

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, January 28, 2025 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the 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 23, 2025. 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 23, 2025. 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 Delinquent Property Tax Sale List and possible Executive Session and the minutes of the January 11, 2025 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,261.96; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,581.72; AT & T Mobility, Service, \$345.73; Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial, Supplies, \$91.02; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$2,280.71; Blake's Automotive, Repairs, \$9.80; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, \$18.84; Kathy Brandt, Meals & Mileage, \$426.89; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$46.59; Capital Business Systems, Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$211.44; Century Business Products, Supplies & Equip, \$243.54; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$3,161.63; Elmshaeuser Law, Court Appointed Counsel, \$290.00; Penny M Fellhoelter, Mileage, \$51.80; Ashley Fenning, Registration & Meals, \$136.74; Hampton Inn-Kearney, Lodging, \$374.85; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria, Etc, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,372.66; Susan Kelly, Phone & Mileage, \$337.48; Mediation West, Misc, \$245.00; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$462.00; MIPS Inc, Juror Fees, \$191.05; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$2,340.50; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,233.11; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$30,587.54; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$161.88; NACT, Dues, \$75.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Oshkosh Ace & Appliance, Supplies, \$9.59; Sarah Paisley, Meals & Mileage, \$118.57; Panhandle Treasurer's Assoc, Dues, \$25.00; Zeth Patterson, Mileage, \$49.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,172.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,617.32; Plummer Insurance, Inc, Notary, \$40.00; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$211.24; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$28,687.37; Jared Reynolds, Law Enforcement Costs, \$136.32; Sarpy Co Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Costs, \$26.16; Scotts Bluff County, Training, \$107.91; Scottsbluff Screenprinting & Emb, Supplies, \$600.00; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs, \$288.00; Sterling T. Huff, Atty, Court Appointed Counsel, \$231.00; The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lodging-Vet, \$363.00; U S Bank, Data Processing Costs, Fuel, Phone, Registration, Law Enforcement Costs, Board of Prisoners, Meals, Supplies & Misc, \$3,760.96; Valley Tire & Service, Fuel, \$35.46; Xerox Financial Services, Equip Rental, \$83.64; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$252.09; General Employees, Salaries, \$69,194.93.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,361.37; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Tools, Supplies & Repairs, \$190.09; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$123.23; Charter Communications, Service, \$109.98; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Cranmore Fire Protection LLC, Misc, \$1,510.00; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$1,656.72; Filter Care of NE LLC, Repairs, \$123.20; Floyd's Truck Center Inc, Repairs, \$434.28; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Garrett Tires & Treads, Tires, \$5,560.00; Grainger, Supplies, Blades & Pipes, \$1,891.56; Todd Harless Electric, Repairs, \$1,186.88; Bryan Hoerler, Phone & Registration, \$109.00; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$224.00; Menards, Supplies, Tools & Repairs, \$660.29; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill

County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,024.72; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$15,348.82; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; NE Public Power, Service, \$89.41; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,155.93; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$105.83; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$58.13; Regional Care Inc, Insurance, \$13,531.05; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$215.79; Sign Solutions USA LLC, Flare & Flags, \$451.57; Kurt Tremain, Registration, \$950.00; U S Bank, Meals, Fuel & Lodging, \$525.27; Walter Field Repair, Repairs, \$125.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$29,878.88.

#### PRESERVATION & MODERNIZATION FUND

U S Bank, Supplies, \$199.17.

#### 911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$128.04.

#### W911 FUND

Century Link Business Services, Service, \$555.79.

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

No minutes for Board of Equalization.

The following 2024 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: Dec – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treas and 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 January minutes of the Veterans' Service Board meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Ashley Harimon, Clerk Magistrate, and Zeth Patterson, Custodian, met with the Board about the possibility of painting her office. They thought it would take about 2 gallons of paint and Patterson said he could paint it. The Board agreed to allow the painting and to have Zeth do it on a weekend for \$250.00.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to go into Executive Session, according to Ne. Statute 84-1410(a) at 7:54 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board asked that County Attorney, Kirk Fellhoelter, and Clerk of the District Court, Susan Kelly, remain. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 8:06 A.M., with no action taken. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Steve Erdman met with the Board to discuss feedlots and Anarerobic Digestors. Erdman said he and Senator Hardin got involved with a company called Midori Energy which is made up of General Electric Executives. He said they want to make green renewable fuel for shipping and industry. He said they are interested in feedlots in Nebraska. Hardin went to Houston to a meeting and Erdman was on a conference call with them. He said the contract with feedlots to be clean. He said the CEO chose Western Nebraska because of the people. Steve Dvorak is the inventor of the digestors and he has 120 digestors in China. He said the process would turn manure into clean green diesel fuel. He said the plant would take two years to build and would employ 80-95 people. Erdman said that Senator Ricketts is for this. He said Senator Fisher was busy with Inauguration and Smith couldn't be reached. Metz said he met the CEO. They have a number of dairies in Wisconsin. He said there are 3.6 million head of cattle in the Panhandle. Erdman said the perfect place for this would be to produce methane would be at the old sugar factory. They want one in Oshkosh too. The company would like eight in Nebraska. They have designated \$4 billion for Nebraska. He said it would take 9-10 months to build a digester. The Board thought this would be great for Morrill County.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented a report on the Hospital. She said they do not meet until today for the Financial Report. She gave a report on what they have been

doing the last two years. They implemented the Meditech system and have been trying to optimize it to its full capabilities. She said the focus is on maximizing efficiency and strengths within their employee group. She discussed the billing procedures. They have also helped Cheyenne County with their ambulance service and that is over now. Stuart said that last year they paid \$1,000,000 to Medicare and this year they received \$800,000 back.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a resolution to transfer \$50,000 to the Road Department. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-02  
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 28th day of January, 2025.

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. McCoy also presented the Notice of Delinquent Property Tax Sale that she will be publishing in the newspaper for three weeks. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to accept the report. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy also presented the claims she had paid for the out of the Fair account.

Bryan Hoerler, County Weed Superintendent, presented the annual report for the Weeds. He said he had spent two hours with Tim Stolz regarding the weed spraying for Morrill County. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Weed Report and authorize Chairman Metz to sign. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board asked about the Chip Seal Equipment. Hoerler said he had looked at and it was in good shape. They will be going to pick it up and he will pay the first \$300,000 out of the Sinking Fund in this year's budget and the rest out of next year's budget.

The Board had no meetings to report on.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:35 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk