

March 26, 2024

The Cedar County Commissioners met in the Boardroom of the Cedar County Courthouse at 10:30 am and the meeting was called to order as advertised, with David McGregor, Dick Donner and Craig Bartels answering roll call. Also, present County Clerk Jessica Schmit. Chairman McGregor stated the open meetings laws are posted on the wall for public inspection.

Motion was made by Donner and seconded by Bartels to approve the agenda. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Motion was made by Bartels and seconded by McGregor to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Debbie Borg introduced herself to the Board of Commissioners as the contact for Agricultural and Northeast Nebraska Outreach for Senator Pete Ricketts. She was holding a mobile office hour for constituents but asked if anyone contacts the county with a Federal issue to have them reach out to her.

County highway superintendent, Carla Schmidt presented an aggregate bid to the board and information regarding Keystone Pipeline contractors. Lake Superior Consulting will be performing routine cathodic protection surveys and Midwest Services as well as S & P Clearing will be replacing signs and clearing brush along the pipeline from March to May. Carla then updated the board on the major road projects. The box culvert projects are now complete. The bridge east of the fairgrounds continues to progress with abutments currently being poured. Federal funds have come in and she presented the board with balances in the bridge federal aid fund and how those funds have been spent over the years. Discussion was held on which funds are budgeted to pay the balance remaining on these projects.

Tim Goebel presented the following building permits to the board. Jon Brandow 30x50 enclosed addition, Mike Meier a 20x15 house addition and 35x38 attached garage, and Nicholas Uhing two 24' grain bins.

At 11:00 AM, as advertised, McGregor made a motion to enter Board of Equalization and Donner seconded that motion. County attorney, Nick Matney, called and was placed on speaker phone to be a part of the conversation. As recommended by the state, the board reviewed the National Field Archery Association's claim to be charitable in nature and therefore exempt from real estate tax. Matney reviewed some case law with the board and stated that the law is narrowly applied. To be considered charitable, there must be no question regarding the organization's purpose. After further discussion with assessor Becky Dresden and her research into the Association, a motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner to reverse the decision of NFAA parcels 6.01 and 6.02 as exempt. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Motion was made by Donner and seconded by Bartels to leave the Board of Equalization. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

County Treasurer, Jean Wiebelhaus, presented the results of her recent public auction tax sale to the board. This was the first year nobody attended the sale and nothing was sold. After discussing with other county treasurers that had the same thing happen, Jean stated they think this was largely due to the state changing the requirements for the buyers and some of the burden that is now placed on them. Discussion was held on the process for county tax sales and foreclosure. After the date of the public auction, five parcels were sold privately that totaled \$16,659.04. Only two parcels remain delinquent and the board gave authority to the treasurer to print those parcels as county tax sales.

Clerk of the District Court, Janet Wiechelman, discussed a computer program she is using in her office. It was brought into question because our contracted service provider for IT was not the one contacted to handle something within Janet's office. Janet shared with the board how she is using an old program with time sensitive information and she does have the state's approval to use it. This program is an alternative to a state-sponsored program that would be accompanied by a monthly service charge to maintain. Janet stated she will continue to use this program until the state mandates her to switch.

Discussion was then held amongst the officials about our current IT contracted service provider. Everyone seemed satisfied with them and agreed we need to contact them first with any issues.

Old Business. Discussion was held on designated snow routes. Clerk Schmit will work with Road Superintendent Schmidt to write something up that is not binding to the road department but also satisfies the requirements of hazard mitigation for FEMA.

New Business. Chairman McGregor stated he had received a report from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture on Weed Superintendent, Justin Heikes. The state agreed with the board that Justin has done a very

good job. He was lacking some continuing education hours that he has already begun to get caught up on in 2024.

Clerk Schmit presented the board with a contract addendum for Schindler, the company that inspects our elevator. The board agreed to extend the contract for seven years to save on the annual contracted price.

The Board then reported on various meetings attended with nothing new to report from them. McGregor stated that was the last meeting to attend at the downtown location for the Area on Aging. They have relocated to 37<sup>th</sup> street on the west side of Norfolk.

Motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Bartels made a motion and Donner seconded to adjourn the Executive Session. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

With no further business or agenda items the meeting was declared adjourned by chairman McGregor.

ATTEST:

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Jessica Schmit, County Clerk

APPROVED:

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David McGregor, Board Chairman