

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, July 28, 2020

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, July 28, 2020 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript on July 22, 2020. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current, were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners July 23, 2020. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Greg Sterkel were present. Absent: None. Some of the Elected and appointed Officials were also present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, that the Agenda, and the corrected minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting that had the approval of the Stanard contract. Yeas: Batterman, Sterkel and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$843.28; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$6,387.40; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$118.21; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$68.86; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies & Repairs, \$68.95; Cynthia J. Brandt d/b/a Brandt Court Reporting Services, Law Enforcement Costs, \$100.00; Kathy Brandt, Mileage, \$17.25; Century Business Products, Equip, \$48.00; Century Link, Service, \$80.76; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$2,549.88; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$322.11; Crites, Shafer, Connealy, Etc. PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$161.00; Custom Cage, Vehicle Equip, \$1,095.00; Mandy M. Dalimata, Phone, \$25.00; DAS State Accounting, Data Processing Costs, \$151.88; Dataspec Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$898.00; Docu-Shred LLC, Service, \$165.00; Nancy Eichthaler, Phone & Mileage, \$92.20; Jackson's Garage LLC, Repairs, \$199.99; Mediation West, Misc, \$100.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$2,636.73; Morrill County Community Hospital, Medical-Prisoners, \$238.52; Morrill County Health Plan, Employee Premiums, \$2,368.49; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$35,824.89; Morrill County Highway Dept, Garbage & Phone, \$75.00; Brian Moss, Data Processing Costs, \$1,500.00; NE Assoc of Co Clk/ROD's/Elect Comm, Registration, \$125.00; Stacy C. Nossaman-Petitt, Court Appointed Counsel, \$100.75; Sarah Paisley, Mileage & Supplies, \$105.65; Pell Reporting Inc, Law Enforcement Costs, \$72.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$2,018.33; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$12,689.15; Pohl's Welding & Fabrication Inc, Repairs, \$335.50; Postmaster, Box Rent, \$76.00; Nate Rahmig, Mowing, \$400.00; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$27,077.31; Travis Rodak, Meals, Mileage & Lodging, \$402.29; Staples Credit Plan, Supplies & Equip, \$929.39; Univ of NE Lincoln-Youth Dev, Supplies, \$60.00; Univ of NE, Mileage, \$56.44; UNL ITS Communication Center, Service, \$135.12; U S Bank, Data Processing Costs & Equip, Supplies, Fuel, Registration, Phone & Misc, \$620.91; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Mileage, \$15.13; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$712.39; Xerox Financial Service, Equip Rental, \$302.43; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$177.64; General Employees, Salaries, \$57,395.85.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$293.90; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,060.78; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies & Repairs, \$467.98; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$18.82; Dana Cadwallader, Phone \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$86.57; Charter Communications, Service, \$99.98; Colonial Life & Accident Ins Co, Insurance, \$76.14; Equip Blades Inc, Blades, \$2,070.00; Fat Boys Tire-Corp, Tires, \$2,586.58; Ron Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Gooder Trucking LLC, Gravel, \$10,316.78; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$3,265.53; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Inland Truck Parts & Service, Repairs, \$5,038.58; KBK Trucking LLC, Gravel, \$12,384.04; Mike Linch, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Employee Premium, \$1,335.93; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$19,416.71; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$252.93; \$222.00; NE Public Power Dist, Service, \$68.78; Panhandle Co-op, Tires, \$368.80; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$497.50; Platte Valley Bank, Federal

Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,452.31; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$14,586.92; Simon East Region NE, Asphalt, \$5,582.00; Staples Credit Plan, Supplies, \$8.40; Thompson Glass Inc, Repairs, \$170.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$27,206.63.

HIGHWAY-BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND

Koozer Construction, Road Project, \$9,372.50.

HANDYMAN FUND

Bridgeport News-Blade, Supplies, \$52.03; Morrill County Highway Dept, Phone, \$25.00.

W911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$145.43; Century Link Business Services, Service, \$67.24.

911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$195.78; Century Link Business Services, Misc, \$449.96.

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

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The following 2020 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: June - I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, J Schildt, Clk of Dist Ct, K Brandt, Co Clk and L McCoy, Co Treas.

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

The July minutes of the Visitors' Committee were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the June Financials to the Commissioners. She said they currently have auditors. She said the MRI is up 170% from last year. Stuart said they should get around \$500,000 from Medicare. Stuart presented a letter from the Hospital Board of Directors asking that the Board replace Thomas Oliver whose term expires in September, with Travis Rodak. Motion was made by Sterkel, seconded by Batterman, to accept the resignation of Thomas Oliver and to appoint Travis Rodak to replace him for a one year term. Yeas: Sterkel, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Stuart said the Board would also like to stagger the terms for one every year, instead of several expiring all in the same year. Motion was made by Sterkel, seconded by Batterman, to agree to allow the Hospital Board to be on a staggered term with one expiring each year. Yeas: Sterkel, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the Semi-Annual Statement and the Unpaid Tax Report to the Commissioners. Motion was made by Sterkel, seconded by Batterman, to accept the reports. Yeas: Sterkel, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy presented a resolution to transfer funds to the Road Department. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2020-24
TRANSFER OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Road Fund 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 \$50,000.00 into the Road Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of July, 2020.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairperson

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Greg Sterkel
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

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

Brenda Leisy and Karla Nieden-Streeks and Barbara Netherland met with the Board regarding signage that the National Park Service is offering at no charge for Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties. There would be 5 signs for Morrill County and would be placed on two county roads marking the Oregon Trail and California Trail. Leisy said the county road department would have to place the signs and they figured at a cost of \$100 per sign. Leisy said that they will pay for the placement if the County agrees to install them. Streeks said that the DOT will place the signs on the highways, but wants to wait until they are approved for the entire state, not just county by county. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to agree to and sign the Authorized Road right of way agreement. Yeas: Batterman, Sterkel and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Metz opened the Public Hearing for the One-and Six Year Road Program at 8:31 A.M. Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, presented the One-and Six Year plan. He said that the resolutions for the plan will not be ready until later this year. He will present them when they are ready. Hearing no public comment, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearing at 8:45 A.M. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to approve the One-and Six Year Road Plan. Yeas: Batterman, Sterkel and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board evaluated Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent. They complimented him on good communication with employees and getting new people hired.

Travis Rodak, County Attorney, presented a resolution supporting law enforcement. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2020-25

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRPERSON AND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MORRILL, NEBRASKA, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Morrill County Sheriff's Office and the City of Bayard Police Department are the local law enforcement agencies in Morrill County, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, approximately 800,000 law enforcement officers are serving in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Morrill County Board of Commissioners are grateful for the law enforcement officers who protect our communities and put their lives on the line for not only for Morrill County but for all communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, we as a County know and are grateful that in the United States our local law enforcement agencies and those outside of Morrill County are grounded in the rule of law and believe that the vast majority of law enforcement officers are conscientious, civic-minded professionals, that strive for excellence in their service to the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Morrill, Nebraska by the authority granted the Board by the laws of the State of Nebraska and people of Morrill County, Nebraska, we hereby declare that we shall affirm our support for our local and non-local law enforcement officers in their mission to stand and defend the rights and liberties of all citizens, which are guaranteed by the United States and Nebraska Constitutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board affirms its support for the duly elected Sheriff of Morrill County, Nebraska, and those other law enforcement agencies in and out of this state, in the exercise of his sound discretion and affirms its resolve to support decisions by our

Sheriff made in his ongoing mission to support the rule of law, and support the constitution of the United States and this State.

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2020.

COUNTY OF MORRILL

/s/Jeff Metz

Chairperson

/s/Susanna Batterman

Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Greg Sterkel

Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt

County Clerk

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

Chairperson Metz opened the Public Hearing for a new liquor license for Brian and Mandi Sauer for Chimney Rock Golf Course at 9:15 A.M. Brian and Mandi Sauer were present. Hearing no public comment, Chairperson Metz closed the Public Hearing at 9:20 A.M. Motion was made by Sterkel, seconded by Batterman, to approve the liquor license for Chimney Rock Golf Course LLC – Chimney Rock Eagles Nest for Brian and Mandi Sauer. Yeas: Sterkel, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Sterkel reported on when Region 21 Emergency Management will meet. Batterman said she had not had any meetings. Metz reported on the Hospital Board meeting. He said the Fair Board, 4-H Council, Extension and Farm & Ranch Board had worked together to put on a great fair. He said they deserve a pat on the back. He said the sale went well both with bidders in attendance and online. Travis Rodak, County Attorney, reported on the NACO meeting he had attended and that there is money coming into the State for the COVID and that Morrill County needs to turn in claims to get their share.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:26 A.M. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 13, 2020.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

Board of Equalization

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:40 A.M., Tuesday, July 28, 2020 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. Notice of such meeting have been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on July 22, 2020. 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 July 23, 2020. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairperson, Susanna Batterman and Greg Sterkel were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, and Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statute #77-1233.04(6) at 7:40 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Sterkel and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Metz opened the Public Hearing for Vehicle Tax Exemptions at 7:42 A.M. Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented two Exemptions, one for Camp Rock and one for Bayard Church of Christ. Hearing no comments, Chairperson Metz closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 A.M. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to approve the Vehicle Tax Exemptions. Yeas: Batterman, Sterkel and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed with Rose Nelson, County Assessor, a comment that was made on Batterman's Tax Protest. Discussion was held.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented the Cemetery Report. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to approve the Cemetery Report. Yeas: Batterman, Sterkel and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Nelson also presented the Clerical Error report. She said it involved Crossroads Co-op. Motion was made by Sterkel, seconded by Batterman, to approve the report. Yeas: Sterkel, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Nelson presented her 3 Year Assessment Plan for 2020-2022. She explained that Ag land had dropped over \$20 million and minerals had dropped \$8 million. Discussion was held regarding the farm economy. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to accept and approve the 3 Year Plan. Yeas: None. Nays: Batterman, Sterkel and Metz. Motion failed.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Sterkel, to return to regular session at 7:59 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Sterkel & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk