

# Boone County Board Minutes



## BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS MARCH 22, 2021 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, March 22, 2021 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in Albion, Nebraska.

Chairman Temme called the meeting to order and Commissioners present for roll call were Jon Lindgren, Ben Rutten and Larry Temme. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Albion News and Boone County Tribune and the Petersburg Press on March 17, 2021 and the convened meeting was open to the public.

The agenda was posted on the Boone County website; posted on the information board located in the Courthouse north entrance; emailed to the Board of Commissioners; and emailed to the Elected Officials and department heads on Friday, March 19, 2021. Chairman Temme acknowledged the agenda and noted that the Open Meeting Laws are posted and available to the public.

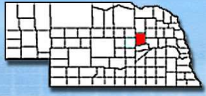
Motion made by Rutten, second by Lindgren to approve the County Board Proceedings of March 15, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Lindgren and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Temme, second by Lindgren to approve the three County Board Zoning Public Hearing Proceedings of March 15, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Lindgren and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Rutten, second by Temme to approve the County Board of Equalization Proceedings of March 15, 2021 and the County Board of Equalization Public Hearing Proceedings of March 15, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Temme and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Tanya Sharp, Boone County Health Center President/Chief Executive Officer, and Rita Liss, Boone County Health Center Chief Financial Officer, presented the Boone County Health Center audit report for year ending September 30, 2020 to the Board for their review. Liss reviewed areas of the financial audit in regard to the statements of net position; a statement of revenue, expenses and changes in net position; a statement of cash flows; and statistical highlights with the Board. The audit report shows composition of patient receivables to consist of the following: Medicare – 37%; Medicaid – 8%; Self Pay – 15%; and Other Third-party pay – 40%. Liss noted that revenue from the Medicare and Medicaid programs accounted for approximately 58% and 5%, respectively, of the Health Center's net patient revenue for year-end September 30, 2020. Liss reviewed areas of the history graph reports in regard to cash on hand, outpatient revenue, long-term debt, etc. Sharp said that assets increased in 2020 for the Health Center due to funds received as part of the Small Business Administrator (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program and CARES Act Provider Relief Funds, which is anticipated to be all forgiven in 2021. The Boone County Health Center Clinics are located in Albion, Elgin, Fullerton, Newman Grove and Spalding. Motion made by Lindgren, second by Temme to accept the Boone County Health Center audited financials for year-end September 30, 2020 as presented and a copy of the Boone County Health Center fiscal year audit of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 is on file and may be reviewed at the Boone County Clerk's office. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren, Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

On March 8, 2021 the Board, Tanya Sharp and Cindy Lesiak, Boone County Health Center, discussed at length the Boone County Ambulance Service revenue/expenses and Sharp offered to contact the patient billing



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department, review the medical forms being used to code the transfer runs, review the hourly pay rates and contact similar sized hospitals to compare their ambulance transport service rates. On March 22, 2021 the Board, Sharp and Lesiak reviewed and discussed the information that Sharp received from Quick Med Claims (formerly EMS Billing Services, Inc.) and other hospitals. Sharp informed the Board that it appears there is only five counties that still own/operate a County Ambulance Service. Sharp reviewed suggested items for the Board to consider in regard to changes that may help with the revenues and expenses of the Boone County Ambulance Service. The Boone County Ambulance Service has been a self-supporting fund/service for several years and is a fund that does not receive levied taxes. The concern being discussed is that the County Ambulance Fund appears to no longer be self-supported for operation expenses and the purchasing of a new ambulance unit every five years. The Board plans to review the 2019 Resolution in regard to the hourly rate paid to ambulance personnel; rates charged to patients for transport to another hospital facility; loaded mileage rate; and negotiate rates and collection efforts with Quick Med Claims. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to authorize Tanya Sharp, Boone County Health Center, to negotiate rates and collection efforts with Quick Med Claims and set-up quarterly conference calls to review the ambulance service activity with the Board. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The primary use of the Boone County Visitors Promotion Fund is to promote, encourage and attract visitors to come to the county through advertisement of the event. The Boone County Visitors Promotion Committee received a request for advertisement funding. The Beaver Valley Senior Center requested assistance to advertise the Beaver Valley Senior Center, Memorial Day Luncheon, event scheduled for May 31, 2021. Motion made by Rutten, second by Lindgren to approve the application requesting funding assistance from the Beaver Valley Senior Center for advertisement of the Memorial Day Luncheon from the Visitor's Promotion Fund as submitted. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Lindgren and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

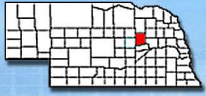
Denny Johnson, County Sheriff, and Laurie Krohn, County Treasurer, submitted a Distress Warrant Report with regard to the 2019 personal property taxes. The distress warrants that were issued in November 2020, were all collected by the County Sheriff's office and returned back to the County Treasurer's office on March 17, 2021. The total collected on fourteen distress warrants without penalties was \$25,869.43. There are no distress warrants unpaid as of March 18, 2021. Motion made by Lindgren, second by Temme to accept and approve the County Sheriff and Treasurer's Distress Warrant Report as submitted. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren, Temme and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The County Highway Superintendent, updated the Board regarding road equipment repair/replacement, road/bridge maintenance and projects. In addition, the following was discussed:

- The Highway Superintendent provided the Board information in regard to the procedure in order to change classification of some local roads to minimum maintenance roads. A road classified as minimum maintenance must not provide primary property access or access to a residence. The Board suggested to advertise the location of the road(s) before changing the classification of a road to minimum maintenance.
- The Highway Superintendent and Board discussed the replacement of a dump truck for Road District #3.

Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to authorize the County Highway Superintendent to advertise for two consecutive weeks for sealed bids for a new dump truck for Road District #3. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board, County Highway Superintendent and Jack Nordeen, County Road Employee/Sign Technician, discussed two quotes/bids obtained for box/crane/miscellaneous parts for the 2008 Ford County Road



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Department Sign truck. The detailed package quote from Matt Friend Truck Equipment, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska was \$25,824.00 for box/crane/miscellaneous parts. The quote by telephone conversation with Gary Gross Trucks of Lincoln, Nebraska for utility box, lift gate and two different size crane quotes were \$26,900.00 and \$28,900.00. In discussion, the Board suggested transferring as much of the useable equipment, etc. from the 2003 Ford Sign Truck to the recently purchased 2008 Ford Sign Truck. The Highway Superintendent is to obtain clarification of the outrigger package portion of the Matt Friend Truck Equipment quote and obtain comparable quotes for the same size crane and other items. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to reject both quotes/bids submitted for box/crane/miscellaneous parts for the 2008 Ford County Road Department Sign truck presented by the County Highway Superintendent. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

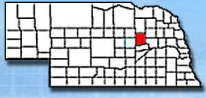
The Board and Brian McDonald, Engineer with JEO Consulting Group, Inc., have discussed at prior Board meetings as to why Bridge C000605015P is listed on Nebraska's Bridge Inventory as being owned by Boone County, Nebraska and not the City of St. Edward. The said bridge is located within the corporate limits of the City of St. Edward and its only function is access to the City of St. Edward owned sewage treatment lagoon. Public bridges located within city corporate limits are owned by the city in which they are located and not owned by the county. McDonald prepared a resolution for the Board to give notice to the City of St. Edward that the City is the owner of said bridge structure and that the County will no longer operate or maintain said bridge structure. Motion made by Temme, second by Rutten to approve Resolution No. 2021-08, that notice be given to the Nebraska Department of Transportation that Boone County is not the owner of Bridge C000605015P and that the structure is owned by the City of St. Edward, Nebraska, in which the structure is located and that a new bridge structure number be assigned reflecting the correct ownership. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Rutten and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board conducted a quarterly employment evaluation with Jack Nordeen, County Sign Technician and former County Weed Superintendent. Nordeen resigned on February 19, 2021 from the part-time County Weed Superintendent position of the said combined (weed/sign) full-time employment position. The consensus of the Board that the county email associated with the weed superintendent duties be cancelled and that there will be no cell phone reimbursement for fiscal year 2020-2021.

The Board reviewed and discussed information from the Nebraska Department of Agricultural, Executive Director Nebraska Weed Control Association and Nebraska Association of County Officials regarding the qualifications, education and licenses for County Weed Superintendents. The Board would have like to have filled the part-time County Weed Superintendent vacancy within the County Road Department. The road department maintenance employees are the ones most likely to notice when noxious weeds are located in the county road right-of-ways. There appears to be no interest to fulfill the County Weed Superintendent duties among the current County Road Department employees. Motion made by Rutten, second by Temme to advertise the County Weed Superintendent vacancy as a seasonal position from May 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 at \$15.00 per hour with a maximum of 20 work hours per week. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Temme and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board conducted a quarterly employment evaluation with Stacey Ziemba, County Highway Superintendent.

The Board conducted a quarterly employment evaluation with Mary Ziemba, County Zoning Administrator.



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The Board conducted a quarterly employment evaluation with Jacqueline Wells, County Veteran Service Officer.

The Board conducted a quarterly employment evaluation with Rod Nelson, Courthouse Maintenance.

## Public Comments:

- Meetings: Boone County Health Center – March 23, 2021.
- Commissioner Lindgren updated the Board regarding the Region 4 Behavioral Health System meeting.
- Commissioner Lindgren updated the Board regarding the Northeast Nebraska Association of County Officials spring workshop.
- Nebraska Association of County Officials has partnered with the National Association of Counties to provide Nebraska counties with a free flag collection box to aide residents to properly dispose of worn U.S. flags. The flag collection box will be located in the Boone County Veteran's Service office.
- Commissioner Temme updated the Board regarding the Boone County Agricultural Society meeting.
- The Board acknowledged receiving and reviewed the NIRMA 2020 Annual Report.

Chairman Temme declared the meeting adjourned at 1:24 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2021.

Kathy Thorberg,  
Boone County Clerk