

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Monday, September 23, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Monday, September 23, 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 September 19, 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 September 20, 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 and the minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

Action Communications Inc, Repairs, \$500.00; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,140.46; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,056.68; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$44.79; Bayard Transcript, Publishing & Subscription, \$189.40; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$108.85; Cynthia J. Brandt-d/b/a Brandt Court Reporting, Law Enforcement Costs, \$277.35; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing & Notary, \$44.65; Capital Business Systems, Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$131.25; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,100.19; Century Business Products, Supplies & Equip, \$249.93; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$218.21; Crites, Shaffer, Connealy, Etc PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$294.00; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Repairs, \$147.00; Dept of Revenue, State Income Tax, \$4,090.80; Eakes Office Solutions, Equip Lease, \$61.76; Environmental Systems Research Inst, GIS, \$2,560.00; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Steven R. Hutchinson, Contract Labor, \$730.00; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs, \$9.98; Kone Chicago, Service, \$644.59; Legacy Cooperative, Repairs, \$178.82; Medical Air Services Assoc, Insurance, \$448.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,164.46; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$28,612.24; NACO, Registration, \$160.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Print Works LLC, Supplies, \$375.22; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,976.47; Sarah Paisley, Meals & Mileage, \$223.11; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Pens.com, Supplies, \$166.44; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,022.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$13,824.52; Principal Life Insurance Co, Group Life, \$208.12; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$27,015.43; Retchless Technologies LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Scotts Bluff Co Detention Center, Boarding Contract, \$2,790.00; Scotts Bluff Co Sheriff's Dept, Law Enforcement Costs, \$63.60; Snell Services Inc, Repairs, \$377.50; Sonny's Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$133.34; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$26.97; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs, \$357.00; U S Bank, Data Processing Supplies & Equip, Fuel, Phone, Registration, Law Enforcement Costs, Lodging, Meals, Uniforms, Supplies & Misc, \$5,622.36; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Mileage, \$26.43; Xerox Financial Services, Equip Rental, \$460.70; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$345.76; General Employees, Salaries, \$64,563.42.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$651.52; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,501.34; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs & Supplies, \$143.45; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$121.87; Charter Communications, Service, \$109.98; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dept of Revenue, State Income Tax, \$1,782.21; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires, \$1,253.85; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Jamar Technologies Inc, Equip, \$523.25; Lee's Service Inc, Tires, \$365.80; Medical Air Services Assoc, Insurance, \$252.00; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,099.72; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$15,348.82; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; NE Educ Telecom Comm, Rental

Agreement, \$449.00; NE Public Power, Service, \$109.32; NMC Exchange LLC, Repairs, \$831.12; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$450.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,273.59; Pohl's Welding & Fabrication Inc, Repairs, \$37.50; Principal Life Ins Co, Group Life, \$112.18; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$54.51; Regional Care Inc, Insurance, \$13,112.91; ULine, Repairs, \$475.57; Westco, Fuel, \$22,090.41; ; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$31,123.07.

ARPA FUND

Thomas J. Wiens, Tree Spraying, \$2,750.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND

Century Link, Service, \$46.88.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that the above claims, after having been examined by the Commissioners, be approved except for the mileage claim to Rose Nelson 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: Aug – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treas and S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

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

The September minutes of the Safety Committee were received, reviewed and place on file.

Chairman Jeff Metz opened the Public Hearing for the Morrill County Property Tax request for the 2024-2025 Budget year at 8:00 A.M.

Chairman Jeff Metz opened the Public Hearing for the Morrill County 2024-2025 Budget at 8:15 A.M.

Joanie Dudden, Deputy County Treasurer, presented a resolution for the foreclosure on Outstanding Tax Sale Certificates. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the foreclosures and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2024-28

WHEREAS, the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Sec. 77-1901 through 77-1918 provide upon resolution by the County Board of Commissioners for the foreclosure within six (6) months of expiration of certificate and the sale of Real Estate properties upon which County Tax Sale certificates have been issued and delinquent for three (3) years from the date of issuance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners authorizes the foreclosure of such outstanding Tax Sale Certificates held in the name of Morrill County and requests the County Attorney to proceed to such foreclosure and sale, in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska. A list of these outstanding Tax Sale Certificates is attached.

/s/Loretta McCoy  
Morrill County Treasurer

Approved and adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman

/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. A resolution to authorize the County Treasurer to strike delinquent taxes was presented. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to authorize the County Treasurer, to strike delinquent taxes and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2024-29

WHEREAS, The Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Sec. 77-1737 provides that upon the direction of the County Board of Commissioners, the County Treasurer may be authorized to strike delinquent taxes, and,

WHEREAS, The Morrill County Board of Commissioners have received from the Morrill County Treasurer a report listing the IOLL on Board of Educational Lands and Funds property, which has been issued a Distress Warrant that has remained uncollected, and the same parcel #20088419 has appeared on the delinquent tax sale and remained unsold and,

WHEREAS, The Morrill County Sheriff has nothing to collect for a Distress Warrant and a tax sale certificate has no property to foreclose,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners directs the Treasurer of Morrill County to strike the delinquent taxes on Parcel #2000088419 from the tax list. The years covered are 2012 through 2023. The total base amount involved is \$4,907.58. No interest is shown.

Passed and approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2024

Morrill County Board of Commissioners

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman

(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. Dudden presented a resolution to place County Tax Sale Certificates on any delinquent real estate taxes for 2020-2022. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to order the County Treasurer to issue Tax Sale Certificates and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2024-30

WHEREAS, The Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Sec 77-1809 and 77-1918 provide that upon the direction of the County Board of Commissioners, for the County Treasurer to issue Tax Sale Certificates in the name of the County and

WHEREAS, The Morrill County Board of Commissioners have received from the Morrill County Treasurer a report listing all parcels of real estate in the County on which any taxes are delinquent and which have been offered for sale at a Public Sale, and have remained unsold for want of bidders for a period of three years or more,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board directs the Treasurer of Morrill County to place County Tax Sale Certificates on any delinquent real estate taxes for 2020-2022 and prior years.

/s/Loretta McCoy  
Morrill County Treasurer

Approved and adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman

/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.

Milo Cardenas, County Sheriff, met with the Board to give an update on the plumbing quotes he has received. He said the quotes are from \$30,000 to \$60,000. He said he has only received one bid for the floor which is \$48,000. He said he recommends we do the plumbing and wait on the floor. The Board advised Cardenas to get the plumbing going by the next meeting, October 8, 2024. Cardenas said he is still working on the radios. He said the City will give \$60,000 toward them, and that he can use \$40,000 out of the 911 Funds and he has applied for three grants. Milo said it will take about four months to get them and he's hoping he can get the grants by December and get them ordered to be here by April.

Ryan Schultz from Belmont Irrigation met with the Board regarding culverts on RD 80 & RD 121 and RD 115. He said the culverts under road used to have head walls and graders have pushed these over. He said the road to Dinklage has heavy traffic. He asked about replacing the culverts or just adding the head walls. Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, was present and said he will look at this and see what can be done. Schultz also had a map of where they have a lateral that goes under the highway by the Ethanol plant and they want to go under the county road on the north. Hoerler said this will benefit the county. He told Shultz to get a permit from the county before they do this.

A resolution for subdividing property was received for Dennis & Vicki Dobrinski. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the subdivision and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2024-31  
RESOLUTION APPROVING INSTRUMENT EFFECTING SUBDIVISION TO REAL  
ESTATE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the present record owners Dennis G. Dobrinski & Vicki L. Dobrinski, have applied for approval of an instrument effecting the subdivision of the below-described premises located in Morrill County, Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO Sec. 23-372 R.R.S., et seq., the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska, does hereby authorize and permit subdivision of the following described real estate in Morrill County, Nebraska:

A PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS PARCEL 1, CONTAINING 7.02 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH, RANGE 50 WEST, OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE CENTER QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH, RANGE 50 WEST, OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THENCE ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 27, SOUTH 85° 17' 44" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 501.20 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;

THENCE DEPARTING SAID SOUTH LINE, NORTH 00° 22' 11" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 634.98 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 76° 33' 09" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 464.51 FEET, TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF A PROPERTY DESCRIBED AT DEED BOOK 81, PAGE 62, OF THE MORRILL COUNTY RECORDS;

THENCE ON SAID EAST LINE, SOUTH 02° 19' 42" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 777.87 FEET, TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 27;

THENCE ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 27, NORTH 85° 17' 44" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 260.22 FEET;

THENCE ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 27, NORTH 85° 17' 44" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 157.27 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PARCEL CONTAINS 7.02 ACRES, MORE OR LESS

THE SOUTH 33 FEET OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAY.

NOTE: Any driveway, grading or culvert to be at owner expense.

NOTE: The Morrill County Zoning Administrator has reviewed the zoning and land use and has determined its compliance with Morrill County Zoning Regulations.

NOTE: Publication of this document for the newspapers and filing fees at owner expense.

Passed and approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2024.

Morrill County Board of Commissioners

/s/Jeff Metz

Chairman, County Board

/s/Susanna Batterman

Member, County Board

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt

Member, County Board

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt

County Clerk

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

Sarah Paisley, Extension, Educator, met with the Board to present a report on the County Fair. Ashley Fenning was also present. Sarah said we were down on numbers, but not on members. She said some opted to enter only one animal. She discussed some of the changes that might be made next year for the beef. Paisley said she didn't have the total for the sale.

Hearing no comments from the Public, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearings for setting the Tax Request for Morrill County for budget year 2024-2025 and for the County's Budget for 2024-2025 at 9:20 A.M.

The details of the Budget are in their entirety at the end of the minutes.

The Board reported on meetings attended. Schmidt reported on the Hospital Board meeting and the Safety Committee meeting. Batterman reported on the Panhandle Health and Region I Behavioral Health meetings. She asked about the immigrants that were dropped of at Walmart and about the Venezuelan Nationals. Cardenas said they had a few here that he sent back to Scotts Bluff County. Morrill County is not a sanctuary county.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:26 A.M.  
Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

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**Board of Equalization**  
Monday, September 23, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:46 A.M., Monday, September 23, 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. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on September 19, 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 September 20, 2024. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, was also 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 7:46 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Corrections #2024-15 & 16. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above corrections. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Metz asked Nelson how many of the Protests from this year is she taking to TERC. Nelson said 28 or so. Metz said this is insane and it's costing the taxpayers. Nelson said it's a burden for the people who didn't protest. Schmidt said this TERC deal is costing the county a lot of money. They estimated \$50,000 when it's all over.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, return to regular session at 7:57 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

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

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Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Monday, September 23, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 9:30 A.M., Monday, September 23, 2024 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse for the purpose of setting the Property Tax Request for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year and at 9:35 A.M. for the purpose of adopting the County Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Chairman Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on wall of the Commissioners' room. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Transcript Gate LLC, on September 19, 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 September 20, 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 for the meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing for setting the Property Tax Request was held at 8:00 A.M. There being no comments from the public, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearing at 9:17 A.M.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Property Tax Request and to set the levy at 0.310390 for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2024-32  
PROPERTY TAX REQUEST 2024-2025

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of Morrill County passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held, as required by law, to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the property tax request be set as follows for each Morrill County Fund which directly receives property taxes as all or a portion of its revenue.

1. The 2024-2025 property tax request for the General Fund be set at **\$4,159,401.20**, which is different than the 2023-2024 Property Tax asking of **\$4,016,766.36**.
2. The 2024-2025 property tax request for the Hospital Bond Fund be set at **\$174,545.31**, which is different than the 2023-2024 Property Tax asking of **\$206,469.03**.
3. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by **10.84%**.
4. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be **.302461**, per \$100 of assessed value.
5. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be **.310390** which is different than the 2023-2024 tax rate of **.335258**, per \$100 of assessed value.
6. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the Morrill County Board of Commissioners will **increase** compared to last year's operating budget by **0.31%**.
7. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2024.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2024

MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman



(S E A L)

/s/Susanna Batterman  
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt  
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt  
Morrill County Clerk

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

The Public Hearing for adopting the Budget was opened by Chairman Metz at 8:15 A.M. There being no comments from the public, Chairman Metz closed the hearing at 9:19 A.M.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to adopt the 2024-2025 Budget and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2024-33  
MORRILL COUNTY BUDGET DOCUMENT  
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION AND APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, A proposed County Budget for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, prepared by the Budget Making Authority, was transmitted to the Morrill County Board of Commissioners on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska as follows:

SECTION 1. That the budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, as categorically evidenced by the Budget Document be, and the same hereby is, adopted as the Budget for Morrill County for said fiscal year.

SECTION 2. That the offices, departments, activities and institutions herein named are hereby authorized to expend the amounts herein appropriated to them during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 3. That the income necessary to finance the appropriations made and expenditures authorized shall be provided out of the unencumbered cash balance in each fund, revenues other than taxation to be collected during the fiscal year in each fund, and tax levy requirements for each fund.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2024

MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman  
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt  
Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt  
Morrill County Clerk

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

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:42 A.M.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:  
/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk



