

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, February 23, 2021 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 Bayard Transcript on February 17, 2021. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current, were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners February 18, 2021. 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 Board of Equalization, and the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

Accelerated Receivables Solutions, Garnishment, \$175.45; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,172.61; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$6,969.38; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$118.71; Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial, Supplies, \$65.32; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing & Subscription, \$67.50; Cenex Fleetcard, Fuel, \$1,044.75; Century Business Products, Equip, \$42.00; Century Link, Service, \$80.76; Charter Communications, Service, \$314.10; Clerk of Dist Court, Court Costs, \$110.00; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$284.10; Mandy M. Dalimata, Phone, \$25.00; DAS State Accounting, Data Processing Costs, \$69.88; Nancy Eichthaler, Phone, \$40.00; Audrey M. Elliott, Public Defender, \$4,166.66; Flatwater Arms, Law Enforcement Supplies, \$1,130.00; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Service & Laundry, \$335.12; Jack's Uniforms & Equip, Uniforms, \$307.52; Kone-Chicago, Service, \$239.28; Kraupie's Real Estate, Appraisal, \$50.00; Lussetto Machine Inc, Repairs, \$415.00; Maricopa Co, AZ Civil Division, Law Enforcement Costs, \$200.00; Mediation West, Misc, \$50.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs & Supplies, \$2,633.02; Morrill County Community Hospital, Medical-Prisoners, \$478.98; Morrill County Fair Board, Lease, \$14,000.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,486.27; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$36,929.83; Morrill County Highway Dept, Garbage & Phone, \$75.00; NE Clk of Dist Ct Assoc, Dues, 50.00; NE Safety & Fire Equip Inc, Equip, \$42.60; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$560.55; Sarah Paisley, Supplies & Mileage, \$211.88; Panhandle Coop, Repairs, \$41.78; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,617.50; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$12,956.63; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Supplies, \$105.54; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$545.92; Region 21 Emergency Mngmt, Trailer, \$1,200.00; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$27,826.18; Jared Reynolds, Contract Labor, \$500.00; Katlyn Rosas, Supplies & Mileage, \$141.29; Becki Schlager-Court Reporter, Court Costs, \$183.75; Snell Services Inc, Service, \$780.00; Staples Credit Plan, Supplies & Equip, \$454.54; Jonathan T. Stellar, Court Appt Counsel, \$408.33; Unif of NE-Lincoln, Mileage, \$128.12; U S Bank, Data Processing Costs & Equip, Supplies, Registration, Dues, Phone & Misc, \$1,071.75; Xerox Financial Service, Equip Rental, \$83.64; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$164.33; General Employees, Salaries, \$59,340.21.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$422.08; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,184.23; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$236.75; Dana Cadwallader, Phone \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$93.20; Charter Communications, Service, \$99.98; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$76.14; Fat Boys Tire-Corp, Tires, \$29,466.12; Ron Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$3,306.25; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$103.44; Inland Truck Parts & Service, Repairs, \$1,358.57; Inman Services, Repairs, \$1,087.44; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs & Supplies, \$235.90; Mike Linch, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,356.14; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$19,922.68; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$252.93; \$222.00; NE Public Power Dist, Service, \$75.44; NMC Exchange LLC, Repairs & Blades, \$3,000.46;

Panhandle Coop, Tires, \$50.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$547.50; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,683.09; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$15,071.82; Staples Credit Plan, Supplies, \$254.88; Westco, Repairs, \$1,519.80; Road Employees, Salaries, \$28,304.05.

HANDYMAN FUND

Morrill County Highway Dept, Phone, \$25.00.

W911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$149.68; Century Link Business Services, Service, \$70.78.

911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$210.20; Century Link Business Services, Misc, \$473.66.

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

Board of Equalization

No minutes for Board of Equalization.

The following 2021 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: January - I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clk, L McCoy, Co Treas and S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

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

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented transfers for the Road Fund and one for the General Fund to transfer back to the Inheritance Tax Fund. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfers and to adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION #2021-05  
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 23rd day of February, 2021.

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

RESOLUTION #2021-06  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Inheritance Tax Fund monies were needed for the County General Fund, in December of 2020, the Morrill County Board of Commissioners orders the County Treasurer to transfer the funds back from the General Fund in the amount of \$175,000.00 into the Inheritance Tax Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021.

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.

Travis Rodak, County Attorney, presented two Memorandums of Understanding for the Panhandle Partnership Inc and the 2020 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid. Rodak said these are for Grant writing for the Panhandle Counties. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the following Memorandums:

**MEMORANUM OF UNDERTSANDING  
between  
PANHANDLE PARTNERSHIP, INC.  
and  
MORRILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

This Agreement is entered into by and between **Panhandle Partnership, Inc.**, 1517 Broadway, Suite 106, Scottsbluff NE 69361 (hereinafter PPI) and **Morrill County Board of Commissioners**, 606 L. Street, Bridgeport NE 69336 (hereinafter County).

**Purpose.** To create a common understanding of the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan to meet the juvenile services plan requirements in the Juvenile Services Act (Nebraska Revised Statute 43-2401 to 43-2412) and 43-3504. This plan covers the eleven counties of the Panhandle (Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux) for the term of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025.

**Agreement:** The County does hereby express its support for and approval of the four-year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan developed by Panhandle Partnership, Inc., in conjunction with juvenile justice planning teams throughout the Nebraska Panhandle, for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. We understand that this plan has been developed as a guide to the endeavors of the county planning teams for utilization of the Crime Commission's Community Based Juvenile Services Aid grant funds,

Executed by the parties or their duly authorized representative on the dates indicated below.

**FOR PPI:**

/s/Karen Benzel

Board President

Panhandle Partnership, Inc.

**FOR COUNTY:**

/s/Jeff Metz

Chair, Morrill County Board of Commissioners

2/23/2021

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
2020 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid**

Scotts Bluff County is serving as the lead county in the assessment, distribution and evaluation of the 2021 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid from the Crime Commission. It is the desire of Morrill County to enact this arrangement for the funding requested for FY 2021-2022.

In discussion with Morrill County, they agreed Scotts Bluff County should be the lead county in this funding effort. The work will encompass juveniles ages 11-18, which are discussed in the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan for Nebraska’s Panhandle (Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux Counties). The present Comprehensive County Juvenile Services Plan is a collaboration of entities from each of the above named counties.

Lisa Rein, Human Resources Director/Management Accountant, will serve as the fiscal agent. As such, she will handle all financial transactions including income and expenses. Tyne Jackson, Director of the Scotts Bluff Juvenile Assessment Center, will take on the Project Director title for the Grant. Stacey Murphy will serve as the Project Coordinator for the Grant and she will work with Ms. Rein in submitting the quarterly reports. All quarterly reports are submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission. An audit of all reports is conducted annually.

This memorandum of understanding is to be signed by the Morrill County Board Chair in order for said county to be a part of this grant that is due in Lincoln, Nebraska by 5:00 p.m. CST on March 26, 2021.

<u>/s/Jeff Metz</u>	<u>Morrill</u>	<u>2-23-2021</u>
County Board Chair	County	Date
<u>/s/Kathleen L. Brandt</u>		<u>2-23-2021</u>
Witness		Date

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Rodak discussed the COVID-19 Sick leave that is extended to March 31, 2021. Rodak said if the county does nothing it will expire the end of March. Since no one has requested paid sick leave above their own leave, the board could revisit it at such time. Right now there is no need to set a separate policy.

Dennis Sullivan, Surveyor from MC Schaff, presented an offer to scan the Railroad Right-of-Way maps in the Assessor’s office in order to make the originals which are falling apart into a PDF for JPG file for a cost of \$600. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, said these maps are very old and are looked at quite frequently and they are falling apart. Nelson said she can pay for this out of her budget if the Board approves. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the agreement with MC Schaff for the Railroad Right-of-Way maps to be put into PDF or JPG format. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The second proposal was for the portion of the County line that borders Scotts Bluff County to survey with GPS coordinates for the west lines of Sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 28 and 33-23-52. This would be a shared cost with Scotts Bluff County for \$8,000. The cost for Morrill County would be \$4,000. Nelson said this would correct the Sections lines and would be very accurate. Metz said the property lines are already established and unless there was a dispute between landowners, he sees no reason for this. The Board asked Sullivan to present this at the March 23, 2021 meeting to discuss this further.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the January Financials. She said they have purchased the Hardware store for Radiology and approved the \$300,000 expansion of the therapy department for Dr. Taylor. She said it will also include a Cardiac and Pulmonary rehab and the Home Health will be relocated.

Katlyn Rosas and Sarah Paisley gave an update on the 4-H programs. They were trying to encourage participation in 4-H Clubs. If they are independent, they are grouped in with FFA. They talked about the success of their Take-home kits for Christmas and Valentine’s Day. These are things they can bring to the County Fair. Jackie Guzman, Extension Agent, reported on UNL still requiring masks and hopefully getting meetings back to normal, although the Zoom meetings have gone well.

Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, met with the Board regarding replacing the motor grader that was wrecked. Hoerler was asking for permission to take bids. The Board agreed to allow Hoerler to take bids and have them opened at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Hoerler said that NIRMA will pay \$40,000 less the \$1,000 deductible for the grader that was wrecked.

Steve Jobman and Samantha Stoltenberg met with the Board regarding MASA, Medical Transport Solutions. Barry Johnson, from MASA Global, joined in on a conference call to explain the program. The cost of this is \$14.00 per month per employee. The County has AirLink in place through the end of July. MASA covers the employee in all 50 states and Canada and does not require that you use only one carrier. This plan also covers ground transportation. Johnson explained the benefits and how it works to cover the employee and their dependents.

Discussion was held regarding the cost and if it could be funded through the Health Insurance account. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt that the county contract with MASA from April 1, 2021-July 31, 2022 and to cover all full-time employees who want the coverage and the cost to come out of the Health Insurance Account. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The AirLink coverage will stay in place until renewal time.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the Aging Office meeting and the Office of Human Development and election of officers. Batterman reported on the Public Health, Behavioral Health and Region 21 Emergency Management meetings. Metz reported on the Hospital meeting, the Fair Board and joint Fair Board and Farm & Ranch Board meetings.

Kathy Brandt, County Clerk, reported on the Sick Leave Bank and the number of days that had been donated by employees. Brandt explained that in order to qualify to use this bank, it has to be a serious medical condition and you have to use up your sick days, vacation days and FMLA and it has to be approved by the committee.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 10:23 A.M. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, 2021 in the District Courtroom at 8:45 A.M. for County Government Day.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

