



# Butler County Board Minutes



## BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 1, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2021 at the Butler County Highway 92 Building in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

Present were the following: Scott Steager, Tony Krafka, Anthony Whitmore, Scot Bauer, David Mach, Robert Coufal and Ryan Svoboda.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof, by Publication, a designated method for giving notice, as shown by the Proof of Publication attached to the minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to all members of the Board and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to all members of the board of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

The Chairman declared the minutes from the previous meeting shall stand approved as presented.

### **Discussion/Possible Action regarding redistricting contract with gWorks**

Stephanie Laska, County Clerk, discussed with the board the upcoming redistricting due to the 2020 census. She noted that during the last redistricting the County used the services of gWorks to help redistrict the county. She requested that the County use their services again and said that whatever option is chosen, her election budget has the funds to cover the cost. The board asked which option she would like to use, she said the advanced option would be the most educational, not only for herself but also for the board because gWorks will do a zoom meeting in which they can answer questions and in real time adjust the districts and show the population differences. Moved by Mach and seconded by Whitmore to contract with gWorks to redistrict and to choose the Advanced option. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Mach, Bauer, Whitmore, Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, and Steager. The following voted nay: NONE. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Early Payroll Claim for terminated employee**

An early payroll claim for a terminated employee was presented to the board. Moved by Mach and seconded by Bauer to approve the payroll claim as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Mach, Bauer, Whitmore, Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, and Steager. The following voted nay: NONE. Motion carried.

### **Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Reopening the Senior Center**

Diana McDonald, Senior Center Director, appeared before the board and discussed a plan for re-opening the Senior Center. She said at this time she is not comfortable opening completely and she is hoping to do a soft opening two hours before they serve lunch and then those people can take their lunches to go. She also mentioned that she had an Aging Partners meeting at 9:30-10:00 and she would know more information about what other centers are doing. The board suggested she attend that meeting and if the Supervisors meeting were still going on that she could come back, and they would decide at that time.

### **Approval of Official Bond and Oath/Marvin Andel – Union Township**

Moved by Bauer and seconded by Whitmore to approve the bond and oath as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Bauer, Whitmore, Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, Mach, and Steager. The following voted nay: NONE. Motion carried.



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## **Approval of Utility Permit for Windstream at 1590 Rd 42**

Moved by Mach and seconded by Coufal to approve the utility permit as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Mach, Coufal, Svoboda, Krafka, Whitmore, Bauer, and Steager. The following voted nay: NONE. Motion carried.

## **Approval of Utility Permit for Windstream at 4110 V Rd**

Moved by Mach and seconded by Krafka to approve the utility permit as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Mach, Bauer, Whitmore, Krafka, Svoboda, Coufal, and Steager. The following voted nay: NONE. Motion carried.

## **Update on Roads**

Randy Isham, Interim Highway Department Head, presented before the board that the Roads Dept is working to keep the roads clear, but the wind has been causing them problems. He said with the warmer temps this week they were going to try and get out on the roads and fix the bad spots since the weather is supposed to get cold and stay cold for a while. Isham also said that they will be cutting down trees by the Linwood Bridge, they also have the tree grinder out to clean up trees throughout the county. Whitmore and Coufal both shared compliments they had received after the most recent snowstorm. Whitmore asked Isham about the contract with Ulysses Township (Twp) and how they order their gravel. Isham explained that typically the motor grader operator orders the gravel, however, if Ulysses Twp knows places that need gravel, they can call the office and request the gravel to be ordered; however, because of their contract they cannot just order gravel on their own. Krafka brought up the Bowstring agreement and that they finally have everything in order. They updated the new supervisors that this was approved previously and all that was needed was for the chairman to sign. Julie Reiter, County Attorney, asked if there were any changes made to the agreement that they had, she said that when she had last spoken with Bowstring's attorney he mentioned there would be changes. If that is the case, then the board did not actually approve the agreement that they have at this time. The board asked Laska to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **Review of Public Defender current expenditures report through January 31, 2021**

The board reviewed the current expenditures report for the Public Defender Budget and requested to review it again next month. The report was placed on file.

## **Human Resources Update**

Heidi Loges, Human Resources Director, appeared before the board and asked them if they were aware of a policy in the past regarding safety glasses for the roads personnel. She said she has been approached by approximately half a dozen employees asking about getting reimbursed for prescription safety glasses. The board asked if the Roads Department had a line item for safety equipment, and Laska said yes they do and there was \$17,000 approved for that line item this budget year. They asked how much was left, and Laska reported that they had \$7,673.13 remaining of that budget for the rest of the fiscal year. Loges mentioned that she had asked the Wal-Mart optical center if they had pricing for prescription safety glasses and they said they did. The board asked Loges to look into group pricing for the next meeting. Isham mentioned that the safety glasses are crucial for the employees especially when welding. The board also asked Jordan Jisa if he knew of any grants that would help reimburse safety glasses. Jisa said he was not aware of any, but the County could always turn the receipts into NIRMA, and they may award ASSIST funding for them, its not guaranteed, but it's a possibility.

Loges also updated the board regarding the use of the Hwy 92 building. She said that it is being used by 4-H and extension for Robotics and other activities. She also said that the Sheriff's office, State Patrol, and other Law Enforcement agencies used the facility for training the previous week.

Whitmore was contacted by Diana McDonald and she would not be making it back to the meeting; she asked that opening the Senior Center be put on the agenda for the next meeting.



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## Committee Reports

Road & Bridge discussed with the board the need to review Randy Isham's current wage since he stepped in as Interim Department Head. The board asked Laska to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. They also discussed that the Highway Superintendent ad had been running for two weeks and they were going to let it run for two more weeks and start interviews after that; there are currently half a dozen applications.

Bauer discussed with the board the Ag Society questions that have come up since they are looking for a new manager.

Whitmore reported that his first Four Corners meeting would be Tuesday.

There was discussion as to when the next hospital meeting would be, Steager said he would contact the Hospital to find out.

## Discussion

Krafka discussed with the board that Bellwood is looking to annex property in Bellwood that would include property owned by Frontier Coop. It was discussed who would take care of that road since currently the county maintains it. Reiter directed the board to Nebraska State Statute 18-1716.01 where it states: *"Any city or village annexing property contiguous to or abutting upon any part of a county road shall be deemed to have annexed, without further action, all of the contiguous or abutting road at the time of such annexation, except that this section shall not apply to county roads separating counties."*

## Discussion

Steager discussed with the board an email he received regarding legislation that is being proposed, LB102. This bill would give the board the authority to eliminate the Clerk of the District Court if the office were vacated by the elected official and the deputy did not want the position. Sandy Hoeft, Clerk of the District Court, said that they have been trying to do this for years and that it is a bill to keep an eye on.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be February 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Stephanie L. Laska  
County Clerk

Scott Steager  
Chairman