

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, March 12, 2024 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the new Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on March 7, 2024. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on March 7, 2024. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Some of the elected and appointed officials were present. Candace Panas, Office Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda, with the deletion of Transfer of Funds, adding of Tom Weins at 8:30 for discussion of tree pruning, and the minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

Action Communications Inc, \$775.00; Allo Communications, Service, \$1,308.60; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,233.25; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$7,786.99; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Bayard Transcript, Printing & Publishing, \$671.10; Bob Benton, Repairs, \$24.00; Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial, Supplies, \$64.62; Bob Barker Company Inc., Supplies, \$75.61; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies & Repairs, \$523.49; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport Family Dental, LLC, Board of Prisoners & Medical-Prisoners, \$517.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing, Subscription & Law Enforcement Costs, \$1,159.56; Bridgman Funeral Home, County Burials, \$2,000.00; Capital Business Systems, Inc., Copier Lease, \$32.96; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$1,339.73; Century Business Products, Supply's & Equip, \$63.56; Mike Cerny, Phone, \$40.00; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$623.98; Clerk of the District Court, District Court Costs, \$36.00; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life Ins Corp, Insurance, \$218.21; Consolidated Management Co, Board of Prisoners, \$300.10; Crites, Shaffer, Connealy, Etc, Court Appointed Council, \$84.00; Dollar General, Medical & Laundry-Prisoners & Board of Prisoners, \$186.90; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Office Supplies, \$284.38; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Family 4ward Inc, Juvenile Costs, \$1092.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Director Fees, \$1,500.00; Todd Harless Electric, Repairs, \$164.59; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Laundry-Prisoners, \$273.24; Jackson's Garage LLC, Repairs, \$101.05; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,340.13; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$161.00; Mips Inc, Data Processing Costs & Supplies, \$2744.43; Morrill County Community Hospital, Board of Prisoners & Medical-Prisoners, \$1,995.00; Morrill County Court, County Court Costs, \$264.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,240.39; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel-Assessor, \$30.48; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel-Public Transit, \$210.82; Brian Moss, Data Processing, \$1,500.00; National Sheriff's Association, Dues & Training, \$556.50; NE Print Works LLC, Supplies, \$80.57; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$179.64; Nein Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$13.92; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$2,538.03; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Property Mgr. & Labor, \$1,000.00; Pell Reporting Inc, Court Reporting, \$1054.60; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$13,193.54; Riverside Lumber LLC, Supplies, \$23.37; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Sonny' Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoner's, \$37.65; Sonny's Super Foods, Board of Prisoner's & Laundry, \$18.98; Standard Appraisal Service Inc, Appraisal, \$5,135.00; Ricky Trevino, Phone, \$40.00; U.S. Postal Service (Quadient), Postage, \$10,000.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$812.28; Wickard Heating & Plumbing Inc, repairs, \$168.75; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$107.41; General Employees, Salaries, \$63,385.97.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$109.20; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$775.85; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,672.98; B & C Steel Corp, Steel Products, \$368.75; Bayard Automotive LLC, Supplies, Tools & Repairs, \$3,682.80; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$4,165.12; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Tools & Repairs, \$1,184.30; Bridgeport News-Blade, Printing & Publishing, \$353.43; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$194.43; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equipment Lease, \$5153.05; Century Link, Service, Telephone, \$114.53; City of Bayard, Service,

\$584.16; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$557.33; Colonial Life Ins Corp, Insurance, \$22.16; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires & Repairs, \$3702.92; Frank Parts Co., Parts, \$279.52; Harbor Freight Commercial Acct., Tools & Repairs, \$629.87; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$490.00; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$337.02; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Tools & Repairs, \$1,900.71; Lee's Service Inc, Repairs, \$1534.65; Mid-American Research Chemical, Supplies, \$240.65; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,161.93; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; NE Dept of Revenue, Garnishment, \$128.89; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$450.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,658.16; Powerplan, Repairs, \$1,882.32; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$291.03; Caroline Sanchez, Misc, \$199.50; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$14.47; Uline, Supplies, \$875.81; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$105.40; Westco, Machinery & Equipment, \$19,077.82; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Equipment LLC, Repairs & Supplies, \$1354.68; Road Employees, Salaries, \$32,648.73.

#### VISITOR'S PROMOTION FUND

John W. Berg, Mileage & Meal, \$51.00; Western Nebraska Tourism Coalition, Advertisement, \$430.85.

#### HEALTH FUND

Morrill County Health Plan, Claims, \$99,977.41.

#### ARPA FUND

Ackerman Ag Service & Supply, Panels & Posts, \$8,026.25; Alexis Corman, Supplies, \$370.00.

#### W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$240.17; Century Link, Service, \$247.39; Frontier, Misc, \$34.19.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the above claims, be approved with the deletion of Renkoski Vegetation claim and checks drawn on the various funds, delinquent personal property taxes deducted where owing. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The Board received, reviewed, and placed on file the minutes of the March Morrill County Tourism Meeting.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the tax sale report for March. Her report broke down the sold, unsold, and paid parcels from the tax sale on March 4, 2024. The amount of taxes advertised were 268 parcels in the amount of \$147,576.79, amount paid before the tax sale was \$52,684.25. McCoy explained on the day of the tax sale there were seventeen investors present and 52 parcels totaling \$49,878.50 were sold, 137 parcels in amount is \$45,014.04 are still remaining. The board discussed if any of the parcels are irrigation, but McCoy explained that it was only real estate. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to accept and sign the March 2024 Tax Sale Report. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt, and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Milo Cardenas, Sheriff, presented that the jail needs some repairs on the plumbing to the toilets and showers, floors, and roof. He stated that he has already purchased \$2500.00 for dehumidifiers to pull the moisture out. His priority is the showers and toilets, then the floors. He will work on getting quotes for the repairs so he can get some work done now and some done next budget year.

Zeth Patterson, Custodian, presented an estimate for a new ac unit on the south side of courthouse. Snell's presented an estimate of \$30,000.00 for a new unit. They stated we will hold off on a new unit at this time. Patterson also presented a Comprehensive Preventative Maintenance Agreement Form from Kone who services our elevator. This agreement broke down three options that ensure our elevator will be maintained to prevent any future issues. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve machinery inspection and minor adjustments costing \$664.59, and rejecting the other two options. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt, and Metz. Nays: None Motion carried.

Tom Weins, Modern Agriculture, shared with the board about pruning major dead branches out of the lower twenty feet of the three large spruce trees east of courthouse as requested by Schmidt. He had a proposal for the removal of dead branches, clean up and hauling for \$1,000.00. The board gave Tom the go ahead to complete the work and he will get started sometime this week.

Val Jansante, Community Liaison, for Adrain Smith, met with the Board to give an update on what Smith has been doing. He said he has been putting pressure on the Postmaster General, in hopes of keeping our mail going to the North Platte processing center and not to the Denver distribution center. He touched on the Farm Bill that will not happen until possibly after the election. Smith is looking to help bring animal science programs to Chadron. He hopes this will bring incentive for Veterinarian's to stay in rural Nebraska. Smith is also reintroducing income limits on Temporary Assistance Program (TANF). Currently no federal eligibility limits exist for TANF, he would like to reintroduce a five year limit and require that all recipients find work within three years of receiving aid. Smith is also supportive of the Countering Communist China Act; this bill will crack down on purchases of American farmland and confront the threat of fentanyl sourced by China.

The Board reported on the meetings they had attended. Schmidt had no meeting but did attend the tax sale. Batterman reported on a zoom meeting she had with opioid committee, stating they have allocated the money and it's ready for people to apply for. Metz reported on meetings with the Department of Ag. regarding weed superintendent. He also attended the community action meeting and stated that the CEO will be taking over duties of supervisor till they hire a COO.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:10 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Candace Panas, Office Clerk

**Board of Equalization**  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:45 A.M., Tuesday March 12, 2024 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the new Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on March 7, 2024. Copies of the Agenda kept continuously current were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on March 7, 2024. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, was present. Candace Panas, Office Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statute #77-1233.04(06) at 7:45 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Correction #2024-2. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve and sign the above correction. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt, and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:55 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz\_\_\_\_\_,Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Candace Panas\_\_\_\_\_, Office Clerk