

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, January 10, 2023 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. Chairman Metz welcomed Kirk Fellhoelter, the new County Attorney. Notice of such meeting have been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on January 4, 2023. 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 January 5, 2023. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairperson, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Some of the elected and appointed officials were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, for a possible road closure, and the minutes of the December 27, 2022 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

Allo Communication, Service, \$1,218.30; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$7,041.03; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Axon Enterprise Inc, Law Enforcement Supplies, \$1,095.03; Clint Bates, Phone, \$40.00; Bob Benton, Repairs, \$245.00; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$3,420.76; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Law Enforcement Supplies, \$19.49; Kathy Brandt, Phone & Misc, \$65.00; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$199.33; Capital Business Systems Inc, Data Processing Costs & Equip Lease, \$151.09; Ismael Cardenas, Phone & Notary, \$70.00; Mike Cerny, Phone, \$40.00; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$2,569.41; Clerk of Dist Court, Court Costs, \$108.00; Consolidated Management Co, Board of Prisoners, \$55.00; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$41.50; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$7,401.30; Dollar General, Supplies, Board of Prisoners & Medical-Prisoners, \$389.00; Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, Snyder Etc, Court Appointed Counsel, \$403.75; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$119.07; Election Systems & Software Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$2,487.50; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Cheree Fisher, Phone, \$40.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Hampton Inn-Kearney, Lodging, \$479.80; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Laundry-Prisoners & Supplies, \$566.26; Jackson's Garage LLC, Repairs, \$91.20; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs, \$9.49; Sara Leasure, Notary, \$30.00; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Loretta McCoy-Co Treas, Taxes, \$18.06; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Lease, \$75.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs & Supplies, \$3,997.83; Mobius Communications Co, Service, \$58.50; Morrill County Community Hospital, Employee Appreciation Dinner, Board of Prisoners & Medical-Prisoners, \$5,610.00; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$118.00; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$126.91; Brian Moss, Data Processing Costs, \$1,500.00; National Sheriff's Assoc, Dues, \$71.00; NE Clerk of Dist Ct, Assoc, Dues, \$50.00; Ne Dept of Revenue, Misc, \$20.00; NE Supreme Court, Law Library, \$195.70; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm, PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,007.95; PIP Marketing Signs & Print, Supplies, \$343.75; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$15,471.45; Quadient Leasing USA, Inc, Equip Lease, \$1,905.00; Region 21 Emergency Mngmt, Quarterly, \$7,750.16; Jared Reynolds, Contract Labor, \$500.00; Jean Rhodes, Public Defender, \$2,064.40; Timothy W. Rice, Notary, \$30.00; Caroline Sanchez, Contract Labor, \$2,100.00; Scotts Bluff Co Detention Center, Boarding, \$2,000.00; Sonny's Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$19.95; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$30.42; Stanard Appraisal Service Inc, Appraisal, \$770.00; State of NE-Dept of Admin Services, Teletype, \$448.00; Ricky Trevino, Phone, \$40.00; U S Postal Service-Postmaster, Box Rent, \$90.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$1,359.67; General Employees, Salaries, \$60,275.60.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$107.76; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,356.81; Bayard Automotive, LLC, Supplies & Repairs, \$339.25; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$5,805.78; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Tools, \$1,005.45; Century Link, Service, \$104.82; City of Bayard, Service, \$675.31; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$467.34; Ray Cranmore, Gravel, \$1,880.00; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$2,600.80; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires, \$3,550.00; Filter Care of NE LLC, Repairs, \$264.60; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$222.96; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs & Supplies, \$1,439.98; Mike Linch, Gravel, \$516.00; Michael Todd & Co Inc, Supplies, \$827.78; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; NE Dept of Rev/Motor Fuels Div, Fuel Tax, \$746.00; NMC

Exchange LLC, Repairs & Supplies, \$11,112.75; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,843.26; Mary Pohl, Gravel, \$595.00; PT Hose & Bearing, Supplies, \$40.60; Riverside Lumber LLC, Supplies, \$71.85; Ray Satchell, Gravel, \$1,954.00; Marjorie P. Schneider, Gravel, \$769.00; David Zwirn, Supplies, \$119.72; 21st Century Equip, Repairs, \$307.69; Road Employees, Salaries, \$29,838.34.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$503.65; Century Link-Business Services, Service, \$538.21; Frontier, Misc, \$68.38.

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

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 10, 2023

January-reorganizational meeting-2nd Tuesday (Sec. 23-153, R.S. Nebr. 1943)

(The Veteran's Service Officer does not have to be re-appointed by this board. His board does that.)

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Met: January 10, 2023
Published: January 4, 2023
E-Mailed: January 5, 2023

The Board proceeded to organize according to Section 23-153, 1943 Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to nominate Jeff Metz to serve as Chairperson of said Board for the year 2023. Yeas: Batterman and Schmidt Nays: None. Abstained: Metz. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Metz, that Susanna Batterman serve as First Vice Chairperson of said Board for the year 2023. Yeas: Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Abstained: Batterman Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Metz, that Josh Schmidt serve as Second Vice Chairperson of said Board for the year 2023. Yeas: Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Abstained: Schmidt. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the following Commissioners serve as representatives from Morrill County on the following Boards for the year 2023:

Schmidt, Region I Office of Human Development, Aging Office of Western NE, Safety Committee, Veteran's Board and Morrill/Scotts Bluff County Extension Board.

Metz, CAPWN, Morrill County Fair Board and Morrill County Community Hospital Liaison.

Batterman, Region 21 Emergency Management, Panhandle Public Health Board, Region I Behavioral Health Board and County Sick Leave Bank Committee.

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the vote of the Morrill County Commissioner representative, to any of the boards outlined above, is made with full power and authority as if made by the County Board as a unit. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to re-appoint Judy Oltmann as principal and Gary Oltmann as alternate Morrill County Representatives to the Aging Office of Western Nebraska Advisory Council for the year 2023. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that Bryan Hoerler, who holds a Class A License, Number S-1361, be re-appointed as County Highway Superintendent for the year 2023. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that Travis Rodak be re-appointed as Public Transit Director for the year 2023. Yeas: Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman that Cody Renkoski be re-appointed as Contracted Weed Superintendent for Morrill County for the year 2023. Yeas: Schmidt and Metz. Nays: Batterman. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that Bill Dean be appointed as Zoning Administrator for Morrill County for the year 2023. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to appoint, the following to serve as members of the Morrill County Safety Committee for the year 2023: Milo Cardenas, Bryan Hoerler, Loretta McCoy, Rose Nelson, Mary Ann Randall, Jared Reynolds, Caroline Sanchez, Susan Kelly & Josh Schmidt.
Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to adopt the following holidays for the year 2023:

New Year's Day – January 2, 2022, (Monday) (Holiday falls on Sunday)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 16, 2023 (3rd Monday)
President's Day - February 20, 2023 (3rd Monday)
Arbor Day - April 28, 2023 (Last Friday)
Memorial Day - May 29, 2023 (Last Monday)
Independence Day - July 4, 2023 (Tuesday)
Labor Day – September 4, 2023 (1st Monday)
Columbus Day – October 9, 2023 (2nd Monday)
Veterans' Day - November 10, 2023 (Friday) (Holiday falls on Saturday)
Thanksgiving Day - November 23, 2023 (Thursday)
Day after Thanksgiving - November 24, 2023 (Friday)
Christmas Day – December 25, 2023 (Monday)

IF SUCH HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THE FOLLOWING MONDAY SHALL BE A HOLIDAY. IF SUCH HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SATURDAY, THE PRECEDING FRIDAY SHALL BE A HOLIDAY. THE OBSERVED HOLIDAY FOR THE COUNTY MAY BE AMENDED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD, OR BY DECLARATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNT BOARD TO BE RATIFIED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD AT A LATER DATE. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the banks in Morrill County and NPAIT as depositories and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR BANKING #2023-01

WHEREAS, there are five banks in Morrill County, Nebraska, to wit:
Bank of the West, Nebraska Bank, Platte Valley Bank and Wells Fargo Bank Nebraska, NA, all in Bridgeport, Nebraska and First National Bank of Omaha in Bayard, Nebraska and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the County Treasurer deposit in each bank a sum in excess of the capital stock and surplus in each of said banks,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD of Morrill County, Nebraska, that the County Treasurer of Morrill County, Nebraska, be and hereby is authorized to deposit in Bank of the West, Nebraska Bank, Platte Valley Bank and Wells Fargo Bank Nebraska, NA, all in Bridgeport, Nebraska or in First National Bank of Omaha in Bayard, Nebraska and NPAIT, or each of said banks a sum in excess of the capital stock and surplus of each bank provided each of said banks secures the deposit by pledge of the assets of the Bank as provides in Section 77-2318.01 R.R.S., 1943. The County Treasurer shall be allowed to invest on the County's behalf during the year. The Morrill County Treasurer shall receive a timely report as required by statute as to the market values and positions of each security that is pledged.

Said Resolution was passed and adopted this 10th day of January, 2023.

MORRILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairperson

(S E A L)

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
Morrill County Clerk

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, designating the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript as the official newspapers for Morrill County for the year 2023 and they are to publish the official proceedings and the statutory rate for such publication shall be in accordance with statutes of Nebraska and said rate shall be divided between the official newspapers as follows: the Bridgeport News-Blade, a ½ share and the Bayard

Transcript a ½ share. In addition, the County’s Website shall be designated for the minutes in their entirety and for meetings notices. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to set the per diem limit for meals at \$35.00 and receipts must accompany the claim. If the meal allowance is for a day meeting, and not an overnight trip, the employee’s/official’s W-2 form will reflect these meals as a benefit. Yeas: Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mileage rates will be the same as the IRS rates. If you are using a county-owned vehicle, you will be able to charge fuel. If you are taking your personal vehicle to a county meeting, you may charge mileage.

The November minutes of the Morrill/Scotts Bluff County Extension meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, met with the Board regarding a road between Andrew Terrell and Kevin Hall that could be vacated. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to direct Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, to conduct a Road Study on Rd 105 & 116 for the possibility of vacating. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board reviewed Hoerler’s budget.

Cody Renkoski, Contracted Weed Superintendent, presented his Annual Noxious Weed report for 2022. Renkoski said the purpose of weed control is to eliminate and control noxious weeds. Cody asked if the Resolution for sending a 10-15 day notice to landowners that do not control weeds, is still in place. The Board acknowledged that it is still in place. Metz mentioned that he had talked to Josh Anderson from Clay County and there is money that may be available for funding to control noxious weeds. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and have Chairman Metz sign the 2022 Annual Report. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board discussed the renewal of Renkoski’s contract. Renkoski agreed to leave it at the same \$45,000 for the year. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to renew the contract for Weed Control with Cody Renkoski for the 2023 year at \$45,000. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a resolution to transfer \$75,000 into the Road Fund. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2023-02
TRANSFER OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Road Funds monies were put into the General Fund at levy time it is necessary to transfer those monies into the proper funds. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners orders the County Treasurer to transfer the funds in the amount of \$75,000.00 into the Road Fund

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th day of January, 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairperson

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The January minutes of the Planning/Zoning Board were received along with the documentation from the Public Hearing they held for a Conservation Easement on Rush Creek Land & Live Stock Company to be transferred to Wetland America Trust Inc. The Board read the documents and will hold a public hearing at a date to be determined at the next meeting. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to accept and place on file the minutes from the Planning/Zoning Board. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Susan Kelly, Clerk of the District Court, presented the Proposal for the District Courtroom upgrade. She said the judge wanted the Board to approve this proposal and get started. Milo Cardenas, County Sheriff, asked if an electrician had looked at it to give an estimate on the cost. The Board said that they will make no commitment until there is a meeting coordinated with the State, the County and an Electrician for the total cost of what is needed and the cost to the county.

Josh Schmidt, County Commissioner, presented bids for the flooring in the hallway. Bids were received from Tom Randall and Travis Sparks. Motion was made by Metz, seconded by Batterman, to authorize Josh

Schmidt to accept the bid on behalf of the county after he gets more information. Yeas: Metz and Batterman. Nays: None. Abstained: Schmidt. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt said his meetings are this week. Batterman reported on the meeting with Panhandle Public Health and that she had met Senator Hardin. She said she will be meeting with the ones on the Opioid Settlement Board to review the by-laws. She said she is hoping to meet with the schools regarding drug use and mental health issues. Metz reported on the Planning & Zoning meeting. He also reported that the Fair Board is going to have a joint meeting with the Farm & Ranch Board on Thursday, regarding the rent. He said the Fair Board counteroffered \$15,000 for rent and this will be discussed at this meeting.

The Board discussed County Government Day, that will be held on March 7, 2023.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:59 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

/s/Jeff Metz _____, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt _____, County Clerk

Board of Equalization
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public meeting in an open public meeting at 7:45 A.M., Tuesday, January 10, 2023 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on January 4, 2023. 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 January 5, 2023. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairperson, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, was present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County 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(6) at 7:45 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Correction #2023-1. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above correction. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made to return to regular session at 7:49 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk