were reviewed. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to transfer five wooden antique barrel chairs from the County Court inventory to the Building & Grounds inventory. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to surplus one grey Globe Office Chair and one Basyx by Hon midback chair from County Court to be disposed of in the trash. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Jeff Olsen joined the meeting for budget review with the Board. Tax asking is down slightly from last year. Commissioners set the final Budget Hearing for Tuesday, September 19 at 8:00am.

Discussion of road employee wages commenced, Commissioners would like to increase starting base pay to $19 per hour, $20 per hour for new hires with a CDL and set the cap for road employees at $27/hour. Clerk to prepare resolution to be signed at next board meeting to reflect these changes.

Commissioner Brown moved to give $1.00 raises to all current road employees with an additional $1.00 raise for those who hold a CDL. Raises are to go into effect for the second September payroll. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes.

Assessor Tori Mueller joined the meeting for unfinished business item of Assessor’s Imagery Obliques. Commissioners reviewed original bids submitted from Eagle View and Sanborn. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to accept the bid from Eagle View Oblique Imagery for $28,678.34 annually for three years. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to reappoint Tracy Space and Scott Way to the Chase County Fair Board, each for a three-year term to expire at the end of 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioners reviewed estimates submitted from The Home Décor for new carpeting in the Treasurer and Clerk’s offices. $3,982.39 for the Treasurer’s office, $4,843.78 for the Clerk’s office. Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to approve the estimates and allow Treasurer and Clerk to proceed in having new carpet installed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution #2023-15 approving preliminary levy requests for subdivisions. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2023 - 15**

**WHEREAS:** Nebraska Revised Statute 77-3442 authorizes Chase County a maximum tax rate of fifty cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the tax rate and allows Chase County to allocate up to fifteen cents of its authority to other political subdivisions subject to allocation of property tax authority by Chase County; and

**WHEREAS:** Nebraska Revised Statute 77-3443 requires the Chase County Board of Commissioners to review and approve or disapprove the tax request of all political subdivisions subject to allocation of property tax authority by Chase County; and

**WHEREAS:** The Chase County Historical Society, Imperial Rural Fire District, Wauneta Rural Fire District, Green Lawn Cemetery, Lamar, Chase Cemetery, and Crete – Pleasant View Cemetery are all political subdivisions subject to tax rate set by the Chase County Board of Commissioners.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT**

1. The following allocation of real and personal property tax for fiscal year 2023-2024 is made to political subdivisions as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chase County Historical Society | $                                 7,000.00 |
| Imperial Rural Fire - General | $                               86,046.00 |
| Imperial Rural Fire – Bond | $                               42,525.00 |
| Wauneta Rural Fire – General | $                               30,280.00 |
| Wauneta Rural Fire – Sinking Fund | $                               30,280.00 |
| Pleasant View Crete Cemetery | $                                 1,600.00 |
| Lamar Green Lawn Cemetery | $                                 1,200.00 |
| Chase Cemetery | $                                       0 |
|  | **$                                       198,931.00** |

2. No allocation may be changed except by agreement between both the Chase County Board of Commissioners and governing body of the political subdivision whose final tax allocation is listed above.

**Dated** this 12th day of September 2023.

**Chase County Commissioners**

/s/Billie Muehlenkamp

/s/Jacci Brown

/s/Kurt Bernhardt

ATTEST: /s/Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the estimate from S&S Lock & Key in the amount of $632.02 to install a keyless entry lock on the north door at the extension building. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Road secretary Jeni Lotspeich joined the meeting to provide more information about outsourcing the county ambulance billing. She found that Medical Billers & Coders has a third party that handles all collections so they were unable to give an accurate price for collections as that is figured on a volume basis. The cost for regular billing will be 6.5% and the contract can be terminated with 30 days’ notice. Commissioner Brown moved to outsource the county’s ambulance billing to Medical Billers & Coders. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:40am.

**CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1

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Jacci L. Brown – Commissioner District #2

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Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk