

BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 10, 2025
ALBION, NEBRASKA

The Boone County Board of Commissioners of Boone County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, February 10, 2025, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in Albion, Nebraska.

Chairman Lindgren called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Jon Lindgren, Brian J. Yosten and Matt Niewohner. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Boone County Website-Public Notices, in the Courthouse north entrance and at the Albion Post Office. Notice of the meeting was also given in advance by publication in the Albion News/Boone County Tribune and Petersburg Press on February 5, 2025, 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, February 7, 2025. Chairman Lindgren acknowledged the agenda and noted that the Open Meeting Laws are posted and available to the public. All who were present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Lindgren, second by Niewohner to approve the County Board Proceedings of January 29, 2025 as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren, Niewohner and Yosten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2021-42 was approved November 15, 2021 to authorize the County Treasurer to transfer the accrued interest from the Covid American Rescue Plan Fund (2580) to the General Fund (0100) on an as needed basis. The County Treasurer presented January 2025's accrued interest for the amount to be moved through the vendor process. Motion made by Niewohner, second by Lindgren to authorize the transfer of accrued interest from the Covid American Rescue Plan Fund (2580) to the General Fund (0100) in the amount of \$2,430.51. Roll call vote: Yeas: Niewohner, Lindgren and Yosten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A&R Construction Co. won the bid for the Albion North/Petersburg Southwest project and Payment Application No. 2 for this project was presented to the Board for review. Motion made by Yosten, second by Niewohner to accept and authorize the Chairman to sign the Payment Application No. 2 for \$79,688.46 and to authorize payout as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten, Niewohner and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Yosten, second by Lindgren to Accounts Payable Vendor Claims filed for Vendor #1806, White Star Oil Company LLC: General-\$1091.21, Roads-\$5,421.78 and Ambulance-\$783.01. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten and Lindgren. Nays: None. Abstain: Niewohner. Motion carried.

Motion made by Yosten, second by Lindgren to Accounts Payable Vendor Claims filed for Vendor #1217, Matt Niewohner: General-\$150.00. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten and Lindgren. Nays: None. Abstain: Niewohner. Motion carried.

Motion made by Lindgren, second by Niewohner to approve the Accounts Payable Vendor Claims filed for payment from the various funds: General-\$70,830.02; Road-\$237,258.21; Visitor Promotion Fund (0990)-\$386.80; ROD Preservation/Modernization Fund (1150)-\$229.96; COVID ARPA Fund (2580)-\$2,643.44; 911 Emergency Management (2910)-\$512.06; 911 Wireless Service (2913)-\$890.89; and Ambulance (5502)-\$2,695.54. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren, Niewohner and Yosten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Niewohner, second by Lindgren to approve the following reports of the County Officials as presented for January 2025:

- Clerk - \$10,332.00 (State of Nebraska \$5,530.16)(County of Boone \$4,801.84)
- District Court - \$297.59 (State of Nebraska \$228.00)(County of Boone \$69.59)
- Zoning - \$197.50
- Treasurer - Miscellaneous Receipt Nos. 21737 – 21818 - \$4,838,623.03
- Treasurer - Total Collections - \$5,934,845.18

Roll call vote: Yeas: Niewohner, Lindgren and Yosten. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Randall Bruland, Ambulance Administrator, was present to discuss possible candidates to be alternate County Ambulance drivers. The Board and Bruland went through who was on the current roster and two potential candidates where all parties felt that their schedules, location and experience would be ideal to add to the county's payroll. Motion made by Yosten, second by Lindgren to pursue T Coakes and W Ray to add to Ambulance crew as alternate drivers. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten, Lindgren and Niewohner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Gravel Spread on the Road contract that was submitted by the County Attorney's office. The Board discussed some revisions that will need to be made before using the contract. Once the revisions have been implemented the contract will be resubmitted for Board approval. No action taken at this time.

At the January 21, 2025 meeting it was discussed with the Road Foremen the current structure of the road department. Currently we have Brian McDonald who was appointed as the county's Highway Superintendent to fulfill all statute requirements. The County then hired three road foremen for the three districts in the County. Currently, it seems that everyone is content with the current structure. After further discussion it was also established that what would help is having a office administrator just for the road department. Motion made by Niewohner, second by Yosten to stop advertising to fill the Highway Superintendent position and to start advertising for a permanent part-time Road Administrator at \$15.00 per hour, working under 29 hours per week on Indeed and for two weeks in the Albion News/Boone County Tribune, Petersburg Press and Cedar Valley News. Roll call vote: Yeas: Niewohner, Yosten and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

An Interlocal Agreement between the County of Greeley and the County of Boone was presented for the Board to review. Boone County's Veterans Service Officer (VSO) provides once a week, in-person services to the Veterans of Greeley County. This is an annual agreement that the Counties enter and review. Motion made by Yosten, second by Niewohner to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten, Niewohner and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Brent Niese and Ben Fuller, Summit Carbon Solutions, were present to give the Board an update on where the CO₂ pipeline project is at. Ralph and Deb Schmadeke were present from the public. Items discussed were as follows:

- Summit Carbon Solutions conducted two safety presentations for the public to attend.
 - Stated that Boone County had one of the better turnouts.
- Summit didn't want to proceed with permits in Nebraska until the majority of the main pipeline in other states were approved and received. Currently they have received state permits from Iowa, North Dakota, and Minnesota. They are still waiting on the South Dakota permit.
 - Summit will now be applying for permits on a county level here in Nebraska.
- Federal guideline amendments/changes paused due to new administration.
 - Summit feels like they have been very proactive and were unworried about any changes.
- Summit wants to hold a meeting with all elected officials, planning/zoning, emergency manager and first responders to have a solid plan in place.
- Public question-how will they pipeline benefit the local farmer?
 - Summit stated that it will help the economy and local ethanol plant be able to offer a more competitive price for corn.

The Board thanked Niese and Fuller for their update. No action taken at this time.

National Insurance Services (NIS) through Madison Life Insurance Company presented renewals for their Long Term Disability and Supplemental Life policies. The rates for both policies did not change. This renewal will take effect July 1, 2025. Motion made by Yosten, second by Niewohner to approve the Insurance Renewals for the Supplemental Life and Long Term Disability as presented and to authorize the Chairman to sign both renewals. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten, Niewohner and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At the January 21, 2025 meeting access control was discussed with the intention of inviting Applied Connective Technologies to get further information on what is available, the system and the cost before moving forward on anything. Ryan Robinson, Applied Connective Technologies LLC; and Rod Nelson, Courthouse Maintenance; were present for further discussion. The items discussed were as follows:

- The Board wanted information on external and internal doors and the various option for keyless entry.
- Can restrict access on key fobs
 - Nelson would have a master key fob for access to all offices for general maintenance. Everyone else's fobs could have timed access to specified hours and offices.
- System management to office access, activating/deactivating fobs and controlling issued fobs could be monitored by ACT (additional cost), sheriff's office, county clerk's office or a combination of two offices.
- One concern was what if there were an extended power outage – how would the doors operate? Robinson stated that the doors are powered over ethernet (POE) and are connected to the county's network. In the event of a power outage manual keys would need to be used.
- Estimated cost for interior doors would be \$3200-3800 per door and exterior doors would be around \$5000 due to incorporating the automatic ADA door system.
 - Robinson stated that the cost is higher due to the amount of labor to install the systems.

Motion made by Yosten, second by Niewohner to obtain a quote from Applied Connective Technologies for an access control system for the two exterior doors of the courthouse. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten, Niewohner and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Steve Johnson and Rob Robinson were present to discuss a county road located in Section 32, Township 20 North, Range 6 West of the 6th P.M. Johnson stated that the gate was placed on the county road due to him believing that it was a vacated road. With a search of the road records, no vacation of the road in Section 32 being vacated was found. Johnson further stated that the gate was also placed to keep out hunters who did not have permission to hunt the land, but Robinson had the combination to the lock and could access it when needed. Brian McDonald, Highway Superintendent, stated that since the road was not vacated the public had a right to the county road. It was proposed that the County Surveyor be contacted for the county road to be surveyed so that fences could be installed on either side. Motion made by Yosten, second by Lindgren to appoint/request the County Surveyor to survey the county road in Section 32, Township 20 North, Range 6 West of the 6th P.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten, Lindgren and Niewohner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board appointed Brian McDonald, County Highway Superintendent, at the January 29, 2025 Board meeting to complete a County Road study regarding the vacation of a portion of county road known as 170th Avenue. McDonald presented the County Road study for the Board to review. The feasibility study is regarding a portion of a county road known as 170th Avenue, between 220th and 230th Street, between Sections 5 and 6, Township 20 North, Range 7 West of the 6th P.M. for approximately one mile. The road is classified as a minimum maintenance road and it is used as farm access to properties on the east and west sides of the roadway. The roadway is narrow and dirt surfaced down the center of the right of way. The area adjacent to the road is covered with brush and trees in many locations and there is fencing along much of both sides of the ROW. McDonald recommends that the above described road be closed with the Right-of-way be returned to the adjacent landowners. Motion made by Lindgren, second by Yosten to accept the County Road Study as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren and Yosten. Abstain: Niewohner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Lindgren, second by Yosten to approve Resolution No. 2025-03, to set a public hearing to be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. to hear comments in favor of or opposition to the vacation of said road known as 170th Avenue, between 220th and 230th Street, between Sections 5 and 6, Township 20 North, Range 7 West of the 6th P.M. for approximately one mile as presented. Roll call vote: Yeas: Lindgren and Yosten. Abstain: Niewohner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Denny Johnson and John Buck, County Sheriff, were present to discuss a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Boone through the Boone County Sheriff's Office and the City of Albion. The MOU is for County deputies to be part-time law enforcement officers for the City of Albion and also allow the use of the County's service weapon (pistol), ammunition, magazines, duty belt, holster, handcuffs, ballistic vest and carrier, Taser ECW, body camera, portable radio, and laptop computer. Commissioner Yosten stated that he would like it noted in the MOU that while employed by the City of Albion when off-duty from the County that the deputy would be covered by the City of Albion's liability insurance. Brent Lipker, City of Albion Police Department, also briefly attended the meeting to discuss the intention of the MOU. Motion made by Yosten, second by Niewohner to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement once liability from the City of Albion for the deputy was added. Roll call vote: Yeas: Yosten, Niewohner and Lindgren. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

- Brian McDonald, Highway Superintendent, presented a preview of the One and Six Year Road Improvement projects before the February 18, 2025 Public Hearing for the Board to review.
 - Also discussed a road intersection that was changed by a landowner. McDonald stated that a letter will need to be drafted by the County Attorney's office to address the damage done to the road and the County will need to fix the issue.
- Margaret Valladao, Weed Superintendent, gave update on the District 3 Conference that she attended and discussed upcoming meetings that she may be attending.
- Discussed 316 Asphalt and Paving as a possible vendor to resurface some of the County's roadways.
- Dohmen Garage Door is set to complete the District 3 road shop project.

Chairman Lindgren declared the meeting adjourned at 1:29 P.M., with the next Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Sarah Robinson,
Boone County Clerk

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Sarah Robinson, Boone County Clerk

Jon Lindgren, Chairman