

**COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**

Taylor, Nebraska

8:30 A.M.

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Loup County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment this 10th day of July, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the Loup County Courthouse in Taylor, Nebraska. Present were Commissioners Larson, Steckel, and Ruppel, County Clerk Copsey, Deputy Clerk Jones, Deputy Clerk Moon, Sheriff Spanel. County Engineer Johnson was present later in the morning. Chairman Larson called the meeting to order. Board members acknowledged receipt of the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes. Ruppel objected to minutes from the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting stating he did not vote yes to hire a road foreman, did not vote yes to give the road foreman a raise, and did not vote yes to move the county equipment to town. Chairman Larson then moved to recess at 8:35 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steckel. Roll call vote; yes; Larson, Steckel, Ruppel. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none. Meeting resumed at 8:43 a.m. County Attorney White present. Steckel moved to approve the June 11<sup>th</sup> minutes with no additions or corrections. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larson. Roll call vote; yes; Steckel, Larson, Ruppel. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none. Receipt of advance notice and agenda for the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting was also affirmed by all members present. Chairman Larson referenced the Open Meeting Laws poster located in the meeting room and advised that handouts concerning said laws are available to the public. Also present were Bruce Switzer, Charley Stout, Lonnie Owen, Doug Huhman, John Taylor, Marah Sandoz, Loren Sandoz, Jackie Lurz, Jaehne Moebius Lamm, Gene Thoene, Doug Pollard, Linda Thoene, Lynn Cole, Liz Ferguson, Diana Hurlburt, Sam Fales, Jessica Owen, Jayme Owen, Beau Dilsaver, Ruth Owen, Jodi Worm, Tammi Gerken, Brandi Johnson, Laura Kraus, Cody Cone, Lance Owen, Tootie Ruppel, Wayne Ruppert, Dan Helberg, Jessica Owen, Diane Dilsaver, Ed Sherbeck, Dustin Copsey, Tim Jordan, Raymond Sheldon, Tom McNeil, Debbie Postany, and Darcie Simmons. Larson moved to audit the claims. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steckel. Roll call vote; yes; Larson, Steckel, Ruppel. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none.

**GENERAL FUND**

SALARIES		\$41,116.44
IN LIEU OF INSURANCE		\$12,308.33
AFLAC	AFLAC	\$422.10
AMERITAS	EMPE RETIREMENT	\$2,933.88
IRS	EMPE FICA	\$3,986.37
MELISSA/DAVE LARSON HSA	HSA FLATWATER	\$691.67
APPEARA	RUGS	\$60.78
APPLIED CONNECTIVE	IT SERVICES	\$251.40
ASHLEY ELEY	PHONE	\$40.00
BANKCARD PROC. CENTER	CLERK/SHERIFF/TREAS SUPPLIES	\$750.89
BURWELL TRIBUNE	PUBLISHING	\$1,471.76
CARQUEST	SHERIFF EQUIPMENT	\$54.46
CORNER STOP	FUEL	\$595.21
CPPD	ELECTRICTY	\$44.12
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING	NETWORK SUBSCRIPTION	\$150.00
DATASHIELD	MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT	\$4.80
DAVE LARSON	PHONE/MILEAGE	\$82.88
DEB STARR	PHONE/MILEAGE CONT EDUCATION	\$183.79
DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLE	DRIVING RECORD CK	\$67.50

DONNA STECKEL	PHONE/MILEAGE	\$42.68
DUSTIN SPANEL	PHONE	\$40.00
EZ IT	IT SERVICES	\$1,200.00
GLW	EXTENSION AGENT	\$1,866.38
HAMILTON	PHONE & INTERNET	\$421.28
HOMETOWN LEASING	COPIER PAYMENY	\$67.76
J&J SANITATION	GARBAGE	\$39.21
JACK RUPPEL	PHONE/MILEAGE	\$50.72
JAMIE COPSEY	PHONE/MILEAGE CONT EDUCATION	\$250.12
JASON WHITE	PHONE	\$40.00
JD KEEFE	PHONE	\$40.00
JESSICA WORM	PHONE	\$25.00
JORDAN'S AUTO REPAIR	REPAIR WEED PICKUP	\$669.79
KATIE MOON	PHONE/REIMBURSEMENT	\$45.69
KYLE SHEPARD	PHONE	\$25.00
LAURA KRAUS	EMERGENCY MANAGER	\$75.00
MARYJO JONES	PHONE	\$25.00
MICROFILM	MICROFILM	\$52.00
MIPS	PROGRAM	\$1,087.87
MID-NE INDIVIDUAL SERV.	SERVICES FOR DISABLED	\$607.00
NE DEPT OF REVENUE	ASSESSOR EXAM REGISTRATION	\$75.00
NEXTONER	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$94.98
POSTANY CONSTRUCTION	STONE/VOTER BOX	\$200.00
REGION 26	EMERGENCY SERVICES	\$13,253.33
REGION 3 BHS	MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$389.88
SARGENT TIRE	EQUIPMENT	\$87.14
SCHAPER & WHITE	SECRETARY SALARY	\$500.00
SPELTS	SUPPLIES	\$44.98
SUMMER STROHL	PHONE	\$25.00
T&A GUNS	SHERIFF EQUIPMENT	\$157.72
TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY	LIBRARY	\$1,060.00
VALLEY COUNTY SHERIFF	JAIL KEEP	\$50.00
VILLAGE OF TAYLOR	SEWER	\$49.08
WARTA SERVICES & REPAIR	LAWN SERVICE	\$60.00
WESTERN CARTOGRAPHERS	PLAT MAPS	\$42.20
ZANE YOUNG	PHONE	\$40.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>\$88,016.19</b>

**ROAD FUND**

SALARIES		\$21,848.50
AMERITAS	EMPE RET	\$1,474.77
IRS	FEDERAL TAXES	\$1,644.33
BANKCARD PROC. CENTER	TP/CUPS	\$52.72
BARCO	SIGNS AND SUPPLIES	\$2,172.23
CHUCK SHEPARD	PHONE	\$40.00
CORNER STOP	FUEL	\$2,316.70
CPPD	ELECTRICITY	\$45.68
DUSTIN COPSEY	PHONE	\$40.00
ED SHERBECK	PHONE	\$40.00
EZ IT	ETHERNET CABLE	\$10.00
GRINT FARM SUPPLY	SHOP SUPPLIES	\$28.72
HAMILTON	INTERNET	\$65.21
HOMETOWN LEASING	BOBCAT EXCAVATOR LEASE	\$9,000.00
J&J SANITATION	GARBAGE	\$20.11
JEFFRES	GRAVEL & HAULING	\$22,101.76
KRAUS CONSTRUCTION	TREE REMOVAL	\$1,500.00
MAINELLI & WAGNER	CONSULTING SERVICES	\$2,960.00
MARYJO JONES	COFFEE FOR SHOP	\$11.98
MEDICAL ENTERPRISES INC	DRUG TESTING	\$73.75
MIPS	TIME CLOCK	\$57.40
NMC	SUPPLIES	\$187.92
PLUS ONE	AUTOGATES	\$5,820.00

SHARON SHERBECK	MOWING	\$75.00
<b>TOTAL ROAD FUND</b>		<b>\$71,586.78</b>

**BRIDGE FUND**

MAINELLI & WAGNER	CONSULTING SERVICES	\$9,805.00
<b>TOTAL BRIDGE FUND</b>		<b>\$9,805.00</b>

**VISITOR PROMOTION FUND**

TAYLOR AREA BUILDERS	ADVERTISING	\$2,069.17
<b>TOTAL VISITOR PROMOTION FUND</b>		<b>\$2,069.17</b>

**VISITOR IMPROVEMENT FUND**

TAYLOR AREA BUILDERS	FLOWER BEDS	\$802.54
<b>TOTAL VISITOR IMPROVEMENT FUND</b>		<b>\$802.54</b>

**AMBULANCE FUND**

CORNER STOP	FUEL	\$130.08
DEARBORN LIFE INSUR CO	INSURANCE	\$27.52
HAMILTON	INTERNET	\$65.21
LAURA KRAUS	SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT	\$348.49
VALLEY CNTY AMB SERVICE	VCAS INTERCEPTS	\$450.00
<b>TOTAL AMBULANCE FUND</b>		<b>\$1,021.30</b>

Steckel moved to allow claims. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruppel. Roll call vote; yes; Steckel, Ruppel, Larson. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none

Steckel moved for the adoption of a resolution transferring monies from the General Fund to the Road Fund. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruppel. Roll call vote; yes; Steckel, Ruppel, Larson. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none. Said resolution can be found in Commissioners Record No. 10 Page 451.

The Board reviewed the Clerk of the District Court monthly fee report, fund balances from Treasurer, Treasurer's semi-annual statement, and the Treasurer's tax remaining report. Steckel moved to adopt the tax sales resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larson. Roll call vote; yes; Steckel, Larson, Ruppel. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none. Said resolution can be found in Commissioners Record No. 10 Page 452.

Steckel moved to sign and participate in the Kroger Opioids Settlement plan to bring money into the county for opioid funds. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruppel. Roll call vote; yes; Steckel, Ruppel, Larson. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none.

Tim Jordan, Village Chairman met with the Board to continue discussion regarding the building on the county lot. He discussed the option of a long-term lease and also presented the legal description for the proposed location. The next steps were discussed including the Village attorney drawing up a lease proposal and discussion will continue. Discussion regarding Village building permits will be moved to the next scheduled meeting.

Diana Hurlburt, Garfield County Commissioner met with the Board to discuss National NACo. She shared information regarding what National NACo does and asked if Loup County would join the organization.

Steckel moved to appoint Kyle Shepard as the Floodplain Administrator. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larson. Roll call vote; yes; Steckel, Larson, Ruppel. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none.

Inventories for the Road department were given to each commissioner to review.

Heidi Borg, agricultural liaison for Congressman Smith's office met with the Board to provide updates from Congressman Smith's office, including what committees he is a part of as well as shared some information regarding what her office does.

Emory Haynes, Veteran Service Officer met with the Board to provide updates. He is the Veteran Service Officer for Blaine and Custer counties as well. He reports no changes from the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and that the Interlocal Agreement will remain at \$3,000. He also provided information regarding the Veteran's Aid fund which is available for veterans in need.

Sheriff Spanel met with the Board to provide the Sheriff's Quarterly fee report. He answered questions regarding claims and discussed new equipment purchases. He also shared that the Sheriff's department is now an accredited law enforcement agency.

Steckel moved to take a 15-minute recess at 10:28 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruppel. Roll call vote; yes; Steckel, Ruppel, Larson. Nays; none absent; none not voting; none. Chairman Larson resumed the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

County Engineer Johnson was present to discuss projects. He reported two bridge projects and one culvert project that will be bid in September. He shared his concerns regarding increased truck traffic during the completion of other projects on the newly finished South Lake Road. The South Lake Road project is set to begin on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Also discussed options for maintenance of the approximate 5 miles of road that remain after the South Lake Road project is complete.

Jessica Owen read a letter directed to the Board voicing her opinion on the firing of a county employee. She also had questions pertaining to 2023's audit and past claims.

Brandi Johnson met with the Board to ask questions including but not limited to duties of the foreman, quality of her road, road department hours and employees, and the special road fund.

Tootie Ruppel was on the agenda however chose to decline to speak.

Questions and discussion ensued including but not limited to: multiple questions regarding county claims, agenda concerns, reading of the meeting minutes, who the county attorney represents, poor maintenance on county roads, negative opinions regarding snow removal for bus routes, bus routes needing to be a priority, impossible to clear all roads during a storm at the same time due to number of machines versus number of miles to cover, special permission for equipment location for impending storm, fire department equipment storage and location, increased safety risk of employees due to increased highway miles with county equipment, employee rights, employee handbook, what road employee is responsible for what road, positive and negative opinions on road grading abilities and maintenance, opinions expressed regarding the decision to bring all equipment back to the county shed every day, insurance on county equipment and property, operation of county equipment by someone other than a county employee, demands for rehiring of county employee, expressions of disappointment that the Board cannot discuss employee termination, questions regarding who each employee's supervisors are and who has the authority to hire and fire employees, accusations of violation of open meeting act, tree removal in the ditches, whose responsibility is it if trees

are not removed as it creates more problems, concerns on whether the commissioners drive all of their roads, positive and negative comments in regards to appointing a foreman, positive remarks regarding scheduled road maintenance by the foreman, information regarding the foreman position that was created in October, responsibilities of the foreman, responsibilities of the commissioners for the roads, discussion regarding private road versus county road, surplus property information and postings, road department fund, appreciation of the county road department, employee cell phones being made public, location of Sheriff patrol car, sign audits, the spending of money throughout each district and who is able to spend money in each district.

County Attorney White advised those present that no comments could be made with regards to an employee's termination as this was not an agenda item and it constitutes a personnel issue.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned.

s/ David Larson, Chairman of the Loup  
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Jamie Copsey  
Loup County Clerk