

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, August 24, 2021

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, August 24, 2021 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 Bayard Transcript on August 18, 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 August 19, 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 addition of Possible Resolution for ARPA Funds and the minutes of August 10, 2021 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

John A. Albertz, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Heather L. Amateis, Juror Fees, \$48.44; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,106.63; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$6,975.56; Anderson, Klein, Brewster & Brandt, Court Appointed Counsel, \$4,263.52; Lindsey M. Anetsberger, Juror Fees, \$36.68; Karen C. Araujo, Juror Fees, \$52.92; Casey L. Ashing, Juror Fees, \$37.80; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$324.03; Bob Benton, Repairs, \$181.00; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$6.48; Wendy L. Brown, Juror Fees, \$36.68; Charles Browne, Bailiff, \$263.50; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$20.50; McKayla V. Castanon, Juror Fees, \$103.60; Cenex Fleetcard, Fuel, \$1,479.34; Century Business Products, Equip, \$144.08; Century Link, Service, \$80.76; Charter Communications, Service, \$313.94; Trenton J. Christensen, Juror Fees, \$40.60; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$3,964.01; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$284.10; Country Catering, Juror Meals, \$21.00; Mandy M. Dalimata, Phone, \$30.00; Dana F. Cole & Co LLP, Audit Costs, \$14,006.95; Dillon J. Defoe, Juror Fees, \$52.92; James A. Dicken, Juror Fees, \$60.26; Deanne J. Didier, Juror Fees, \$50.68; Neal A. Dueker, Juror Fees, \$103.60; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$20.03; Nancy Eichthaler, Phone, \$40.00; Todd L. Eichthaler, Juror Fees, \$74.48; Brian J. Ellis, Juror Fees, \$70.00; David W. Fanning, Juror Fees, \$86.80; Todd J. Filipi, Juror Fees, \$130.48; Flatwater Arms, Law Enforcement Costs, \$468.56; Tyler E. Ford, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Ronald G. Franklin, Juror Fees, \$37.24; Jennifer J. Gilson, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Marcelene J. Goeman, Juror Fees, \$86.80; Tammy L. Gregory, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Diana L. Hagel, Juror Fees, \$49.56; Dale H. Hansen, Juror Fees, \$52.92; Tyler SJ Hopkins, Juror Fees, \$66.36; Amy D. Houser, Juror Fees, \$46.92; Jewel J. Hoxworth, Juror Fees, \$38.92; Sterling T. Huff, Atty, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,388.48; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$141.60; Sharalyn V. Johnson, Juror Fees, \$105.84; Collins L. Jones, Juror Fees, \$52.92; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Michelle A. Keszler, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Kone-Chicago, Service, \$239.28; Todd A. Kraus, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Nolene A. Lattin, Juror Fees, \$52.92; Kaitlyn R M Leavins, Juror Fees, \$59.64; Larry D. Lissman, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Angel Lopez, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Aron P. Lummel, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Kyle E. Lussetto, Juror Fees, \$72.24; Loretta C. McCoy-Co Treas, Juror Delinq Taxes, \$35.00; Keith A. Miller, Jr, Juror Fees, \$52.92; Melanie L. Mitchell, Juror Fees, \$37.80; Troy F. Molko, Juror Fees, \$94.64; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,529.15; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$37,339.38; Morrill County Highway Dept, Garbage & Phone, \$75.00; Carmen K. Mulloy, Juror Fees, \$103.70; Doreen L. Myers, Juror Fees, \$37.80; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Training, \$135.00; Nossaman Pettitt Law Firm PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$2,798.22; Erik E. Nuss, Juror Fees, \$60.20; Tammie Ostdiek, Supplies, \$20.93; Dr. Whitney Pack, Meals & Mileage, \$829.24; Panhandle Co-op, Repairs, \$349.52; Robin L. Parmely, Juror Fees, \$52.36; Heather E. Peterson, Juror Fees, \$52.36; Michelle R. Pohl, Juror Fees, \$36.68; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,857.50; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$12,985.51; Andrew Post, Juror Fees, \$82.32; Prairie Winds Community Center, Rental, \$217.50; Principal Life Insurance Co, Group Life, \$213.25; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Postage, \$105.54; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$29,149.02; Renkoski Vegetation Services LLC, Weed

Contract, \$22,500.00; Jared Reynolds, Meals & Mileage, \$102.80; Jean Rhodes, Public Defender, \$2,036.97; Riverside Lumber LLC, Repairs, \$969.41; Travis Rodak, Meals, \$240.00; Katlyn Rosas, Supplies, \$57.00; Jessica Schwager, Juror Fees, \$46.20; Brockie R. Sikes-Robbins, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Charles J. Sinks, Juror Fees, \$52.36; Staples Credit Plan, Supplies, \$43.96; State of NE-Dept of Admin Serv, Data Processing Costs, \$138.88; Crystal L. Stevens-Smith, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Dr. Barbara Sturgis, Consulting Fees, \$6,667.50; Aaron M. Swires, Juror Fees, \$40.04; Jason Trussell, Juror Fees, \$51.80; U S Bank, Data Processing Costs, Supplies, Equip, Meals, Mileage, Registration, Phone & Misc, \$5,932.53; Richard K. Valentine, Juror Fees, \$105.84; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Repairs, \$20.58; Susan L. Verbeck, Juror Fees, \$52.92; Stacy L. Watts, Juror Fees, \$35.00; Robert J. White, Juror Fees, \$52.92; Lee A. Wiggins, Juror Fees, \$36.12; Xerox Financial Service, Equip Rental, \$302.43; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$111.44; Meredith J. Zwirn, Juror Fees, \$66.20; General Employees, Salaries, \$59,805.36.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Action Communications Inc, Repairs, \$1,554.05; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$266.69; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,054.83; B & C Steel Corp, Supplies, \$97.19; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs & Supplies, \$356.75; Dana Cadwallader, Phone \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$95.57; Charter Communications, Service, \$104.98; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$76.14; Equip Blades Inc, Blades, \$12,825.00; Fastenal Co, Supplies, \$314.17; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$475.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Lawson Products Inc, Repairs, \$69.60; Lee's Service Inc, Tires, \$1,343.65; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, Repairs, \$119.49; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,178.23; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$16,478.05; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$252.93; NE Public Power Dist, Service, \$92.72; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$347.50; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,526.49; PowerPlan, Repairs, \$7,429.14; Principal Life Ins Co, Group Life, \$113.79; Pro Overhead Door Inc, Repairs, \$462.50; PT Hose & Bearing, Repairs, \$310.27; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$13,153.41; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$327.98; WestCo, Fuel, \$18,922.65; Weyerts Electric, Repairs, \$100.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$27,153.97.

BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND

Gary Wagoner, Road Projects, \$6,436.00.

VISITOR'S PROMOTION FUND

Walker Spraying, Weed Control, \$153.98; Waste Connections Inc, Service, \$64.16; WNTC/OTCF, Advertising, \$366.59.

HEALTH FUND ACCOUNT

Morrill County Community Hospital, Refund, \$21,161.00; Morrill County Health Fund, Claims, \$79,900.12.

HANDYMAN FUND

Bridgeport News-Blade, Supplies, \$22.25; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$25.24; Morrill County Highway Dept, Phone, \$25.00.

W911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$256.22; Century Link Business Services, Service, \$114.33.

911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$191.20; Century Link Business Services, Misc, \$430.11.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND

Honey Bee Parking Lot Striping Co, Parking Lot, \$850.00; U S Bank, Repairs, \$222.91.

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: July – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clk, L McCoy, Co Treas & S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

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

The August minutes of the Visitor's Committee meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

The August minutes of the Veteran's Service Board meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the July Financials for the hospital. She said the construction work hasn't started yet on the new addition, but should start any day. She said the Fire Marshall has not signed off on the plans for the remodel of the building downtown. Stuart said their audit is not final yet and there will be a single audit on the CARES Act funds.

Kathy Brandt, County Clerk, presented the Annual Certification of Program Compliance and Resolution for the Nebraska Public Roads Classifications & Standards. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the signing of the certification and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
SIGNING OF THE
COUNTY ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE
#2021-31

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2115, 39-2119, 39-2120, 39-2121, and 39-2510(2), requires annual certification of program compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards; and

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statute, section 39-2120 also requires that the annual certification of program compliance by each county shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include the resolution of the governing body of the county authorizing the signing of the certification.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Morrill County is hereby authorized to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance.

Adopted this 24th day of August, 2021 at Bridgeport, Nebraska.

County Board Members

/s/Jeff Metz

/s/Susanna Batterman

/s/Josh Schmidt

Attest: (S E A L)

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt

County Clerk

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

The Board received and reviewed the Inventories for each office. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the Inventories. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION #2021-32
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 \$35,000.00 into the Road Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of August, 2021.

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

County Clerk

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

Steve Erdman, Senator, talked to the Board about things he is working on. Erdman said he is introducing a bill that will have schools not start before Labor Day and end by Memorial Day. He talked about the Critical Race Theory that the State Board of Education is adopting. He said they do not listen to the people that have expressed opposition to it. He said he has met with several school boards asking them to abolish this in our schools.

Matt Anderson, Wildlife Specialist and Jerry Feist, USDA District Supervisor, met with the Board regarding the cuts that the Federal Government, is making which could put Anderson's job in jeopardy. Feist said the counties have to decide in the next four months if they can contribute to keep the animal damage control going. Feist asked if the Commissioners could discuss this at the Panhandle District meeting in September. The Commissioners said they will discuss it.

Samantha Stoltenberg, RCI, met with the Board regarding a change that can be made to the drug coverage portion of the Medical Insurance. She said that Brian and Mark Hillier, have been working with Welldyne to get better coverage and eliminate the amounts that the middleman gets and return more to the county and the pharmacies. She presented two companies, Southern Scripts and Rx Preferred that had given bids. She said Welldyne has to have 60 days notice to end their contract and this would not go into effect until November 1st. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to end contract with Welldyne for drug coverage and to go with Southern Scripts and to allow the County Clerk, to sign the necessary documents. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kevin Sylvester, CPA from Dana F. Cole & Co, LLP, presented the budgets to the commissioners. He said the budget is \$400,000 more than last year. He said the reason is there was less starting cash in the General Fund at the end of the year. The Board reviewed the amounts in the Inheritance Fund and the Health Fund and it was decided to transfer \$237,000 out of the Inheritance Fund into the General. The Public Hearing for the budget will be at 7:30 A.M. on September 13, 2021 and the Tax Levy request will be held sometime later that day. The budget will be adopted on September 14, 2021 at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the ARPA Funds and hazard pay for the employees. Travis Rodak, County Attorney, presented a resolution for these funds. Discussion was held about the way this money would be distributed to employees through payroll and deductions would be taken out. Tammy Covalt will be responsible for the reporting. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the distribution and adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2021-33

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

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) awarded approximately \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency;

WHEREAS Morrill County was a recipient of a portion of said funds;

WHEREAS eligible uses for said funds include, but are not limited to, premium pay for essential workers, and to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;

WHEREAS Morrill County maintained continuity of operations throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 emergency, including maintain an open courthouse at all times, with minimal to no modification in how services were provided, and was unique in that regard when compared to the other counties throughout the State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the part of the ARPA funds allocated to Morrill County shall be utilized to provide hazard pay to those Morrill County full-time employees who were employed throughout the COVID-19 emergency, and who continue to maintain employment as of the date of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for purpose of determining the amount of the allocation of hazard pay for each eligible full-time employee., the following eligibility criteria has been established:

1. Each eligible employee shall receive a lump-sum Hazard Pay Allocation in the amount of \$10,000, less any required Federal and/or State withholding;
2. To be eligible, the employee must be employed full-time by Morrill County on the date of the passage of this Resolution;
3. The Hazard Pay Allocation shall be prorated for any eligible employee who was not employed full time by Morrill County from March 1, 2020 until the date of the passage of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Treasurer is directed to facilitate the Hazard Pay Allocations as soon as practicable, with assistance from the payroll and other departments necessary to allocate the Hazard Pay as set forth by this Resolution:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Morrill County shall further utilize a portion of said ARPA funds to engage a third-party ARPA Compliance Officer whose duty it shall be to track and perform any tasks necessary to maintain compliance with the ARPA rules and regulations promulgated by the Federal Government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no local taxpayer property tax dollars, nor any fund from the General Fund of Morrill County, other than those funds specifically provided by the Federal Government to Morrill County through ARPA, shall be expended to facilitate the Hazard Pay Allocations as set forth herein, nor to cover any costs associated therewith.

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2021

COUNTY OF MORRILL, NEBRASKA

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairperson

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

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

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the Human Development meeting, that they are having trouble staffing. Batterman reported on a Zoom meeting for the 988 Plan. Metz reported on the Fair Board and Hospital meeting. Metz also commended the Fire departments for handling the fire in Angora last week.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 10:20 A.M. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 14, 2021. The Budget hearing will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021.

/s/Jeff Metz _____, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt _____, County Clerk

