

February 25, 2025

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 Mike Meier, David McGregor, and Dick Donner answering roll call. Also present, County Clerk Jessica Schmit. Chairman McGregor stated the open meetings laws are posted on the wall for public inspection.

A motion was made by McGregor and seconded by Meier to approve the agenda. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Minutes from the February 11, 2025 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Donner and seconded by McGregor to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Brief discussion was held on the Climate Systems maintenance contract. It is for monitoring the thermostat system throughout the courthouse and will need to continue. Motion to accept the contract was made by McGregor and seconded by Meier. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clerk Schmit stated she needed formal action by the board to approve the .25% Keno proceeds directed to the audit clerk to be redirected to the county. Motion to redirect the audit clerk's stipend to the county was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Zoning administrator, Tim Gobel, presented a variance permit for Curtis Klug in the Brooky Bottom area. Motion by McGregor was seconded by Donner to approve the 10' variance. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Gobel then let the board know he has gotten the notice to remonument the highways that were asphalted last summer and will work on that this spring. Gobel then presented the following building permits: Curtis Klug, 18 x 24 garage addition, Richard Feilmeier 61,000 bu grain bin, Chris Steffen 36x45 shop, Ebberson Farms 90x175 storage building, Rick Wiesseler 360' fenceline feed bunks.

Highway Superintendent, Carla Schmidt, recapped the annual meeting she held last week for the road department. A brief discussion was held on a specific stop sign that has been questioned by a constituent. She updated the board on the bridge at Menominee and the box culvert project in District 1. The engineers are working on both projects and the box culvert has moved into the design phase. She has been working on submitting a bridge for a discretionary Federal grant. This process would take a couple of years. She would have to submit a bridge and then the State decides if the bridge fits the specifications of bundling with other bridges to receive the funding.

Extension Educators Jackie Steffen, Ben Beckman, Cara Wiebelhaus and UNL representative Amy Topp came before the board to give an annual presentation on their programs and outreach. Amy Topp thanked the board for the collaboration with the University. Commissioner McGregor thanked the group for all of their work and the willingness to work together is reciprocated.

Hartelco Representative, Tom Noecker, came before the board to discuss fiberoptic lines being installed in District 1. Commissioner Donner had stopped by his office last week to request Hartelco stockpile gravel at his shops to install back on the roads after lines have been installed. Noecker stated he was ok with that as long as every company installing fiberoptic lines is held to the same standard. Commissioner Donner stated his issue is compaction and the equipment being used. Noecker suggested before work is done this spring that he and county representatives assess the condition of the road and how much gravel was on them so everybody was in agreement. Highway Superintendent, Carla Schmidt, clarified what the permit says and referred to the Nebraska standards on how compaction equipment is defined: sheeps foot, multiple wheel pneumatic roller, or alternate equipment that would do the same job or better than the equipment listed above. Donner would like a sheep's foot to compact the trench. Benji Steffen, a county road maintenance employee, agreed with Donner and said the compaction equipment currently being used is not sufficient. Ron Temple, County Attorney, weighed in on the permit/contract in place. The language of the permit is subject to different interpretations. There is no breach of contract at this time. Until the work is complete, the board can not dictate what the contractor does. When the work is done, if the board is not satisfied, they can address what the contractor needs to do to restore the road to its original condition. Motion to table the discussion was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

At 10:40 AM, the public budget hearing was opened. NDOT requires a two year budget from the transit system. This is the 2025-2027 budget. Transit Manager, Nikki Pinkelman, went through the proposed budget in detail. There has been no concern regarding funding at the Federal level. She updated the board on the entire transit system and how the system has expanded. Motion to approve the county's share of the budget at \$394,827 was made by Meier and seconded by McGregor. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. Brief discussion was then held on purchasing new vans. Motion to approve the purchase of two ADA accessible vans for \$154,000 total was made by McGregor and seconded by Donner. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Jerry Wintz was in attendance to discuss the county burial assistance policy. Immediate cremation costs \$4,165. Grave opening and closing is \$350 if hired done and a grave space is \$250. Jerry's request is to increase to \$3,500 to match the Nebraska Veterans Aid and allow the \$350 for grave opening and \$250 for a grave space, if necessary. Discussion was held on what some neighboring counties do and how Jerry makes the determination to ask for county

assistance. Motion to table the discussion was made by McGregor and seconded by Meier. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote.

Great Plains Communication representative Jon Strom came before the board to discuss their project in the northern part of the county. He presented maps to the commissioners for the proposed project. They will use the same equipment they have used over the last several years. Discussion was held on how their company handles restoring the road back to its original condition. Carla Schmidt will get the permits started.

Commissioner Donner asked the board to consider the utility policy to specifically state the compaction equipment to be used. The board will seek input from the county attorney on any policy and permit changes. No additional discussion was held.

Emergency Manager, Kevin Garvin, presented the board with updated figures from NEMA for the tower project and proposed figures show the county is to be reimbursed over \$850,000. He updated the board on the mass communication system from HyperReach. County employees involved in its implementation will need to undergo training before the system can be rolled out to the public. He also let the board know Cedar County had a winner for the Severe Weather Safety Poster contest. Finally, he encourage the board to attend the annual training for severe weather on March 24 at 6:00 pm. This event is free and open to the public.

The board took a recess at 12:15 for lunch. At 1:15 Donner made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by McGregor. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. At 3:45 PM, a motion was made by Donner to exit executive session and this motion was seconded by Meier. Motion carried with a 3 to 0 vote. No action was taken.

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

ATTEST: _____
Jessica Schmit, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
David McGregor, Board Chairman