

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, September 10, 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. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on September 5, 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 5, 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 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 minutes of the August 27, 2024 meetings. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

Accelerated Receivables Solutions, Garnishment, \$42.79; Allo Communications, Service, \$1,307.26; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,140.46; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$7,955.33; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$101.58; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport Family Dental LLC, Medical-Prisoners, \$575.00; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$222.78; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip Lease, \$32.96; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$107.28; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$218.21; Crowne Plaza-Kearney, Assessor-Lodging, \$1,199.60; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$53.50; Dept of Rev-Prop Assess Div, Workshop, \$810.00; Dollar General, Supplies, Medical & Laundry-Prisoners, \$156.40; Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, Snyder, Etc, Court Appointed Counsel, \$760.00; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Debbie Garcia, Witness Fees, \$20.00; Grand Slam Solutions, LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$56.20; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Laundry-Prisoners, \$271.05; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,421.70; LPI, Publishing, \$132.50; Tim Marquez, Phone, Meals & Mileage, \$663.54; Debra Mason, Witness Fees, \$20.00; Lori McCoy, Mileage & Phone, \$69.48; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$161.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$2,810.46; Morrill County Community Hospital, Board of Prisoners & Medical-Prisoners, \$1,648.00; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$402.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,154.42; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$266.96; NACO, Registration, \$55.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Public Health Environmental Lab, Law Enforcement Costs, \$105.00; NE Print Works LLC, Supplies, \$99.50; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$351.96; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr \$1,000.00; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,022.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$13,619.42; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$22.06; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Snell Services Inc, Service, \$780.00; Ricky Trevino, Phone, \$40.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$761.39; Xerox Financial Service, \$218.79; General Employees, Salaries, \$64,563.42.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$109.46; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$651.52; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,550.57; Barco Municipal Products Inc, Supplies, \$39.00; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$158.88; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Tools & Repairs \$1,122.60; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$22.00; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$194.43; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; Century Link, Service, Service, \$117.60; City of Bayard, Service, \$173.21; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$715.92; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Filter Care of NE, LLC, Repairs, \$118.60; Frank Parts Co, Repairs, \$25.37; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$7,155.00; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$337.02; Inland Truck Parts & Service, Repairs, \$11,958.84; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Supplies, Tools, Repairs, \$909.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,099.72 NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$450.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,389.99; Powerplan, Repairs, \$692.50; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$153.81; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$291.03; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$9.50; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$108.60; 21st Century Equip LLC, Repairs, \$353.13; Road Employees, Salaries, \$31,560.63.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$734.97; Frontier, Misc, \$34.19.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the above claims be approved, with the exception of Rose Nelson’s claim for mileage 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 Agenda items for Board of Equalization.

Robin Stuart, Hospital CEO, met with the Board for the re-appointment of Ken Sestak to the Hospital Board. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to re-appoint Ken Sestak to the Board for a 6-Year Term. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman, and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Lisa Simmons, Director of Network Services, and Jennifer Kriha, Fiscal Director of Region I Behavioral Health, met with the Board. Simmons presented what Region I is and what it does. She said they provide Mental Health services and Substance abuse help. She said she would like to see a Crisis Stabilization Unit in Region I. Jennifer Kriha said she is the Fiscal Director and takes care of budgets and makes sure programs get paid for those in need. She said their funding was cut from \$5.9 million to \$4.5 million because of the state.

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

RESOLUTION #2024-27
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 10th day of September, 2024.

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.

Applications for liquor licenses from Flyover Brewing Co. were received for October 4 & 5, 2024 for an event to be held at the Pumpkin Patch at BE Farms. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the licenses. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Paul Strommen, Candidate for Legislative District #47, met with the Board, to introduce himself and to talk about the Legislature and what he is planning on doing if elected. He talked about big and small businesses, the oil and gas industry, pipelines and the financial benefit to the state. Metz asked about renewable energy, solar and wind energy. Stromman said he has a meeting tomorrow with public power districts. He said they are capping and plugging oil and gas lines. He said decommissioning them is too costly for the landowners. He discussed renewable energy. Metz said we want new businesses to

come to Morrill County, but does not want what happened in Cherry County to happen here. LB 34 was discussed. Metz said education is the main place where our tax dollars go. He said he feels there should be a higher sales tax so that everyone would pay, not just the property owners for the schools. Stromman said they need to dismantle the overreach from the deregulating. The Board thanked Stromman for coming to the meeting.

Jon Cannon, NACO Executive Director, met with the Board. He thanked Milo Cardenas, County Sheriff, for testifying at the legislature. Cannon said he was an employee of the 93 counties and that he works for us. He talked about what MIPS does for the county. He said there are resources available for counties including grants, etc. He said the Ogallala site will have their grand opening on October 10th and Legislative Conference will be there on October 11, 2024. He said they have asked Peggy Brass to move there and be available for the facility. She has agreed to this. Cannon talked about Inheritance Tax that counties use for things beyond the levy. The special session that Governor Pillen called was discussed.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to go into Executive Session, according to Ne. Statute #84-1410 (d), to prevent needless injury to an individual at 9:20 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Milo Cardenas, County Sheriff was asked to stay. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 11:10 A.M., with no action taken. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt said he had no meetings and the ones he has this week, he will have to miss if any of the other commissioners want to go they can.. Batterman said she had the RIBAHAC meeting that Region I talked about earlier. Metz said he had a CAPWN meeting and the meeting with Sitchie was delayed until this week. Milo Cardenas said they had that regional meeting about the jail and nothing was done and they will be having another meeting later.

Ashley Fenning, Extension Educator, said she would be interested in being involved with Region I Behavioral Health. Batterman said she would talk to them about that at the board meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 11:15 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk