

October 16, 2023
North Platte, Nebraska

Meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. Present were Commissioners Joe Hewgley, Kent Weems, Micaela Wuehler, Chris Bruns, Jerry Woodruff and County Clerk, Rebecca Rossell. Woodruff offered prayer. Woodruff called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Chairman Woodruff announced the Open Meeting Act with amendments is posted for public review and the county board will comply with the open meeting requirements.

Motion by Wuehler, seconded by Hewgley to approve the minutes regarding the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners meeting held on October 9, 2023. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Hewgley, seconded by Weems to receive and order filed the treasurer's receipts. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Wuehler to receive and order filed the amended September 2023 fee report in the amount of \$987 for the County Clerk. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners recessed at 9:15 A.M. and the Lincoln County Board of Equalization convened.

Chairman Woodruff announced the Open Meeting Act with amendments is posted for public review and the county board will comply with the open meeting requirements.

County Assessor, Julie Stenger appeared along with County Treasurer Alex Gurciullo.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Wuehler to approve the minutes regarding the Lincoln County Board of Equalization meeting held on October 9, 2023. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Hewgley to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the certificate of correction or refund submitted by the County Assessor on North Platte Hospitality Inc. per TERC. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Hewgley, seconded by Wuehler to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the certificate of correction or refund submitted by the County Assessor on West Tabor Ranch Apartments LLC per TERC. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Hewgley to adopt Resolution No. 2023-25 setting the 2023 tax levies for all political subdivisions headquartered in Lincoln County. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Bruns to approve notice of valuation change numbered 2023-018 for the Old Church Hall, LLC as submitted by the County Assessor. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Hewgley, seconded by Wuehler to approve the motor vehicle tax exemption application submitted by American National Red Cross and recommended for approval by the County Treasurer. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

The Lincoln County Board of Equalization adjourned at 9:27 A.M. and the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners reconvened.

Motion by Wuehler, seconded by Hewgley to draft a resolution for consideration at next week's meeting in support of Operation Green Light for Veterans from November 6 through November 12, 2023. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Visit North Platte (Lisa Burke & Brad Hisel) presented their first annual audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, as conducted by RJ Meyer & Associates.

Motion by Hewgley, seconded by Wuehler to adopt Resolution No. 2023-26 authorizing the Chairman to sign an automated license plate reader agreement with the State of Nebraska for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Boni Edwards, Lincoln County Surveyor, appeared to discuss the use of ARPA funds for a new GPS system for the County Surveyors office. She has two quotes for a new base and rover for GPS, a new tablet and bridge which include trade in of old equipment. The first quote was from Transit Works in the amount of \$29,901 and the second quote was from Transit Works in the amount of \$40,873. No other quotes were received due to the functionality from the repeater that is located at the Lincoln County Department of Roads which makes it unique.

Motion by Hewgley, seconded by Weems to approve the purchase of GPS equipment for the County Surveyor from Transit Works for \$29,901 pending the verification of the SAM UEI (Unique Entity Identifier). Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

North Platte Police Chief, Steve Reeves, appeared to discuss the proposed dispatch agreement. This is the original agreement that was submitted in August 2023.

Commissioners Hewgley and Weems met with various city leaders to discuss the proposed contract. They recommend we approve the proposed contract and then meet in the future to discuss various items before another agreement is proposed.

Commissioner Weems reported that this arrangement started out as a cost share for services. Three years ago, there was a change that reflected the benefit increases for those individuals as well. They are expanding to 15 dispatchers. The county wants to buy a service, with no involvement in how it is run.

Sheriff Kramer reiterated that it started out with a base salary many years ago. The workload and need for this service has increased. They are going to hire two additional staff. This agreement reflects that the city will pay for one additional staff member and the county would pay for the other staff member.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Hewgley to approve the dispatch service agreement with the City of North Platte as submitted effective October 1, 2023, at the rate of \$24,467.00 per month plus other additional fees as per the agreement. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Discussion was held on construction/closing of the Sutherland North Bridge. Kevin Petross, engineer from Miller & Associates appeared by phone. He reported the plan is to remove the existing bridge and replace it with a 550 ft bridge east of the existing structure. There is a 20-foot separation downstream between the two bridges to meet design standards. The temporary berms that need to be placed make it impossible to leave the existing bridge up during construction. There was nothing in the bid documents or specifications about the existing bridge.

Petross commented that he did not know as this was before his time. He has only been on the project two years.

Highway Supt. Schultz stated that he found an original design sketch from 2005. There is a note that says it will remain open to local traffic and there would be a detour route.

Bruns questioned when the breakdown in communication happened if the plan could be altered and if there was a work around.

Petross responded that where the berms must be placed would have prohibited the old structure staying up.

Commissioner Bruns asked about another option.

Petross replied that the other method would be to construct a temporary bridge at a significant cost (1 to 1 ½ million).

Tyler Volkmer, Deputy County Attorney, verified with the engineer that everyone that bid it the same way.

Petross verified that was correct.

Commissioner Hewgley asked what portions of the old bridge the low bidder was going to salvage and use.

Petross said the old bridge will be broken up and used as fill as well as rip/rap. That is in the bid documents.

Commissioner Bruns asked about a work around and what does it entail.

Petross replied that it would have to go back to the Army Corp of Engineers and submit a new application which would take years.

Commissioner Hewgley wondered about the use of sheet pile at the county's expense to keep the existing bridge open longer.

Petross said this would be an option, but again it would have to go back to the Corp of Engineers.

Commissioner Bruns requested that these questions be put to the Corp of Engineers.

Petross stated that from the contractor's standpoint a delay of a month or two is a big deal.

Commissioner Hewgley asked if a committee could sit down with the engineer and contractor to strategize to see who we could submit these questions to at the Corp.

Volkmer reminded the board that they have a signed contract with the contractor. We as the owner, if we interfere with the work, it can cause problems and cost the county.

Commissioners Bruns and Hewgley along with the highway supt., engineer, contractor, and any other parties deemed appropriate will meet this week for discussion.

Commissioner Wuehler wondered if there was anything the county could do to help the community through this process.

Commissioner Weems thought the county would be willing to assist them to offset expenses, if possible.

Commissioner Hewgley commented that he would back down if needed. He does not want to derail this project.

Commissioner Woodruff asked if emergency equipment could be stored on the north side of the river.

The response was no, as there are no emergency personnel.

Schultz also questioned if the funding with the state could be affected by a change to the project.

Petross replied they would have to discuss this with Nebraska DOT.

Tory Copeland, audience spokesperson, commented that someone should have caught this change with the old bridge demolition before now. This is not a mere inconvenience to those that use this bridge. There are safety concerns as well. This is not short term at an estimated one year and 9 months for construction and usually the anticipated construction timeline is longer than anticipated.

Hear concerns from Elected Officials, Department Heads, or their representative.

Lincoln County Commissioners Committee Reports.

The County Board of Commissioners recessed at 11:18 A.M. and reconvened at 11:24 A.M.

Approve the following claims for payment. Motion carried.

FUND	NAME		AMOUNT
GENERAL	ACE HARDWARE	su	480.84
	AG VALLEY COOP	su	69.16
	ALLO COMMUNICATIONS	se	238.18
	LINDEMEIER LAW OFFICE	se	900
	AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION	se	300
	BEAR COMMERCIAL FLOOR CARE	se	1200
	BOARDERS INN & SUITES	ldg	319.9
	BOBCAT OF NORTH PLATTE	eq	4500
	BOOKER BOYER	mi	26.2
	BRENDA AUFDENKAMP	su	10.52
	BROTHERS LAZER SERVICES	su	210
	CAITLYN JACOBSON	reb	120
	CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	se	25.3
	CAR QUEST OF NORTH PLATTE	se	21.58
	CENTURY LINK	se	586.4
	CENTURY LINK	se	351.84
	CHARTER COMMUNICATION	su	148.89
	CITY OF NORTH PLATTE	se	197.5
	CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT	se	614
	COLFER,WOOD,LYONS & WOOD LAWYERS	se	3942.46
	COMMERICAL INVESTMENT SERVICES	rt	3.55
	DAS CENTRAL FINANCE	se	396
	EMC INSURANCE COMPANIES	se	10000
	FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES	ldg	196

FASTENAL COMPANY	su	13.91
FRONT STREET AUTO GLASS	se	29.95
GALLS AN ARAMARK COMPANY	su	197.05
GREAT PLAINS HOMECARE EQ	se	14
GREATER NEBRASKA MONITORING LLC	se	530
HOMETOWN LEASING	rt	563.16
J C AUTO WASH	su	8.37
JUSTIN GOSNELL	mi	11.93
JUSTIN ROBERTS	mi	5.9
LINDEMEIER LAW OFFICE	se	545.84
LINDEMEIER LAW OFFICE	se	2362.5
LAUREN BERGNER	reb	135
LOWMAN'S AUTO REPAIR	se	1445.24
LYNN FREDERICK	mi	3.28
MALCOM, NELSEN & WINDRUM	se	1538.26
MELISSA WILSON	mi	131
MENARDS	su	302.96
MENTZER OIL CO	su	186.58
NACO	reg	150
NATALIE HOFFMANN	se	550
NICOLE FISHER	mi	131
NORTH PLATTE ANIMAL SHELTER	se	136
NORTH PLATTE HARDWARE LLC	se	114.46
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE	se	43.31
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE	se	2051.55
PATHOLOGY SERVICES	se	24.63
PLATTE VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS	se	134.4
PRODIGY SOLUTIONS INC	se	7049.49
REBECCA J ROSSELL	mi	131
SCHABEN SANITATION	se	2151.4
SCOTT SAWYER	se	600
SECRETARY OF STATE	cont	25
SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE	se	5867.4
THE HOME DEPOT PRO	su	1724.11
TITLE SERVICES OF THE PLAINS LLC	se	240
TONY JOHNSON	mi	24.89
U S BANK	se	225.56
U S BANK	se	28.8
U S BANK	se	260.6
U S BANK	se	418.19
U S BANK	se	84.96
U S BANK	se	108.61
U S BANK	se	463.48

	U S BANK	se	533.43
	U S BANK	se	1297.56
	U S BANK	se	714.59
	U S BANK	se	443
	U S BANK	se	520.61
	U S BANK	se	515.15
	U S BANK	se	1631.3
	U S BANK 23	se	223.27
	U SAVE PHARMACY	se	12.51
	ULINE	su	216.68
	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	rt	850
	WEATHERCRAFT CO OF NO PLATTE	se	150
	WESTFIELD PHARMACY	se	5148.19
ROADS	COHAGEN TRANSFER & STORAGE INC	se	694.85
	CONSTRUCTION RENTAL NORTH PLATTE	se	122.25
	CROELL INC	se	5886.07
	HOME LUMBER & SUPPLY	su	20.89
	KOHLER TRAILER SALES & SERVICE	se	1375.8
	MC COOK PUBLIC POWER	se	72.84
	MENARDS	se	62.87
	MIDWEST ELECTRIC MEMB CORP	se	92.32
	MILLER USED TIRE WAREHOUSE	su	2565.65
	PAULS PORTA POTTY	se	305
	PAULSENS INC	su	13004.58
	RDO TRUCK CENTER CO.	se	627.82
	RS HYDRAULIC SOLUTIONS	se	7.98
	T O HAAS TIRE COMPANY	se	40
	U S BANK	se	687.87
SELF	FIRST CONCORD BENEFITS GROUP LLC	ins	2833.22

A work session was held with the Lincoln County Planning Director and Lincoln County Planning Commissioner members concerning proposed amendments to the Lincoln County Zoning Regulations concerning solar and wind energy. Tanner Pettera of Hub International Insurance was also present to discuss bonding options for decommissioning.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Advance notice and the agenda for the October 16, 2023, board meetings were sent to members of the county board, county attorney and all others requesting the same. Advance public notice (includes agenda) of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners meeting and the Lincoln County Board of Equalization meeting was posted at the Lincoln County Courthouse, City Hall, and the Lincoln County Website on October 10, 2023; and was also emailed to the media on October 10, 2023.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday, October 23, 2023, will be continually current and open for inspection at the office of the Lincoln County Clerk. The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will be held at the Lincoln County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 9:00 A.M. The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Equalization will be held at the Lincoln County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 9:15 A.M.

Rebecca J. Rossell
Lincoln County Clerk