

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, January 11, 2022

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, January 11, 2022 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 have been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on January 5, 2022. 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 6, 2022. 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 deletion of Board of Equalization and Cody Renkoski, and the minutes of the December 28, 2021 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, \$1,090.91; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Clint Bates, Phone, \$40.00; Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial, Supplies, \$76.78; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$279.11; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing & Supplies, \$247.62; Capital Business Systems Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$118.25; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; Mike Cerny, Phone, \$40.00; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$118.41; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$27.50; Dana F. Cole & Co LLC, Budget, \$3,471.30; Dollar General, Supplies & Laundry, \$113.00; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Cheree Fisher, Phone, \$40.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Service, Supplies & Laundry, \$549.00; Jackson's Garage LLC, Repairs, \$62.03; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,465.46; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Lori McCoy, Phone, \$40.00; Mediation West, Misc, \$145.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Lease, \$75.00; Midwest Connect, Postage, \$15.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs & Supplies, \$3,727.22; Morill County Clerk, Recording Fees, \$10.00; Morrill County Community Hospital, Board of Prisoners & Appreciation Dinner, \$4,251.00; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$119.00; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$246.60; Brian Moss, Data Processing Costs, \$1,500.00; NACO, Registrations, \$300.00; NAFTAO, Training, \$325.00; NE Co Assess Assoc, Dues, \$60.00; NE Print Works, LLC, Supplies, \$1,414.90; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; NIRMA, Reimburse, \$1,401.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC, Public Defender, \$729.00; Lisa Peters, Supplies, \$20.08; Region 21 Emergency Mngmt, Quarterly, \$7,761.98; Jared Reynolds, Contract Labor, \$500.00; Travis Rodak, Phone, \$180.00; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$600.00; Caroline Sanchez, Contract Labor, \$2,100.00; Sandhills Repair, Repairs, \$163.50; Sonny's Super Foods, Medical-Prisoners & Supplies, \$36.01; Staples Credit Plan, Supplies & Equip, \$2,795.19; State of NE-Dept of Admin Services, Service, \$448.00; Ricky Trevino, Phone, \$40.00; US Postal Service, Box Rent, \$84.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$1,280.12; Xerox Financial Services, Equip Rental, \$377.06.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$106.96; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$1,899.02; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$340.96; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$178.93; City of Bayard, Service, \$551.14; Chimney Rock PPD, Meter Box Cost Share, \$1,025.06; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$386.62; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$29.98; Fat Boys Tire-Corp, Tires, \$714.06; Filter Care of NE, Repairs, \$61.05; Frank Parts Co, Repairs, \$93.59; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs & Supplies, \$1,071.06; Lee's Service Inc, Tires, \$2,260.76; Lusetto Machine Inc, Repairs, \$85.71; NE Dept of Rev/Motor Fuels Div, Fuel Tax, \$646.00; Powerplan, Repairs, \$4,475.26; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$105.40; David Zwirn, Repairs, \$91.56.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Morrill County Health Plan, Health Claims, \$100,166.24.

#### HANDYMAN FUND

Blanca Carrillo De Lamas, Service, \$264.00; Perfecto F. Garcia, Service, \$170.00; Debra Mason, Service, \$510.00.

911 FUND

Frontier, Misc, \$7.18.

W911 FUND

Frontier, Misc, \$27.01.

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

**Board of Equalization**

No Agenda items for Board of Equalization.

**REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 2022**

January-reorganizational meeting-2<sup>nd</sup> 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.)

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 2022. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Metz, that Susanna Batterman serve as First Vice Chairperson of said Board for the year 2022. Yeas: Schmidt, Metz & Batterman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Metz, that Josh Schmidt serve as Second Vice Chairperson of said Board for the year 2022. Yeas: Batterman, Metz & Schmidt. Nays: None. 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 2022:

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

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

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

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & 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 & 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 2022. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman & 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 2022. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that Nancy Eichthaler be re-appointed as Handyman/Public Transit Director for the year 2022. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman & Metz. 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 2022. Yeas: Schmidt & 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 2022. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman & 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 2022: Milo Cardenas, Bryan Hoerler, Jennifer Mitchell, Rose Nelson, Mary Ann Randall, Jared Reynolds, Caroline Sanchez, Susan Kelly & Josh Schmidt.  
Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to adopt the following holidays for the year 2022:

New Year's Day – January 1, 2022, (Friday) (Holiday falls on Saturday)  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 17, 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)  
President's Day - February 21, 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)  
Arbor Day - April 29, 2022 (Last Friday)  
Memorial Day - May 30, 2022 (Last Monday)  
Independence Day - July 4, 2022 (Monday)  
Labor Day – September 5, 2022 (1<sup>st</sup> Monday)  
Columbus Day – October 10, 2022 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)  
Veterans' Day - November 11, 2022 (Friday)  
Thanksgiving Day - November 24, 2022 (Thursday)  
Day after Thanksgiving - November 25, 2022 (Friday)  
Christmas Day– December 26, 2022 (Monday) (Holiday falls on Sunday)

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 & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION FOR BANKING #2022-01

WHEREAS, there are five banks in Morrill County, Nebraska, to wit:  
Bank of the West, Farmers State Bank, Platte Valley Bank and Wells Fargo Bank Nebraska, NA, all in Bridgeport, Nebraska and Western States Bank 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, Farmers State Bank, Platte Valley Bank and Wells Fargo Bank Nebraska, NA, all in Bridgeport, Nebraska or in Western States Bank., 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

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: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, designating the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript as the official newspapers for Morrill County for the year 2022 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: Schmidt, Batterman & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, 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: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. 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 December minutes of the Safety Committee were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the Semi-Annual Report. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the report. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. A Resolution to transfer money from the ARPA Funds into the General for the State Tax was presented. Motion was made by Schmidt seconded by Batterman, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION #2022-2  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the ARPA Fund monies were allocated to employees and the Retirement and Taxes had to be paid on those moneys, which caused the ARPA Fund account to be short, the Nebraska State Tax was paid out of the General Fund, it is necessary to transfer those monies back into the General Fund. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners orders the County Treasurer to transfer the funds in the amount of \$14,697.78 into the General Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

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

Susan Kelly, Clerk of the District Court, met with the Board regarding money that will be allocated to counties for upgrading technology in the Court System. She said there would be a meeting possibly on February 7<sup>th</sup> with those involved in the court system. Kelly said the Commissioners were welcome to attend. She said any new equipment would be paid for from this money, but if there was more electrical to be added, the county would have to pay for that. Travis Rodak, County Attorney, said he is comfortable with this set up, but feels that maybe an Owl could be installed in District Court for Zoom meetings. He said they have one in County Court and that County Court has a really good set up.

The Board discussed the raises for elected officials for the 2023-2026 term. A Resolution for salaries was presented. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the salaries and to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION #2022 – 03**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Morrill County Board of Commissioners to set salaries for elected county officials of Morrill County for the ensuing term commencing in 2023;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Morrill County Board of Commissioners that salaries for elected officials of Morrill County for the ensuing term commencing in 2023 be set as follows:

The annual salary for the office of **COUNTY COMMISSIONER** be established at \$16,500.00 for the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. provided that upon organization each year the chairperson of the Board received in addition to the said annual salary the annual sum of \$1,000.00.

The annual salary for the office of **COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY TREASURER AND COUNTY ASSESSOR** be established at \$55,094.15 for the calendar year 2023. That for each year thereafter a 1.5% increase be added to the previous year's salary, so that the amount paid for the calendar year 2024 be \$55,920.56 for the calendar year 2025 be \$56,759.37 and the calendar year 2026 be \$57,610.76. In addition to the salary, the **County Clerk** will receive an additional \$2,400.00 per year for managing the insurance fund.

The annual salary for the office of **COUNTY SHERIFF** be established at \$65,612.55 for the calendar year 2023. That for each year thereafter a 1.5% increase be added to the previous year's salary, so that the amount paid for the calendar year 2024 be \$66,596.74 for the calendar year 2025 be \$67,595.69, and the calendar year 2026 be \$68,609.63. In addition to the **County Sheriff's** salary an additional \$18,000 per year will be paid from the City of Bridgeport contract.

The annual salary for the office of **COUNTY ATTORNEY** be established at \$50,000.00 for the calendar years 2023. That for each year thereafter a 1.5% increase be added to the previous year's salary, so that the amount paid for the calendar year 2024 be \$50,750.00 for the calendar year 2025 be \$51,511.25 and for the calendar year 2026 be \$52,283.92.

The annual salary for the office of **COUNTY SURVEYOR** be established at \$1,000.00 for the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in addition to the Elected Officials salaries, the County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Assessor, County Sheriff, County Attorney and Clerk of the District Court, shall each receive a Premium (Hazard) Pay Allocation of \$15,000.00 to be exclusively funded via appropriations allocated to Morrill County through the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA).

Said Premium Pay Allocation shall be made only to those elected officials (officeholders) who held his/her office in Morrill County throughout the COVID-19 emergency, which for purposes of this Resolution, shall be March 1, 2020 through September 1, 2021, and who continue to be the officeholder on or after February 1, 2023.

Re-Election of the current officeholder shall be a prerequisite to receiving the Premium Pay Allocation. For any officeholder who held his/her office for less than all of March 1, 2020 through September 1, 2021, the Premium Pay Allocation for that officeholder shall be a prorated amount correlating to the percentage of days he/she was in office from March 1, 2020 through September 1, 2021.

Additionally, the Premium Pay Allocation shall be contingent upon the Premium Pay Allocation shall be contingent upon Morrill County receiving and being able to allocate the funds, and contingent upon the Premium Pay Allocation conforming to the rules and regulations set forth with regard to ARPA funds expenditures.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in addition to the above stated salary all elected officials shall receive the benefits of the County Retirement Plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, barring any mandates from Federal or State governments, which would change contributions of employer or employee for health coverage, that in addition to the above stated salary, each of the before state elected officials shall receive whatever health plan that is in place for each of the employees and adopted by the Board of Commissioners, and that such alteration in deductible or change in the portion paid by the individual shall not constitute an increase or decrease in the herein adopted salary.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** in regular session this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

**MORRILL COUNTY 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: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the Safety meeting. Batterman reported on being asked to serve on the committee for the Opioid funds with NACO. She said she will be meeting with Region I regarding the Foundation Fund along with commissioners from other Panhandle counties regarding this money. Metz said he missed the CAPWN meeting. He said he had sent a letter to the Legislature, which Erdman read, regarding doing away with Inheritance Tax. He said

it was his opinion and he was not speaking on behalf of the County Board. Batterman discussed the meeting that the three Fire Departments are trying to organize to possibly appoint a Fire Chief to be in charge of any fires or emergencies. It is tentatively set for January 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Board discussed County Government Day which will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Batterman will cater the meal.

Tammie Ostdiek, Extension Coordinator, invited the Commissioners to attend their meeting in Scottsbluff on January 18, 2022 at 6 P.M., which includes a dinner.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:02 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

/s/Jeff Metz \_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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

