

July 1, 2024
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. Hewgley offered prayer. Hewgley called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Chairman Hewgley 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 Woodruff, seconded by Weems to approve the minutes regarding the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners meeting held on June 24, 2024. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none. Bruns stated the minutes were correct but wanted to clarify that the ad hoc infrastructure committee members are Chris Bruns, Joe Hewgley, Judy Clark, Jason Shultz, and Gary Person.

Motion by Wuehler, seconded by Woodruff 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 Woodruff, seconded by Weems to authorize the Chairman to sign the quarterly federal excise tax return for PCORI fees related to the Affordable Care Act. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Woodruff to receive and order filed the fee report submitted by the County Sheriff for \$5598.98. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Wuehler, seconded by Weems to authorize the Chairman to sign the FOP Lodge #26 health insurance letter of understanding. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Woodruff to authorize the Chairman to sign the engagement letter with McChesney Martin Sagehorn for 2024/2025 budget services for \$8700. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Wuehler to authorize the Chairman to sign the memorandum of understanding with North Platte Public Schools for school supt. duties/services annually in the amount of \$2500.00. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Woodruff to authorize the Chairman to sign pay application No. 10 for the Sutherland North Bridge Project for \$401,823.77. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Woodruff to authorize the Chairman to sign the right-of-way submitted by Charter Communications. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners recessed at 9:28 A.M. and the Lincoln County Board of Equalization convened.

Chairman Hewgley 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.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Wuehler to approve the minutes regarding the Lincoln County Board of Equalization meeting held on June 24, 2024. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

No certificates of correction or refund submitted by the County Assessor.

The Lincoln County Board of Equalization adjourned at 9:29 A.M. and the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners reconvened.

Motion by Weems, seconded by Wuehler to approve the application by Jerry and Tammie Welsh for Welsh Administrative Subdivision located at 25547 West North River Road in an A-1 Agricultural District on property described as a tract of land in the SE ¼ of Section 35, Township 15 North, Range 33 West of the 6th P.M., Lincoln County, Nebraska. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Wuehler, seconded by Weems to authorize the Chairman to sign the 2024/2025 Community Connections state grant award and special conditions for \$122,465.00. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Woodruff, seconded by Weems to approve the four year appointment of Lori Bergman & Mike Furmanski Jr. to the Visit North Platte Board of Directors to replace retiring board members Jeff Boeka and Brad Hisel. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Motion by Wuehler, seconded by Hewgley to consider accepting donation of a walk up POD from UNL.

Commissioner Wuehler reported that she had been contacted by the Region 51 Emergency Management Director concerning a POD that UNL would like to donate to Lincoln County. Wuehler stated she had reached out to several departments to see if they would be interested. She feels it might be beneficial in several areas in the community.

Commissioner Bruns questioned where it would be stored.

Commissioner Wuehler would like to explore county options first, then reach out to the city, school and other county supported activities.

The item to consider accepting donation of walk up POD from UNL was tabled until the next meeting after discussion.

The Rules Committee met and recommended that two county board representatives be appointed to the Nebraska International Port of the Plains committee since the county has a vested interest. They recommend Commissioner Bruns and the County Board Chairman or their designee.

Motion by Wuehler, seconded by Woodruff to approve appointing a two-person committee for the Nebraska International Port of the Plains consisting of Commissioner Bruns and the County Board Chairman or their designee.

Commissioner Bruns asked if this was a committee or liaison.

Commissioner Hewgley replied that all the county can have is liaisons who would attend the meeting but would not participate.

Commissioner Wuehler sees it as a flow of information between the County Board and the port authority.

Commissioner Hewgley clarified that the second person would be whomever is the current County Board Chairman.

Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Weems voted "nay". Motion carried.

Discussion was held concerning West Central District Health Department and ownership of a POD that was received in 2020.

Tyler Volkmer stated that it was the states intent for the POD to become property of the West Central Nebraska Health District.

Commissioner Hewgley asked about the makeup of the WCNHD board of directors.

Commissioner Bruns responded that it is a 12 member board by statute and serves six counties.

Commissioner Hewgley asked if the board had management duties over the director and/or assistant director.

Commissioner Bruns replied that the board does have an obligation to oversee the executive director.

Commissioner Hewgley commented that executive director appeared for the recent POD meeting remotely and has been working remotely for years. It was his understanding that her daughter also works remotely.

Commissioner Bruns stated that the executive director does work part time remotely and is not sure about her daughter.

Commissioner Hewgley feels the public should be aware and asked for a ratio of local versus remote work. Hewgley then asked about funds received from Lincoln County and the purchase of furniture, etc. by the health district. He was told there is a building filled with the old furniture.

Commissioner Bruns told him there was furniture in the building he is referring to, but it is being used by Hope Esperanza as an immigrant distribution point. He commented that the executive director is in the community on a regular basis and that a lot of meetings are now remote post covid.

Commissioner Wuehler said that a majority of the stakeholders believe the POD belonged to the county, bust WCNHD told them that there is documentation stating that it was to be transferred back to the health district. She had not received this information at this time. Wuehler feels the county would have every day uses for the POD.

Commissioner Bruns updated the board on the RAISE planning grant that was awarded to Lincoln County in the amount of \$750,000. There is a lot of exciting things happening in Lincoln County. The long term vision would involve looking at existing infrastructure and looking at a need for additional infrastructure. The grant allows us to seek professional consulting with experience to do a study with recommendations for potential infrastructure needs.

Motion by Woodruff, seconded by Wuehler to designate a RAISE planning grant project liaison for Lincoln County.

Motion by Woodruff, seconded by Wuehler to amend the motion to designate Commissioner Bruns as the RAISE planning grant liaison for Lincoln County. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Commissioner Bruns stated that Lincoln County will not incur any expenses if the county partners with Nebraska Department of Transportation to take on the management of the grant.

Motion by Woodruff, seconded by Weems to approve providing notice to USDOT Federal Highway Office that Lincoln County would like to partner with NDOT for RAISE planning grant management. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none.

Commissioner Wuehler recognized Commissioner Bruns for his work on this grant.

Commissioner Hewgley communicated that he sees this ad hoc committee as a go between the county and the federal and state entities.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Weems to reaffirm the already existing committee consisting of Commissioner Bruns, Chairman Hewgley, Jason Schultz, Judy Clark, and Gary Person.

Commissioner Hewgley said he feels this should be a committee of this board.

Discussion was held concerning a map that was published from the application.

Planning Director, Judy Clark, explained most grants want a starting point to look at options. The map in the grant is a starting point.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Weems to amend the motion to approve the ad hoc committee members listed as follows: Commissioner Bruns, Chairman Hewgley, Judy Clark – Planning Director and Jason Schultz – Lincoln County Highway Supt. to work with the implementation of the RAISE grant and other items as they arise. Upon roll call vote Hewgley, Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted “aye”. Nays, none.

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

Lincoln County Commissioners Committee Reports.

Approved the following claims as presented for payment. Motion carried.

GOULD FUNERAL HOME	se	1050
BERNTSEN INTERNATIONAL INC	su	547.23
BERRECKMAN & BAZATA PC LLO	se	5925
BROUILLETTE DUGAN & TROSHYNSKI	se	22399.28
CAITLYN JACOBSON	reb	7.51
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	se	588.33
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	se	298.17
SPECTRUM	se	24.66
CHEVAS SHAW	se	1337.5
CHRIS BRUNS	mil	124.62
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT	se	507
COLFER,WOOD,LYONS & WOOD LAWYERS	se	1775.21
CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT CO	se	167.45
CROWNE PLAZA KEARNEY	ldg	979.65
DORIS BURBY RMR	se	278
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	su	460.46
HAZEN SPRINKLER LLC	eq	101.1
HINTON'S LOCK & ALARM	se	327.5
HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	se	12
JOSEPH R HEWGLEY JR	mil	124.62
KENT WEEMS	mil	124.62
NOBELS REFRIGERATION INC	se	126
LINDEMEIER LAW OFFICE	se	10568.09
MAXIMUS INC	se	3400
MENARDS	su	194.35
MICAELA WUEHLER	mil	124.62
MIPS INC	se	2815.28
MUNICIPAL LIGHT & WATER	se	10556.35
NE DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SE	se	940.5
PEOPLE	sub	104
SQUEEGEE CLEAN WINDOW CLEANING	se	672

SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE	se	5114.76
THE WALDINGER CORPERATION	se	288.09
TK'S WELDING & FABRICATION	su	349.27
U S BANK	su	141.11
UNITED STATES TREASURY	se	447
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN	reb	13.47
US CELLULAR	se	88.96
WARNER SPRAY FOAM LLC	grant	43775
WHITETAIL SCREEN PRINT	ex	486.5
BOMGAARS	su	8.38
BRICO PEST CONTROL	su	150
CAR QUEST OF NORTH PLATTE	se	112.71
CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE	se	620.46
CROELL INC	se	29377.96
CROELL	se	192.85
DAWSON PUB PR DIST	se	22.56
EXTREME AG INC	su	150
IDEAL LINEN SUPPLY	su	174.4
MENTZER OIL CO	su	371.6
NE TRUCK CENTER INC	se	1227.18
NMC EXCHANGE LLC	se	61.39
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE	se	20.44
TC ENGINEERING INC	eq	949.61
TROYER CRANE SERVICE	se	32.55
KEA CONSTRUCTION LLC	se	401823.77
FIRST CONCORD BENEFITS GROUP LLC	ins	1671.23

Payroll – June 2024 \$925,344.19

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 A.M.

Advance notice and the agenda for the July 1, 2024, board meetings were sent to the county board 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 June 28, 2024; and was also emailed to the media on June 28, 2024.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday, July 8, 2024, will be kept 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 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 at the Lincoln County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 9:15 A.M.

Rebecca J. Rossell
Lincoln County Clerk