

July 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 were County Attorney Ron Temple and 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 Bartels to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Zoning Administrator Tim Gobel presented the following building permits: Gary Woockman 15,000 bu bin, Joe Zimmerman 40x60' machine shed, Dean Steck 27x56' building. He then asked the board about zoning regulations in villages that are not included in the county's comprehensive zoning plan. County Attorney Ron Temple recommended to review the plan and make an amendment for villages, if necessary, and present it to each village for adoption or denial.

Road Superintendent, Carla Schmidt brought resolutions to the board for adoption regarding two roads recently upgraded from minimum maintenance to rural local classification. Motion was made by Bartels and seconded by Donner to upgrade a half mile of 869 Road between 562 and 563 Avenue. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Motion was made by Bartels and seconded by Donner to upgrade a quarter mile of 868 Road between 568 Avenue and Highway 57. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Schmidt then shared with the board that there is a motor grader training offer through LTAP and she is looking into hosting that for Cedar and surrounding counties. She also presented information gathered from the salary study completed by NACO for the road crew and Highway Superintendent.

Assessor Becky Dresden presented a list of parcels with changes made for 2024 after the March 19 deadline. Motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner to approve the changes. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Dresden was also seeking approval for an extension of time to apply for the homestead exemption for parcel #6805.00 due to extenuating circumstances. Motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Bartels to approve this extension of time to apply. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clerk Schmit called for a motion to approve the additional 1% available for the county budget. This motion was made by Donner and seconded by McGregor. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clerk Schmit then presented to the board information from the Nebraska Cooperative Government as the new owners of Backroads Barbecue would like to have Keno in their establishment. After seeking counsel from the county attorney, the board decided to move forward with the resolution as presented by the Clerk. Motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner to pass Resolution 24-6, calling for an election for the purpose of authorizing Cedar County to conduct a lottery. Motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote. This issue will be on ballot this fall for the General Election.

At 10:00 AM a public hearing was held for the liquor license application of EMR Ventures, LLC. Clerk Schmit presented information to the board for review including their business plan. Motion to approve the liquor license was made by Donner and seconded by McGregor. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

At 10:15 AM, McGregor made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. This motion was seconded by Bartels. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:48 AM, motion to exit executive session was made by McGregor and seconded by Bartels. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion was held on transit management traveling out of state for a software conference. Motion to approve the travel was made by McGregor and seconded by Bartels. Motion carried 2-1. Voting Aye: McGregor, Bartels. Voting Nay: Donner.

Emergency Manager, Kevin Garvin, came before the board seeking approval for the purchase of a transmitter for the paging system. The current system is at end of life and showing some beginning signs of failure. The Board gave the go ahead to purchase the transmitter. Discussion was then held on the open position in Emergency Management. The Board reviewed the applications Kevin has received and recommended that Kevin bring those individuals in for an interview. No decision was made as to whether the position would be full or part time.

Discussion was then held with Assessor Dresden and Kevin Garvin regarding the aerial photos as discussed in previous meetings. Dresden will request a contract from EagleView so the County Attorney has time to review it before the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the county contributions to the libraries within Cedar County. Budgets were requested from each library by Clerk Schmit and she presented these to the board along with a spreadsheet with percentages of contributions based on their respective budgets, as requested by the Chairman. After discussion regarding the differences between the libraries, a motion was made by Donner and seconded by McGregor to allocate the funds as follows: Hartington \$13,500, Randolph \$7,500, Laurel \$3,500 for a total of \$24,500. Motion carried 3-0. The board is inclined to approve this budget line item when the rest of the budget is reviewed.

Commissioners discussed amongst themselves the total amount they can plan on for each of their budgets and if each district's budget should be equal. Historical data was reviewed regarding the disparity between the three districts over the years and the formula that was used to arrive at these budget totals. The Board agreed, subject to final budget approval by the Board, that District 1 may receive more budgeted funds than prior years, District 2 may receive more or less or remain equal in terms of budgeted funds than prior years, and District 3 may receive less budgeted funds than prior years.

The meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman McGregor at 12:15 PM.

ATTEST:

Jessica Schmit, County Clerk

APPROVED:

David McGregor, Board Chairman