

Sioux County Board of Commissioners

Harrison, Nebraska

January 2, 2024

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room January 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Commissioners J.W. Geiser, Hal Downer and Josh Skavdahl. Also present was County Clerk Michelle Zimmerman. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Hal Downer opened the meeting in prayer. Reference was made to the Open Meeting Laws posted in the meeting room. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2023 meeting. On roll call vote Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. The board met with elected and appointed officials.

The Board approved the following claims: GENERAL FUND: PAYROLL, 48,641.44; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 254.74; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 157.40; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 4,948.48/employee share, 2,044.11; AT&T, phone system, 99.02; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 17,358.37; Bytes Computer Solutions, e-mail, IT services, 4,458.88; Centurylink, phone, 314.42; Connecting Point, copier expense, 609.97; Crawford Clipper, publications, 321.48; Crowne Plaza, room, 269.90; DAS State Accounting, data processing, 516.00; Eakes Office Solutions, supplies, 310.45; Fairfield Inn & Suites, rooms, 1,319.45; Fire & Ice Mechanical, heater repairs, 1,542.29; First Concord Benefits Group, HR fees, 168.55/reimbursements, 897.37; AT & T Mobility, phones, 305.60; J.W. Geiser, mileage, registrations, 200.76; Horse Creek Tire, repairs, 16.57; Lacy Klein, mileage, 465.73; Lotton's Service, fuel, 50.00; Centurylink, phone, 237.11; Madison National Life ins., insurance, 56.77; MASA Global, insurance, 125.00; Chad McCumbers, reimbursement, 227.79; MIPS, Inc., data processing, 1,963.90; Melissa Mracek, fuel, 89.08; NACO, registrations, 700.00; National Association of Counties, dues, 450.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 1,171.96; Nebraska Total Office, supplies, 199.99; Nebraskaland Tire, tires-sheriff, 2,019.48; NEA, electricity, 1,435.93; Quadiant Finance, USA, postage, 500.00; Quadiant Leasing, postage machine rent, 840.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 619.94; Irene Richey, yrs of service, 19.00; Pine Ridge Service, fuel, 733.37; Scottsbluff Co. Detention Center, housing, 2,520.00; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,752.12/employee share social security, 2,752.12/county share medicare 643.66/employee share medicare 643.66/ withholding, 2,571.73; Sioux Co. Insurance Trust Fund, employee cafeteria plan, 458.33; Skavdahl, Edmund & Stecher, office rent, 200.00/clerical, 150.00/ phone, 22.39/listing, 1.00; Rustin Starkey, custodial contract, 650.00; Transfer to Library Fund, 4,000.00; Transfer to Noxious Weed Fund, 6,000.00; Transfer to Road & Bridge Fund, 30,000.00; Transunion Risk & Alternative, services, 120.00; Village of Harrison, utilities, 371.50; Ward Laboratories, extension cost, 9.40; Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95; Michelle Zimmerman, mileage, 586.23/meals, 20.95/ supplies, 40.85.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: PAYROLL: 41,560.09; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 831.48; Ameritas Life Insurance, optical insurance, 185.52; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,674.03/employee share retirement, 1,782.67; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 18,429.33; Cody

Bruegger, welding, 525.00; Bytes, set-up fee, 350.00; Centurylink, internet, 86.62; Contractor's Materials, supplies, 145.80; Dooley Oil, fuel, 4,723.53; Fairfield Inn, rooms, 719.70; Floyd's Truck, repairs, 939.04; Frank Parts, parts, 261.91; Herren's, repairs, 165.91; Inland Truck Parts, parts, 3,776.58; Kaufman Glass, repair, 380.00; Lotton's, repairs, 320.73; Madison National Life ins., life insurance, 61.85; MASA Global, insurance, 87.50; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc., supplies, 83.49; Morrill Supply, supplies, 62.73; Motor Fuel Division, fuel tax, 892.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 998.26; NE Dept of Transportation, supplies, 576.90; Nebraska Machinery, repairs, 1,324.38; NEA, electricity, 116.17; ODP Business Solutions, supplies, 98.17; Panhandle Coop System, repairs, 1,736.28; James Phipps, fuel, 69.92; Quill, supplies, 70.97; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, 11,463.39; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,297.02 /employee share social security, 2,297.02/county share medicare, 537.21/employee share medicare, 537.21/withholding, 2,024.96; Sioux County Treasurer, titles, 34.00; Skeeter's Napa, parts, 154.32; TDS Environmental Services, garbage, 35.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 753.53; Village of Harrison, utilities, 106.90; Village of Morrill, electricity, 106.95, Watson Mfg., Inc., repairs, 80.00.

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION AND MODERNIZATION FUND: MIPS, data processing, 414.54.

LIBRARY FUND: PAYROLL: \$1,686.64; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 113.85/employee share retirement, 75.90; Books-A-Million, books, 808.51; Centurylink, phone, 19.78; Collaborative Summer Library Program, program, 446.73; Herren's, supplies, 18.99; Junior Library Guild, books, 190.00; Mid America Books, books, 283.40; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 75.75; NEA, electricity, 210.55; Sarah Sanderson, supplies, 360.30; Security First Bank, county share social security, 104.57/employee share social security 104.57/county share medicare, 26.46/employee share medicare 24.46/withholding, 100.00; Village of Harrison, water, 61.25; Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND: PAYROLL: 3,497.93; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 30.60; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 236.11/employee share retirement, 157.41; Blue Cross Blue Shield, insurance, 2,459.51; Centurylink, internet, 86.62; Herren's, supplies, 15.28; Lotton's Service & Repair, fuel, 43.00; MASA Global, insurance, 12.50; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 55.30; ODP Business Solutions, LLC, supplies, 296.14; Security First Bank, county share social security, 184.48/employee share social security, 184.48/county share medicare, 43.14/employee share medicare, 43.14/ withholding, 175.00.

Michelle Zimmerman submitted monthly fee reports to the board.

Lacy Klein, County Treasurer submitted financial reports to the Board.

Nick Sanderson, weed superintendent submitted his control plan. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to accept the plan. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. Sanderson advised the board that a private applicator training would be held on January 14 at the fire hall.

Melissa Mracek updated the board on recent extension activities. Ashley Ahrens is on maternity leave through March. Shooting sports is up and running with an increased enrollment. Ag safety day for kids was held.

LeAnne Skavdahl gave a fee summary for the sheriff's department. LeAnne will work on getting invoices to attach to a credit card bill for the sheriff.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to appoint Joshua Skavdahl as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2024. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to designate sioux.mipsweb.info as the county's official website for 2024 On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to designate the Crawford Clipper/Harrison Sun as the county's official newspaper for all publications for 2024. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve Security First Bank as the county depository for 2024. Upon roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve NPAIT for the investment of Sioux County Funds for 2024. Upon roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to appoint Jim Phipps County Highway Superintendent for 2024. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Upon a motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer, the following appointments were adopted for 2024.

Ageing Agency of Western Nebraska – Rep. Allerton Hal Downer, alternate Joshua Skavdahl; Region 1 Office of Human Development – Rep. Joshua Skavdahl, alternate Allerton Hal Downer; Panhandle Development Disabilities Services – Joshua Skavdahl, alternate Allerton Hal Downer; Panhandle Mental Health Board – Rep. Allerton Hal Downer, alternate Joshua Skavdahl; Panhandle Public Health District – Rep. Allerton Hal Downer and Jackie Delatour; Solid Waste Agency of Northwest Nebraska – Rep. J.W. Geiser, alternate Allerton Hal Downer; Northwest Community Action Board – Rep. J.W. Geiser, alternate Allerton Hal Downer or Josh Skavdahl; Region 23 Emergency Management board – Rep. J.W. Geiser, alternate Allerton Hal Downer or Joshua Skavdahl; Panhandle Resource Conservation & Development Board – Rep. Josh Skavdahl, alternate Allerton Hal Downer. PADD – Rep. Josh Skavdahl, alternate Hal Downer. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the following Legal Holidays:

New Year's Day– Monday, January 1, 2024

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – Monday, January 15, 2024

President's Day – Monday, February 19, 2024

Arbor Day – Friday, April 26, 2024

Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2024

Juneteenth-Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Independence Day – Thursday, July 4, 2024

Labor Day – Monday, September 2, 2024

Veteran’s Day – Friday, November 11, 2024

Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 28, 2024

Friday following Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29, 2024

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2024

New Year’s Day -Wednesday, January 1, 2025

And all days declared by law or proclamation of the Governor to be a holiday according to Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1001 (3), “For purposes of this Section, paid holidays shall include all of the days enumerated in Section 25-2221 and all days declared by law or proclamation of the President or Governor to be holidays.” Exceptions may include law enforcement, security, military and employees engaged in other essential functions, such as 24-hour facilities. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to give employees a 3% cost of living raise for 2024. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Jim Fox met with the board to inquire about the progress of getting a grant to gravel Toadstool Road. Discussion was held about NACO hiring a grant writer in the future. The discussion will continue on Toadstool Road. Fox commented that Bobby does a good job of elevating the road, but there is no more material now.

Road Superintendent Jim Phipps met with the board on current road projects. Repairs have been made on the 140H blade, and another blade needs repaired. Phipps will look into possible funding to pay for the repairs. Phipps reported that the bridge inspections have been done for this year. Eric McCoy, Assistant Superintendent reported that a culvert on Liberty Oil and S-B Roads was washing out and Pathfinder Irrigation District put a plastic insert in it. The cost of the repair will be split with them. Discussion was held on a new snow plow.

Val Jansante, representative of Adrian Smith’s office updated the board on items that Congressman Smith is working on. Jansante held office hours for the public to make comment.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The Sioux County Board of Commissioners will meet February 1, 2024.

/s/Josh Skavdahl
Chairman of the Board

/s/Michelle J. Zimmerman
Sioux County Clerk