

April 23, 2024

The Cedar County Commissioners met in the Boardroom of the Cedar County Courthouse at 8:30 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 Bartels and seconded by Donner 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.

Clerk Schmit presented the new public defender contract to the board. The contract begins May 1, 2024 and ends April 30, 2025. The only change to the contract from previous years is the addition of interpreter fees being a cost to be billed separately to the county. The board agreed with the contract and Chairman McGregor signed it.

Discussion was held with Road Superintendent, Carla Schmidt regarding a road issue in precinct nineteen, district two. Commissioner Bartels discussed his plan to fix the road in the short term while staying within our 66' road right of way. Schmidt will contact an engineer to evaluate the structure in question for future planning.

Carla Schmidt presented a new fiberoptic permit application in District 2 from Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company. Construction is planned to begin May 20 and run through October. Commissioner Bartels will review the maps and application. Carla then updated the board on road projects. Box culverts are completed. The deck was poured on the Leise bridge yesterday.

Carla presented the board with a breakdown of scour critical bridges in each district. She has a log that is recommended to keep track of the scour issue for each bridge. Discussion was held on how to monitor these bridges. We are to have a log in our bridge records for these bridges after a major rain event.

Zoning Administrator, Tim Goebel, presented the following building permits to the board: Matt Steffen house, Aaron Fuelberth house, Don Kathol garage, Michael Schmitz house addition and garage, Trevor Wakely pole barn, Doug Miller deck, Jeff Arens calving barn, Greg Pippit 2 bins.

Discussion was held on the matrix point system for setbacks for livestock operations. Current setbacks could be restrictive when considering the new way to build livestock confinements. Tim will attend a meeting with the northeast zoning administrators to discuss the new matrix and see how much of a change there is.

Shannon Jepsen, Aflac Representative, presented a guaranteed issue life insurance option for county employees to the board. This life insurance has no underwriting or blood screening and is portable for employees to maintain beyond their employment with the county. This insurance would be optional and deducted from payroll. The board approved adding this to the benefit package and Shannon will present it to employees as she begins to meet with them for an annual review.

Tourism Board Representative, Josh Rayford presented the board with information from that board's meeting on April 12. News Channel Nebraska has proposed making ninety second ads for various communities in the county. Ads would run from July to September on their network. Motion to approve the use of tourism funds for this purpose was made by McGregor and seconded by Bartels. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

A proposal for glass replacement for various areas within the courthouse was reviewed by the board. The windows are in good condition, only the glass needs to be replaced. The proposal was accepted as presented.

Emergency Manager, Kevin Garvin, could not be in attendance but provided paperwork for the board on a request for use of Homeland Security Grant Funds for IDEMIA mobile automated fingerprint identification systems. The purchase is for the region Kevin is responsible for as the fiscal agent, and therefore 6 of the systems purchased will be distributed to the other counties in the region and only one will remain within Cedar County. Motion to approve the use of the grant funds was made by Donner and seconded by McGregor. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Discussion was held on the possible purchase or lease of a new motor grader for District 1. Road Superintendent Schmidt will advertise for bids for a lease or purchase of new or used equipment.

Clerk Schmit presented the board with a letter received from the Nebraska Cooperative Government regarding Keno being introduced within the county's jurisdiction. Chairman McGregor stated he was contacted

by a party that was interested in making this happen. The issue was tabled to give the clerk some time to do additional research into how this process works.

Clerk of the District Court, Janet Wiechelman, came to the board to express her thanks for assistance with the jury trial the preceding week. She also stated how appreciative she was for the use of the fire hall for jury selection at no cost to the county. It worked very well and everything went smoothly.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss confidential District Court matters was made by McGregor and seconded by Bartels. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Motion to exit executive session was made by McGregor and seconded by Bartels. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

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

ATTEST:

Jessica Schmit, County Clerk

APPROVED:

David McGregor, Board Chairman