

Chase County Commissioners
January 14, 2025

The organizational meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order by County Clerk Wendy Moe at 8:00am on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the commissioner meeting room of the Chase County Courthouse. Also, present were Commissioners Billie Muehlenkamp, Jacci Brown and Kurt Bernhardt, and Road Secretary Jordan Beard. The open meetings act, and agenda were posted. The meeting had been advertised in the Imperial Republican and on the County Website.

Clerk called for nominations for Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Bernhardt nominated Commissioner Brown as chairman for 2025. Nomination seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Clerk called for additional nominations; none were made. Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved that nominations cease. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Rollcall vote to name Commissioner Brown as Chairman of the Board for 2025; Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – abstain; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. Commissioner Brown to serve as Chair for 2025. Clerk turned the meeting over to Chairman Brown.

Chairman Brown directed that the meeting be moved to the Courtroom as many members of the public were present for Open Forum. The Open Meetings act, and agenda were also posted and available in the Courtroom. Chairman Brown and County Attorney Joel Burke explained that anyone wishing to speak during open forum may do so and would be allowed three minutes to speak.

Toby Valentino, a representative of Ranger Power, was present on behalf of the Sand Draw Solar project. He spoke to the group saying that Ranger Power would like to proceed with the project and application and that he wanted to foster open discussion with the community and all parties involved. Member of the public asked what exactly is going on? Wind? Solar? Commissioners stated that an application was submitted for a solar project only, not wind. County Attorney Burke stated that the Commissioner's are in the process of finding someone to update the Planning and Zoning Regulations and Comprehensive Plan. He also stated that the primary question right now is whether or not the application that was submitted by Ranger Power for the Sand Draw project is affected by the Moratorium that was imposed on December 30. The County received a letter from Baird Holm, requesting that the Board of Commissioners consider Sand Draw Solar, LLC's Conditional Use Permit Application. Copies of the letter were made available to the public during the meeting. With no further input from the public, Commissioner's moved onto agenda items.

Chairman Brown called for nomination for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Muehlenkamp nominated Commissioner Bernhardt for the position of Vice Chairman. Chairman Brown closed nominations. Roll call vote to name Commissioner Bernhardt as Vice-Chairman for 2025; Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – abstain. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 2025-1 for the Designation of Publication of Legal Notices. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is on file in the office of the County Clerk.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve Resolution 2025-2 Authorizing the Treasurer to Invest Monies on behalf of the County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is on file in the office of the County Clerk.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to approve Resolution #2025-3 to Designate Depositories, pay dates, etc. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is on file in the office of the County Clerk.

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

ADAMS LUMBER

PT

25.58

AFFILIATED BENEFITS CONSULTANTS INC	SE	50.00
AFLAC	PE	657.78
AFLAC (AFTER TAX)	PE	35.36
AMERICINN	TE	233.00
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	41.50
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	12501.99
APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECH	SE	3374.89
AT & T MOBILITY (FIRSTNET)	UT	840.67
BERNARD, REBECCA M.	TE	220.05
BCBS OF NE	PE	22870.54
BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS	SU	62.60
BWTELCOM	UT	150.62
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	229.15
CHASE CO CAFETERIA PLAN		5500.00
CHASE CO CDC	CC	36.00
CHASE CO TREAS	SU	1151.99
CLARK, DEBRA	PS	48.00
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT ASSOC.	DUES	50.00
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	206.07
DAS STATE ACCTG-CENTRAL FINANCE	SE	537.60
DEVENY MOTORS LLC	RP	923.07
EAKES, INC	SU	168.67
EFTPS	PE	22301.21
FANNING SHIRLEY	PS	96.00
FRENCHMAN AUTO	PT/L	117.50
GREAT PLAINS COMM INC	UT	1152.77
GROTZKY, R. LEIGH	TE	20.00
HAZARD, KAY J	PS	144.00
HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOC	UT	228.46
HILLS FAMILY FOODS	SU	2752.00
HOLIDAY INN/KEARNEY	TE	624.75
IDEAL LINEN SUPPLY, INC	SE	213.32
IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN	SE	406.44
IMPERIAL, CITY OF	UT	3026.12
JAEGER, JANICE E	SE	1271.00
JOHNSON JEAN	PS	24.00
MILLER LINDA	PS	36.00
MIPS, INC.	SE	1530.58
MOE, WENDY	TE	197.10
NACO (REGS.)	TE	50.00
NACO PLANNING & ZONING	DUES	40.00
NE CHILD SUPP PMT CTR	PE	320.00
NE CO ASSESSORS ASSO	DUES	100.00
NE SECRETARY OF STATE	SU	20.00
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	2982.01
NE WEED CONTROL ASSO	DUES	150.00
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	45.17
OWENS TRUE VALUE INC	SU	516.81
PANKONIN AG SERVICES INC.	SE	900.00
PRAIRIE STATES COMMUNICATIONS SERVI	RP	230.00
REGION II SERVICES (DEV.DISABILITY)		2073.00
SCHRA, NATALIE	SE	2160.00
SPADY, SHARON L.	PS	84.00
SUPER FOODS	SU	1150.00
TODD, DUANE	SU/DUES	194.99
	Net Payroll	59782.36



	General Fund Total	154854.72
ADAMS LUMBER	SU	13.16
AFLAC	PE	285.09
AJK SERVICES, LLC	SE	303.38
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	35.70
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	1756.58
ARTERBURN, JOHN T.	SU	80.00
AT & T MOBILITY (FIRSTNET)	UT	46.43
BEARD, JORDAN	SU	219.90
BENTZ VALLEY INC	SU	1200.00
BCBS OF NE	PE	2654.56
BOMGAARS	SU	345.26
BWTELCOM	UT	101.70
CHASE CO TREASURER	SU	17.23
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	150.32
DEWESTER, RICHARD	TE	210.60
EFTPS	PE	5815.44
FRANCIS, MICHAEL, R	TE	131.60
GOINGS FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	SU	270.00
GREAT PLAIN COMM INC	UT	252.34
HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOC	UT	146.95
HILLS FAMILY FOODS	SU	15.98
HOLIDAY INN/KEARNEY	TE	374.85
IMPERIAL CARQUEST	SU	174.95
IMPERIAL, CITY OF	UT	332.15
KUENNING & SONS, LLC	SU	4400.00
MOTOR FUELS DIVISION/STATE OF NE		476.00
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO INC	PT	126.51
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	1480.33
NEBRASKA MACHINERY COMPANY	PT	6061.39
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	563.78
PRAIRIE STATES COMMUNICATIONS SERVI	UT	110.00
SMITH, BONNIE	SU	320.00
T O HAAS TIRE COMPANY	RP	482.97
21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT, LLC	PT	2886.83
	Net Payroll	29632.37
	Road Fund Total	61474.35
MIPS, INC.	SE	251.20
	P&M Fund Total	251.20
CENTURY LINK	UT	2057.21
	E911 Fund Total	2057.21
AT & T MOBILITY (FIRSTNET)	UT	586.12
AVS DEVELOPMENT LTD	SE	250.00
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	SU	2282.57
BWTELCOM	UT	52.02
CHASE CO TREASURER	SU	20.01
GREAT PLAINS COMM INC	UT	349.79
	Journal Entry	-250.00
	Ambulance Fund Total	3290.51
	Grand Total All Claims	221927.99

Correspondence was reviewed including letter from Baird Holm regarding the Sand Draw Solar project and a notice of public hearing from the City of Imperial planning commission.

Monthly reports from the Clerk and Treasurer and current expenditures were reviewed.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes from the December 30, 2024, Special Meeting as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Anthony Krajewski, Class A License S-1021, as the County Highway Superintendent for 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Richard DeWester, Class B License A-1761, as the Assistant Highway Superintendent for 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to appoint Duane Todd as the Veteran's Service Officer for 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to appoint Duane Dreiling as the Emergency Manager for 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

After discussion of outside board assignments Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Billie Muehlenkamp as the representative to Region II Human Services, Region II Behavioral Health, West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging and the Chase County Planning & Zoning boards; Jaci Brown as representative to Southwest Nebraska Public Health, West Central Nebraska Developmental, Champion Mill, Chase County Safety and Chase County Fair boards; and Kurt Bernhardt as representative to the Chase County Community Hospital and Southwest Nebraska Juvenile Services boards. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Stephen Mulder was present for agenda item of Liewer Funeral Home Cold Storage. The Board had previously signed an agreement between Liewer Funeral Home and the County for purchase, use and maintenance of a refrigeration unit to be used for the storing of corpses awaiting autopsy. Stephen was present to share a quote for a different cooler than what was originally presented to the Board. Board had no objections. Stephen will proceed with the purchase and get invoice to County Clerk when it is available.

A permit application from Wardcraft homes was presented to move a home through Chase County. Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to approve the permit. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jordan Beard spoke to agenda item of Zoning Regs/Comp Plan, she said she has yet to receive the quote from JEO Consulting. No action taken. Item added to next agenda.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to appoint Doug Wilson to the open District 3 Fair Board Position, for a three-year term, to expire December 31, 2027. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Jayne Henry to the Extension Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to sign the CDBG Program Income Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

No action taken on Transit Software agenda item. Item added to next agenda.

County Attorney Joel Burke suggested going into Closed Session for the agenda item of Wind and Solar Representation by outside counsel due to communication indicating a threat of litigation. Commissioner Bernhardt moved that the Board go into Closed Session for a period of ten minutes, for the agenda item of Representation by Outside Counsel for Wind and Solar, to include the three Commissioners, County Attorney and County Clerk due to pending litigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. Commissioners, County Attorney and Clerk moved to the Commissioner Meeting room for closed session at 8:40am.

Commissioner Brown moved to end closed session and resume the regular meeting in the Courtroom at 8:50am. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to retain Don Blankenau of Blankenau Wilmoth Jarecke LLP to represent the County in pending litigation regarding the Sand Draw Solar project. Motion



seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. County Attorney Burke will contact the firm to request a letter of engagement.

With no further agenda items, Chairman Brown stated that the Board would move into Open Forum to hear any comments from the public. Members of the public had further comments pertaining to the Sand Draw Solar project as well as questions directed toward the Ranger Power representative present. Ranger Power representative stated that he would be available after the meeting to answer any questions.

At 9:00am bids submitted for scrap metal were opened. Two bids were received: the first from Duane Dinnel for \$70 per ton and the second from Chuck Vette for \$25 per ton. Commissioner Brown moved to accept the bid from Duane Dinnel for \$70 per ton. 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 9:02am.

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



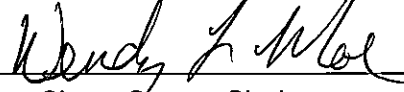
Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1



Jacqui Brown – Commissioner District #2



Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST: 
Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk