

Chase County Commissioners
February 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Jacci Brown at 8:00am on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 in the meeting room at the Chase County Courthouse. Also present were Commissioners Billie Muehlenkamp and Kurt Bernhardt, Emergency Manager Duane Dreiling, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dick DeWester, Road Secretary Jeni Lotspeich and County Clerk Wendy Moe. Meeting had been advertised in the Imperial Republican and on the county website. The open meetings act and agenda were posted.

Mike and Marcy Nesbitt were present for Open Forum to request that the Board consider abandoning the alleyway/cul-de-sac east of their property. Nesbitt's first went to the City Planning Commission where they were told to come to the County Commissioners as county owned Fairgrounds property also abuts the alley in question. Commissioners will determine if a survey is needed and what the next steps are to proceed with this issue. Board instructed Clerk to put this item on the next Commissioner Meeting Agenda. Nesbitt's left the meeting.

BT and Eric Gonzales joined the meeting on behalf of the Veteran's Memorial Committee for the agenda item of Kiosk Covering. BT and Eric presented the Board with photos of a proposed covering for the new Kiosk. Covering will be a 10x10 foot square with 16" brick columns to match the memorial wall and a metal roof. The kiosk will face east. Commissioners were okay with the proposed kiosk covering as presented and instructed Veteran's Memorial Committee to proceed with the project.

Debbie Kuenning joined the meeting to inform the Board that the Extension Board will be preparing to hire for the position of Office Manager and to ask if one of the Commissioners would like to sit in on interviews as a liaison. Board agreed that it would be beneficial for someone to sit in on the interviews, Debbie will contact Board when ready to begin interview process.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Dick DeWester was present to discuss road issues and the agenda item of Grader Attachment Bids. Commissioner Bernhardt gathered informal bids for a Retriever Attachment. He was only able to get one bid as this is a specialty item and only made by one manufacturer. The bid received was from Murphy Tractor with a quote from LyCox Enterprises, Inc for a Retriever w/Grader front mount (Quick Attach) FMR For Falls, Balderson, Cat Style Front para-lift for \$21,140.00 including freight with an option for Scraper System \$1100.00 and Stucchi Hydraulic Kit for \$1000.00. Commissioner Brown moved to purchase the retriever per the bid from Murphy Tractor for \$21,140 with the optional Scraper System for \$1100 and Hydraulic Kit for \$1000 for a total of \$23,240.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Dick also requested that the board clarify how hours are paid when road employees work on a paid Holiday; is it paid as double time, time and a half or straight time? Jacci said that would be something for the handbook committee to look into.

Agenda item of Controlled Burn Road Closure was discussed. Notice of the planned controlled burn will be posted on the County Facebook page and then road closure signs will be put up by the County Road Department during the burn.

Jeni Lotspeich presented Keno License renewal for Commissioners review. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the signing of the renewal of the county's Keno License. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Duane Dreiling was present for the 9:00am opening of Generator bids. No bids were received. Duane has been in contact with a company out of South Dakota who would like to make an on-site visit and then prepare a bid.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

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

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

AFLAC	PE	458.03
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	41.50
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	9021.32
APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECH	SE	284.66

BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	814.85
BCBS OF NE	PE	24452.06
CARTER, KARON DENISE	SE	720.00
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	155.26
CHASE CO FAIR & EXPO	SE	500.00
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	264.83
DAS STATE ACCTG	SE	202.75
DEBUSK, HALLEY	SE	45.32
EAKES, INC	SU	20.12
EFTPS	PE	15375.34
ESKEW, BILLY	SE	137.34
HOME DECOR/THE	SE	1749.00
IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN	SE	149.40
MIPS,INC.	SU	41.25
NACO (REGS.)	SE	75.00
NACREC	DUES	50.00
NE CHILD SUPP PMT CTR	PE	320.00
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	2008.98
NE WEED CONTROL ASSO	DUES	150.00
S & S LOCK AND KEY	SE	72.00
SCHOENHOLZ, HEATHER (LPN)	SE	45.32
SECURITY CAMERA WAREHOUSE	SU	900.00
SWPPD	UT	267.30
US BANK CORP PMT	SU	388.23

Net Payroll 45085.69

General Fund Total 103795.55

ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE PARTS	SU	35.47
AFLAC	PE	274.26
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	5.95
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	1192.41
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	1592.95
BCBS OF NE	PE	250.01
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	40.00
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	60.02
CREDIT MANAGEMENT	PE	269.25
EFTPS	PE	3605.39
FANNING FARM REPAIR	PT/L	369.30
MITTEN INC.	SU	22557.48
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	934.82
SAPP BRO PETROLEUM INC	SU	2316.10

Net Payroll 20565.32

Road Fund Total 54068.73

HICKMAN, NORMA J.	SE	300.00
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Tourism Fund Total 300.00

AIRGAS USA, LLC	SU	1216.56
ARELLANO, ELIZABETH	SE	119.20
ARELLANO, JASON M	SE	56.00
BITTNER,WILLIAM	SE	113.40
BROWNING, EMILY,E	SE	77.40
CASTILLO-ARVIZO, RAQUEL	SE	104.00
EMERGENCY MEDICAL PRODUCTS INC	SU	538.43
GREENE, AARON PATRIC	SE	31.80
GREENE, TIMMIE D.	SE	465.20
HAYES, DEBRA	SE	113.80
HAYES, SABRINA	SE	82.10
HIYKEL, FAY D.	SE	14.20

HUBL, BROOKE	SE	23.00
HUNT, GARY K.	SE	232.20
JAEGER, SHAWN	SE	583.20
KELLEY, MARCIE	SE	480.60
KLEIN, TYLER	SE	113.40
KLENTZ, MELISA K.	SE	7.20
KUNTZELMAN, ELDON	SE	498.50
LOEFFLER, CRAIG A.	SE	71.90
LOEFFLER, DESIREE	SE	74.40
MARIS, JAYDEN	SE	11.20
MILLER, JOHN W.	SE	28.40
MILLER, ROXANE K.	SE	83.20
MUTHS, JOLENE D.	SE	289.60
OSTMEYER, CHAD	SE	27.00
PRYOR, ALLISON A.	SE	39.60
RICHARDSON, RANAE	SE	468.00
US BANK CORP PMT	SU	85.15
ZOLL	SU	621.00
Ambulance Fund Total		6669.64
Grand Total All Claims		164833.92

Zoning administrator Jeni Lotspeich presented proposed Permit Fee increase from \$25 to \$100 as approved by the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioners feel this fee increase is unnecessary as they do not wish to discourage permit issuance and building. Board asked that Jeni begin submitting a monthly report to them of building permits issued. Board also determined that they would like to have a commissioner serve as liaison to Planning & Zoning Board. Commissioner Muehlenkamp will begin attending Planning & Zoning meetings.

Planning & Zoning Board set rates for copies of the County Zoning Publication as follows: \$25 for Digital copy, \$50 for In County residents, \$75 for Out of County residents. Commissioner Brown moved to approve rates for County Zoning Publication copies. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to surplus a 4-drawer file cabinet to be transferred from the Clerk's office to the Road office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to surplus two metal trashcans from the Clerk's office to be disposed of in the trash. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to surplus two old computer monitors from the Clerk's office to be disposed of in the trash. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to surplus a non-working Dell Precision computer from the Treasurer's office to be disposed of in the trash after the hard drive is cleared. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to surplus a black metal 6-shelf unit from the Clerk's office to be transferred to the Assessor's office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

At 9:00 am Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing to hear testimony concerning the opening of 400' of 335 Avenue. Greg Dannatt joined the meeting for the hearing. Chairman Brown closed the public hearing at 9:40am due to nobody being present to provide opposition for the opening of 400' of 335 Avenue.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to open 400' of 335 Avenue north from the Claney Trust property to the southern edge of Greg Dannatt's property. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Page Johnston, Evelyn Skelton and Rick Einspahr joined the meeting for the agenda item of the Village of Wauneta Police Service Contract. Page indicated that the rate increase was a hefty jump and said the Village has reservations about the coverage they are getting; they would like to see more visibility of law enforcement during daytime hours. Sheriff Mueller responded by saying that the contracted 80 hours of coverage isn't much and he was opposed to the low number when the

agreement was made six years ago. He stated that most of the Sheriff's patrol presence occurs during the evening and overnight hours. Rick inquired as to whether or not it would be possible to have Sheriff's patrol presence during daytime hours at least one to two days a week. Page noted concerns about school zone traffic and also requested that the Sheriff or a Deputy attend Village Board meetings at least quarterly. Sheriff Mueller responded indicating that when they do patrol the school zones during high traffic hours the problems generally correct themselves and the issue becomes nonexistent for a while. Sheriff Mueller believed that one of his Deputies had been attending Village Board meetings, he recently learned that was incorrect and has since reached out to his guys to make sure someone will be attending those meetings more regularly.

While the Village Board is not opposed to the rate increase and they do understand the need for it; Page and Rick said they will further discuss what they would like to see changed or updated before they enter into an updated agreement with the County for law enforcement services. They will discuss matters with their Board and then be in touch with the County.

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:15am.

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1



Jacci L. Brown – Commissioner District #2



Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST: 
Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk