

May 28, 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 was 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 McGregor and seconded by Donner to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clerk of District Court, Janet Wiechelman, came before the board to discuss the Judge's decision to move the trial for Jason Jones to Dakota County. She will be visiting locations in South Sioux City to determine if their facilities are adequate for jury selection. The board unanimously agreed to allow Janet to sign agreements and make arrangements as necessary for the upcoming trial.

Clerk Schmit presented special designated liquor licenses to the board on behalf of Russ Flaming for the Cedar County Ag Society and the Cedar County Fair. Two separate licenses were presented – one for the rodeo area and the other for the concert venue. Motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner to approve the SDL's. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Road Superintendent, Carla Schmidt, presented the board with right of way permits for Districts 1 and 3. She also presented the summary decision of the NDOT bridge inspection program in which they found all of Cedar County's bridge records were sufficient. She provided an update on the new bridge which will be opening soon. They need to place guardrail and complete erosion control and seeding. Carla drove the asphalt projects from last fall with the engineer and found there are some seeding issues along the Bow Valley road. Commissioner Donner shared his disappointment in that new asphalt being very rough.

A list of obsolete electronic equipment was presented to the board by Kevin Garvin, Emergency Manager. He was asking permission to dispose of the old inventory. Motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Bartels to dispose of the property. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Discussion was then held regarding the dirt work and landscaping that needs to be completed at the tower site.

At 9:30 AM, sealed bids for a new and used motor grader for District 1 were opened. Bids were received from Murphy Tractor for a new motor grader and from NMC for a new motor grader and a used motor grader. A record of bids received is available in the clerk's office for inspection. Commissioner Donner stated he would like to visit the dealerships and look at the equipment before making a decision.

Commissioner Bartels reported on the mental health board meeting he attended with nothing new to report.

At 10:00 AM, as advertised, a public hearing was held for Cedar County Transit and the proposal for an adjustment on their fee schedule. Transit Manager, Nikki Pinkelman, was seeking approval to lower the rate for farther distances to make it more affordable for riders. Georgia Addison was present and spoke on behalf of the transit being a wonderful benefit as a Cedar County resident.

NDOT representatives, including Sarah Soula the Nebraska transit manager, were in attendance to help answer any questions the board had regarding the transit operations. Nikki Pinkelman shared some history of the transit system in Cedar County and current costs of operations. This cost is shared with Federal and State Departments of Transportation as well as Knox County. There was a time when the state was several months behind reimbursing the county for their share of the cost of operating the transit system, but we are currently up to date. Discussion was held on training opportunities for Nikki and her staff and state representatives shared what is mandatory and held in-state. Out of state training opportunities are not mandatory to attend, although they are reimbursed at 100% if approved prior to attending. Nikki stated all of the training attended last fall has now been reimbursed to Cedar County after a slight delay. The board then questioned Sarah regarding the ownership of the transit building and she said she would get back to the board with that answer.

Joan Brodersen, President of the Board of Trustees for the Hartington Public Library presented information regarding the library's operations to the board. Other representatives in attendance were

Leah Wiedenfeld, Tami Anderson, and Hartington Mayor Mark Becker. Joan shared that over half of the library's circulation is to patrons living outside of the Hartington city limits. For this reason, the library board is asking to increase the support from the county to around 10% of their total budget, or \$18,000 per year. She cited health insurance being a main factor driving up costs. The board stated they would consider the request but need to take into consideration the other public libraries within the county.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Schmit, County Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
David McGregor, Board Chairman