

Boone County Board Minutes



BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
JUNE 21, 2021 ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:01 A.M. on Monday, June 21, 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, Larry Temme and Ben Rutten. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Albion News and Boone County Tribune and the Petersburg Press on June 16, 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, June 18, 2021. Chairman Temme acknowledged the agenda and noted that the Open Meeting Laws are posted and available to the public.

Motion made by Temme, second by Lindgren to approve the County Board Proceedings of June 14, 2021, as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Lindgren and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Rutten, second by Lindgren to approve the County Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021, as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Lindgren and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

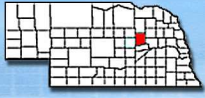
Motion made by Lindgren, second by Rutten to approve the County Board of Equalization Hearing Minutes of June 14, 2021, as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jeff Jarecki, County Public Defender, was scheduled to present his report to the Board. However, due to a scheduling conflict, this matter was rescheduled for June 28, 2021, at 9:15 A.M.

Cindy Lesiak, on behalf of the Boone County Health Center, presented the Board with the Home Health Agency Licensure Renewal for their review and signature by two board members. She indicated that this renewal is done every year and is a formality. Motion made by Lindgren, second by Rutten to authorize Larry Temme, Board Chairman, and Ben Rutten, Board Vice-Chairman, to execute the Home Health Agency Licensure Renewal. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board met with the elected officials/department heads regarding migrating from the current .org domain to a .gov domain for email security purposes. Chairman Temme explained that it would provide more security for emails. Motion made by Temme, second by Lindgren to proceed with the migration from the current .org domain to a .gov domain for email purposes. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Lindgren and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board met with the elected officials/department heads regarding the Juneteenth Federal Holiday observed on Friday, June 18, 2021, since the actual holiday was June 19, 2021. Commissioner Temme indicated that the reason the courthouse was not closed was due to the short notice received regarding the holiday. A survey was presented to the Board regarding the counties that were open/closed based on information received by the offices of the County Clerk and County Treasurer. The Board felt that for 2021, a floating holiday would be given to the employees and that future consideration regarding the holiday will be made in January at the Reorganization Meeting when the holidays are designated. As with the floating holiday given for Arbor Day,



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the floating holiday needs to be used on or before December 21, 2021, or else it will be lost. Motion made by Temme, second by Lindgren to designate a floating holiday for the Juneteenth Federal Holiday for 2021. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Lindgren and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

As provided by State Statute, Section 23-1302, the County Clerk shall certify to the County Treasurer as of June 15 and December 15 each year the total amount of unpaid claims of the county. Motion made by Temme, second by Lindgren to approve and accept the Certification from the County Clerk to the County Treasurer as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Lindgren and Rutten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Schmeits, Mueller & Martinsen, P.C. submitted a Letter of Understanding regarding the preparation of the annual county budget for the purpose of fulfilling the State of Nebraska budget law requirements. Motion made by Rutten, second by Lindgren to approve the Letter of Understanding with Schmeits, Mueller & Martinsen, P.C. to assist in the preparation of the county budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 for approximately \$3,550.00. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Lindgren and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

On February 8, 2021, the Board requested an audit proposal from the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The Board reviewed the Engagement Letter dated May 25, 2021, for auditing services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year submitted by Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts. Motion made by Temme, second by Lindgren to approve and authorize the Board Chairman to sign the Audit Engagement Letter for auditing services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year as submitted. Roll call vote: Yeas: Temme, Lindgren and Rutten. 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 Cedar Rapids Community Club requested assistance to advertise the Cedar Rapids Community Picnic scheduled for July 24, 2021. Motion made by Rutten, second by Lindgren to approve the application requesting funding assistance from the Cedar Rapids Community Club to advertise the Cedar Rapids Community Picnic event from the Visitor's Promotion Fund as submitted. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rutten, Lindgren and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board conducted a quarterly employment evaluation with Bob Sandman, County Weed Superintendent.

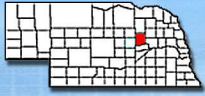
The Board conducted a quarterly employment evaluation with Stacey Ziemba, County Highway Superintendent.

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

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

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

Stacey Ziemba, County Highway Superintendent; Brian McDonald, Engineer with JEO Consulting Group; and Ralph Pieke appeared in person before the Board to discuss a drainage issue regarding 330th Avenue south of the 150th Street intersection. In addition, Dan Wondercheck was present by conference call. Brian McDonald provided to those present several aerial photos showing over the course of several years water ponding on either side of a culvert located on a minimum maintenance road adjacent to the property owned by Dan Wondercheck and Ralph Pieke. Dan Wondercheck and Ralph Pieke both spoke to Board regarding the measures they have taken over the years to alleviate the problem. Brian McDonald indicated that although it is not designated as a low water crossing, the culvert currently in place is effectively acting as a low water crossing. Some of the



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possible fixes to the problem discussed included making a spillway, putting in more culverts or removing the culvert that is presently there. The Board and Brian McDonald indicated that there was not a definitive way that the issue could be remedied. Removing the culvert was not an option because it would make the road impassable and there is no plan to close the road. The Board indicated that they would go and look at the area again and see what the County could do. The County will determine whether the culvert needs to be cleaned out first.

Denny Johnson, Boone County Sheriff, and John Buck, Chief Deputy Sheriff, appeared before the Board to discuss personnel wages. Sheriff Johnson indicated that in the past, when a Deputy Sheriff successfully completed training at the Law Enforcement Academy, that they would receive a 58¢ per hour wage increase. Sheriff Johnson feels that the law enforcement certificate should warrant a higher wage increase. Sheriff Johnson proposed that the law enforcement certification should come with a \$1.08 per hour increase, being an increase of 50¢ per hour over the prior rate. Also, at one point there had been a pay increase with the designation of Sergeant. That Sergeant designation had been eliminated and he would like to have that reinstated with a pay increase of 58¢ p/hour. The Board and Sheriff Johnson feels the wage increases are necessary to attract and keep personnel due to the shortage across the state of certified officers. Motion made by Lindgren, second by Rutten to change the wage increase for obtaining a law enforcement certificate from 58¢ per hour to \$1.08 per hour; and to reinstate the designation of Sergeant together with a wage increase of 58¢ per hour for such designation; both increases to be effective on June 22, 2021 (July Payroll Period). Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren, Rutten and Temme. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the vacancy on the Boone County Fitness Center Board due to the death of Alan Rasmussen, County Commissioner. It was decided that Ben Rutten would fill the vacancy. The County Clerk is to notify the Fitness Center of the Rutten's appointment. Motion mad by Lindgren, second by Temme to appoint Ben Rutten to fill the vacancy left by the death of Alan Rasmussen on the Boone County Fitness Center Board. Roll call: Yeas: Lindgren and Temme. Nays: None. Abstain: Rutten. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

- Commissioner Temme attended the Central Nebraska Joint Housing Authority Board Meeting on June 18, 2021.
- Commissioner Rutten attended the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services meeting on June 18, 2021.
- Commissioner Lindgren attended the Nebraska Agency on Aging on June 17, 2021.

Chairman Temme declared the meeting adjourned at 1:38 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2021.

Lorrie Nicklasson,
Deputy Boone County Clerk