

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, March 26, 2024 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on wall of the Commissioners' room. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Transcript Gate LLC, on March 21, 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 21, 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 also 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 deletion of Transfer of Funds, and the minutes of the March 12, 2024 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,233.25; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$7,630.24; AT & T Mobility, Service, \$305.69; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$1,032.48; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, \$4.99; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$34.98; Capital Business Systems, Inc, Equip Lease, \$83.24; Century Business Products, Supplies, \$241.20; Century Link, Service, \$80.76; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$2,030.83; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$218.21; Consolidated Management Co, Board of Prisoners, \$194.80; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$3,814.36; Docu-Shred LLC, Service, \$165.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$35.00; Gary's Alliance Inc, Repairs, \$750.00; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Lincoln County Sheriff, Law Enforcement Costs, \$39.50; Marshall & Swift/BOECKH LLC, Registration, \$389.95; Lori McCoy, Phone & Mileage, \$69.48; Medical Air Services Assoc, Insurance, \$476.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,240.39; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$30,105.86; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Registration, \$75.00; NE Safety & Fire Equip Inc, Supplies, \$42.80; NE Sec of State, Supplies, \$20.00; Sarah Paisley, Supplies & Mileage, \$141.71; Zeth Patterson, Supplies, \$5.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$12,980.39; Principal Life Insurance Co, Group Life, \$220.99; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Equip Rental, \$1,905.00; Region 21 Emergency Mngmt, Quarterly, \$11,084.55; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$21,196.58; Renkoski Vegetation, Weed Control, \$11,250.00; Katlyn Rosas, Supplies & Mileage, \$114.86; Scotts Bluff Co Detention Center, Boarding Contract, \$1,530.00; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs, \$825.60; Univ of NE-Ext, Registrations, \$150.00; U S Bank, Data Processing, Equip, Phone, Repairs, Uniforms, Law Enforcement Costs, Supplies & Misc, \$4,432.11; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Mileage, \$78.89; Shawn M. Weibert, Mileage & Registration, \$218.84; Xerox Financial Services, Equip Rental, \$302.43; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$62.26; General Employees, Salaries, \$62,720.86.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$775.85; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,389.59; B & C Steel Corp, Steel Products, \$162.36; Borla Engineering, Steel Products, \$3,906.00; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$116.10; Charter Communications, Service, \$109.98; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$1,770.54; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$94.65; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires, \$6,392.00; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Medical Air Services Assoc, Insurance, \$252.00; Menards-Scottsbluff, Repairs & Tools, \$2,887.92; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,161.93; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$14,863.72; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; NE Public Power, Service, \$79.30; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$450.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,017.17; Principal Life Ins Co, Group Life,

\$114.92; Regional Care Inc, Insurance, \$10,864.16; WPCI, Testing Fees, \$78.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$30,129.73.

#### 911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$204.11.

#### W911 FUND

Century Link Business Services, Service, \$550.46.

#### COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND

Thompson Glass Inc, Repairs, \$380.00; Thomas J. Wiens, Spraying, \$1,000.00.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, 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: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The following 2024 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: Feb – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clk, L McCoy, Co Treas & S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct

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

The March minutes of the Safety Committee were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to declare May as Mental Health Month and sign the Proclamation. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Susan Kelly, Clerk of District Court, presented an Inventory Listing on the courtroom upgrade. She said the commissioners have to verify and accept possession and future responsibility for the equipment that was upgraded. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve and sign the Statement of Acceptance. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Steve Hutchinson presented his Landscaping Agreement for 2024. The rate will still be \$730.00 per month from April through October. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the 2024 Landscaping Agreement with Steve Hutchinson. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board asked Hutchinson if he could put fertilizer on, spray for weeds, etc. He said he would look into it.

Zeth Patterson, Custodian, presented Snell's estimate for a new A/C unit for the upstairs. He said they have one available and it might not be if the current unit goes out. The Board said it is working, so no need to replace it. Patterson said the water heater on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor went out and he could not fix it, but found a new one for \$217. The Board told him to purchase it.

The Board discussed Cody Renkoski and that he did not complete his training and did not keep the county in compliance. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to cancel the contract with Cody Renkoski for Weed Control effective March 31, 2024 and to pay him for the three months, January through March. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to go into Executive Session at 8:50 A.M., according to Ne Statute #84-1410(d) to discuss personnel. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board asked that Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, and Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, remain. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session, with no action taken at 9:25 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board discussed the Weed department and appointing Bryan Hoerler, as interim Weed Superintendent. They discussed paying him \$20,000 a year for this position and taking the amount out of the General Fund, since we do not have a Weed budget, until July. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to appoint Bryan Hoerler as the interim Weed

Superintendent, beginning April 1, 2024. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the Aging Office of Western Nebraska and the Office of Human Development meetings. Batterman reported that they did not have a quorum for the Public Health meeting and reported on the Behavioral Health Meeting. Metz reported on the Extension Board meeting and the meeting with the Fundraising Committee for the Fairgrounds. He said they have a architect hired and will begin taking bids for the project in May or June. He said they will demolish the old building and that there is 8100 square feet of cement. He said the dirt work will start in August. He said their next meeting will be on April 17, 2024, if any of the commissioners would like to attend.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:44 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

**Board of Equalization**  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:38 A.M., Tuesday March 26, 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 21, 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 21, 2024. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, 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 Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statute #77-1233.04(06) at 7:38 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Corrections #2024-3, 4 & 5. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above correction. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Nelson presented a Report of Destroyed Real Property for Ashley Michelle Lynn Gardner. She said this house was destroyed by fire. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve Gardner's Application for Destroyed Real Property. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Metz opened the Public Hearing for Permissive Exemptions at 7:45 A.M. Nelson presented the permissive applications. Craig Lind and Chelsea Wiggins from the Bridgeport Community Church. They questioned why the daycare would not be exempt. Questions were asked, if the kids were all children of church members or if other children were allowed. Chelsea said they receive 67% from State Funding for some of the children. Discussion was held about the American Legion in Bayard serving alcohol and that it should not be totally exempt. The Community Action Partnership was also discussed regarding their duplexes in Bayard. Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearing at 8:16 A.M. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to grant permissive exemptions to all except for the Bridgeport Community Church to be at 50/50 on the fellowship hall, and the American Legion in Bayard a percentage to be exempt. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to deny the Exemption to Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska. Yeas: Batterman and Schmidt. Abstained: Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 8:19 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt \_\_\_\_\_, County Clerk



