

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, January 24, 2023 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 January 18, 2023. 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 19, 2023. 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 Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Agenda and the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

Action Communications Inc, Auto Lease, \$4,549.43; Alcohol Countermeasure Systems Inc, Supplies, \$139.80; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,376.79; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$7,255.19; Bob Benton, Repairs, \$104.50; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$2,835.23; Box Butte County Sheriff, Court Costs, \$6.00; Cynthia J. Brandt, d/b/a Brandt Court Reporting Services, Law Enforcement Costs, \$106.80; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing & Notary, \$101.88; Century Business Products, Supplies & Equip, \$165.36; Century Link, Service, \$80.76; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$3,201.61; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$206.88; Consolidated Management Co, Board of Prisoners, \$225.00; Kirk Fellhoelter, Phone, \$40.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Public Transit, \$12,000.00; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; John Deere Financial, Supplies, \$76.44; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,250.00; LPI, Publishing, \$132.50; Medical Air Services Assoc, Ins, \$462.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$86.00; Mid-States Org Crime Inf Center, Training, \$100.00; Morrill County Community Hospital, Appreciation Dinner, \$665.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,359.80; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$32,879.39; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$33.67; NE Co Assessors Assoc, Dues, \$60.00; NE Safety & Fire Equip Inc, Equip, \$42.60; NE Total Office, Furniture, \$1,369.00; Rose Nelson, Mileage, \$57.50; Panhandle Coop, Repairs, \$67.79; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,260.41; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$13,065.77; Plummer Insurance Inc, Notary, \$80.00; Principal Life Insurance Co, Group Life, \$197.66; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Supplies, \$105.54; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$567.95; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$27,363.82; Jean Rhodes, Public Defender, \$2,064.40; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Sandhills Repair, Repairs, \$81.95; Scotts Bluff County Detention Center, Boarding Contract, \$5,400.00; Secretary of State-Elections Div, Supplies, \$30.00; Staples Credit Plan, Supplies & Equip, \$685.18; Star-Herald, Subscription, \$358.59; State of NE-Dept of Admin Serv, Data Processing Costs, \$69.88; Thompson Reuters-West, Law Library, \$282.00; Transcript Gate LLC, Publishing, \$72.20; U S Bank, Data Processing Equip & Supplies, Lodging, Uniforms, Auto Lease & Misc, \$1,755.61; USDA Aphis, Contractual Pest Control, \$2,488.50; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Mileage, \$36.97; Xerox Financial Service, Equip Rental, \$679.49; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$117.42; General Employees, Salaries, \$61,784.39.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$573.06; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,771.67; Bridgeport News-Blade, Supplies, \$127.53; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$324.57; Century Link, Service, \$109.92; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$24.75; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires, \$3,900.00; Floyd's Truck Center Inc, Repairs, \$148.78; Frank Parts Co, Repairs & Supplies, \$132.98; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Harbor Freight Tools, Tools, \$899.97; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$353.77; Inland Truck Parts & Service, Repairs, \$1,129.86; Lee's

Service Inc, Tires & Supplies, \$2,838.95; Medical Air Services Assoc, Ins, \$252.00; Michael Todd & Co Inc, Supplies, \$5,202.42; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,270.09; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$16,956.31; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; NE Public Power, Service, \$113.23; NMC Exchange LLC, Repairs, Supplies & Equip, \$5,214.66; Panhandle Coop Assoc, Fuel & Tires, \$26,924.64; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$400.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,160.64; Powerplan, Repairs, \$456.62; Principal Life Ins Co, Group Life, \$106.32; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$14,025.92; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$316.01; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$108.60; Westco, Fuel, \$18,799.28; Western Sugar Coop, Repairs, \$540.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$33,525.78.

#### ARPA FUNDS

Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$7,844.12; Lana House Painting, Painting, \$2,300.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$25,301.54; Thomas L. Randall, Remodel, \$3,324.75. General Salaries, \$67,058.80.

#### 911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$121.83.

#### W911 FUND

Century Link-Business Services, Service, \$546.16; GeoComm Inc, Misc, \$284.00.

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.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the December Financials to the Board. She said the new EMR will go into effect next Wednesday. She said everyone will have to present their insurance information and driver's license again.

The following 2022 monthly reports were received, reviewed and place on file: Dec- I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clk, L McCoy, Co Treas & S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

The December minutes of the Morrill/Scotts Bluff County Extension meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file. The November minutes were not available.

Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, presented an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bayard for City Prosecution Services for \$150.00 per month. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Fellhoelter also presented an Interlocal Agreement with Box Butte County for Child Support Enforcement Caseworker Services. He said this is the continuation of the one in place now. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Fellhoelter presented a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2023 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid with Scotts Bluff County, which would make Scotts Bluff County the lead county in the assessment, distribution and evaluation of the 2023-2024 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid with the Crime Commission. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the MOU with Scotts Bluff County. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the Semi-Annual Statement. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to accept the Semi-Annual Statement. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy presented a resolution to transfer \$75,000.00 into the Road Fund. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2023-03  
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 fund. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners orders the County Treasurer to transfer the funds in the amount of \$75,000.00 into the Road Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of January, 2023.

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.

Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, presented the Road Study for RD 105 & 116. He said the road should be closed. It has not been maintained for some time and no one would be landlocked because of the closing. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to set the Public Hearing for closing this road at 8:30 A.M., Tuesday, February 14, 2023 and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEARING DATE  
RESOLUTION #2023-04

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska that whereas a request was made by Andrew Terrell to vacate the hereinafter described as Minimum Maintenance Roads 105 and 116 due to lack of need for public use, and to reduce liability; and

WHEREAS by action of said board on January 10, 2023, Morrill County Highway Superintendent Bryan Hoerler was directed to perform a study thereof and report to the Board as provided by the laws of the State of Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS on January 24, 2023, Bryan Hoerler reported that the said roads have no use to the general public and are a liability to the county, it was recommended that the roads be vacated and the public right-of-way be returned to the adjacent landowners.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY FOUND, DETERMINED AND ORDERED on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023, by the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska that a public hearing be held at 8:30 A.M. on February 14, 2023 at the County Commissioners' Room in the Morrill County Courthouse in Bridgeport, Nebraska at which time all persons interested in said roads to be vacated and abandoned may appear and be heard; that said roads are described and located as a 66 foot wide by 5280 foot long minimum maintenance road known as Morrill County Road 105, and a 66 foot wide by 5280 foot long minimum maintenance road known as Morrill County Road 116, and the right-of-ways located in Sec. 5, T21N, R49W, in Morrill County, Nebraska.

Dated at Bridgeport, Nebraska this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman, Morrill County Board of Commissioners

(S E A L)

Attest: /s/Kathleen L. Brandt  
Morrill County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Metz commended the Road Department on a remarkable job for a month and a half, keeping up with the snow.

The Board discussed a Public Hearing Date for the proposed conservation easement between The Rush Creek Land and Live Stock Company and the Ducks Unlimited Inc. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to set the Public Hearing Date at 8:30 A.M. on February 28, 2023 and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEARING DATE  
RESOLUTION #2023-05

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska that whereas a proposed conservation easement between the Rush Creek Land and Live Stock Company and the Ducks Unlimited Inc. has been received by the County; and

WHEREAS Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska, has received the recommendation of the Morrill County Zoning Board; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY FOUND AND DETERMINED AND ORDERED that on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023 by the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska, that a public hearing will be held at 8:30 A.M. on February 28, 2023, at the Morrill County Commissioners' Room in the Morrill County Courthouse in Bridgeport, Nebraska, at which time all persons interested in said conservation easement may appear and be heard.

Dated at Bridgeport, Nebraska, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman, Morrill County Board of Commissioners

(S E A L)

Attest: /s/Kathleen L. Brandt  
Morrill County Clerk

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

Will Arthur, representing Attentive/Cigna Insurance, presented the supplemental insurance that he is offering. Discussion was held regarding the cost and the savings for employees since it is pre-taxed. Metz asked the Department Heads if they would be interested in looking at his proposal. Most agreed they would look at it. Metz told Arthur to get more information to us and then to coordinate a time when he could meet with the employees.

The Board discussed County Government Day, which will be Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 8:30 A.M. Batterman will cater the lunch and Cardenas will find a place for lunch to be served. Metz said he will get volunteers for taking the kids around to each office. There will be a mock trial.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the Aging Office of Western Nebraska meeting. He said the in-home delivery, that was created during COVID will end on April 1, 2023. He said there will be some deliveries for those who are unable to get out. Schmidt also reported on the Office of Human Development meeting. Batterman reported on the Regional Behavioral Health meeting and the Zoom meeting with the Legislator for Behavioral Health and Friday, she has a Zoom meeting regarding opioids. Metz said he missed the Hospital meeting and that it is still ongoing with the Farm & Ranch Board and the Fair.

Susan Kelly, Clerk of District Court, said she had a teleconference regarding the new equipment for the courtroom. She said they want to cut a piece out of the countertop and upgrade the speakers and that Todd Harless will look at it today to get a price on outlets, etc. She said the equipment has a 5 Year warranty and the cost for the county will be the electrical.

Sarah Paisely, Extension Coordinator, said she has been advised by the State to bring the vehicle to Lincoln for repairs.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:18 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

**Board of Equalization**  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public meeting in an open public meeting at 7:40 A.M., Tuesday, January 24, 2023 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on January 18, 2023. 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 19, 2023. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairperson, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt 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 Schmidt, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statute #77-1233.04(6) at 7:40 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Corrections #2023-2 & 3. The Board asked for more information on these.

Chairperson Metz opened the Public Hearing for Tax Exemptions at 7:45 A.M.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented Vehicle Tax Exemptions for the Bayard and Bridgeport Church of Christ. Chairperson Metz closed the Public Hearing at 7:47 A.M. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the exemptions. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 7:48 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

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