

Sioux County Board of Commissioners

Harrison, Nebraska

January 2, 2025

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room January 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Commissioners Josh Skavdahl, J.W. Geiser and Hal Downer. Also present was County Clerk Michelle Zimmerman. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Josh Skavdahl 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 2, 2024 meeting. On roll call vote Geiser, yes; Downer, yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes; Downer yes. Motion carried. The board met with elected and appointed officials.

The Board approved the following claims: GENERAL FUND: PAYROLL, 50,991.31; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 288.41; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 176.26; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 3,147.88/employee share, 2,187.55; AT&T, phone system, 102.03; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 20,122.92; Blue 360 Media, supplies, 99.95; Bytes, IT services, 4,568.88; Centurylink, phone, 321.53; Contryman Associates, P.C., Audit, 13,000.00; Crawford Clipper, publications, 246.84; Crowne Plaza, Kearney, room, 279.90; DAS State Accounting, data processing, 538.00; Dawes County Extension, mileage, 299.97; Dawes County Treasurer, predator control contract, 2,693.97; Dooley Oil, fuel, 136.46; Eakes Office Solutions, supplies, 1,671.52; First Concord Benefits Group, HR fees, reimbursements, 6,276.41; AT & T Mobility, phones, 454.80; JW Geiser, mileage, 459.62; Holiday Inn, Kearney, rooms, 1,499.40; Horse Creek Tire, supplies 80.44; Lacy Klein , mileage, 452.92; Lotton's, fuel, repair, 241.05; Madison National Life ins., insurance, 53.62; MASA Global, insurance, 125.00; MIPS, Inc., data processing, 2,000.50; NE Assn. of County Assessors, dues, 100.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 1,158.49; NE Total Office, supplies, 190.10; Nebraska Tire, tires, 856.00; NEA, electricity, 1,668.58; Quadiant Finance USA, Inc., postage, 500.00; Quadiant Leasing, USA, postage meter lease, 840.00; Irene Richey, yrs of service, 19.00; Scotts Bluff Co. Treasurer, probation, 983.98; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,862.39/employee share social security, 2,862.39/county share medicare 669.42/employee share medicare 669.42/ withholding, 2,487.81; Sioux County Court, court costs, 17.00; Sioux Co. Insurance Trust Fund, employee cafeteria plan, 458.33; Skavdahl, Edmund & Stecher, office rent, 200.00/clerk, 150.00/ phone, 25.38/postage, 12.38; Rustin Starkey, custodial contract, 420.00; Transfer to Library Fund, 5,000.00; Transfer to Road Fund, 40,000.00; Transunion Risk & Alternative, services, 120.00; UNL, Extension, mileage, 53.21; Village of Harrison, utilities, 385.20; Windbreak Cable internet, 113.15; Michelle Zimmerman, mileage, 599.65.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: PAYROLL: 42,302.88; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 951.20; Ameritas Life Insurance, optical insurance, 201.16; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,724.18/employee share retirement, 1,816.10; Beguin Propane, propane, 957.78; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 20,637.16; Centurylink, internet, 83.01; Dooley Oil, fuel 5,767.94; Herren's, supplies, 213.51; Holiday Inn, Kearney, room, 374.85; Horse Creek Tire, repair, 32.57; Kaufman Trailers, LLC, trailer,

19,778.30; Legacy cooperative, supplies, 251.98; Madison National Life ins., life insurance, 90.85; MASA Global, insurance, 100.00; Morrill Hardware, supplies, 41.14; Morrill Supply, supplies, 93.30; Motor Fuel Division, fuel tax, 1,070.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 1,001.44; NE Dept. of Transportation, materials, 531.68; Nebraska Machinery, repairs, 7,483.19; NEA, electricity, 85.34; James Phipps, supplies, fuel, 431.57; Pomp's Tire & Retreading, repair, 11,900.92; Powerplan, repairs, 8,560.87; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, 6,311.21; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,314.74/employee share social security, 2,314.74/county share medicare, 541.35/employee share medicare, 541.35/withholding, 2,021.97; Skeeter's Napa, parts, 194.49; TDS, garbage, 35.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 437.72; Village of Harrison, utilities, 114.25; Village of Morrill, electricity, 101.22; WPCI, drug testing, 312.00.

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION AND MODERNIZATION FUND: MIPS, data processing, 382.11.

LIBRARY FUND: PAYROLL: \$1,797.60; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 121.34/employee share retirement, 80.89; Demco, inc., books, 183.04; Herren's, supplies, 86.92; Junior Library Guild, books, 288.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 76.68; NEA, electricity, 228.75; NT & T phone, 74.27; Sarah Sanderson, supplies, 72.69; Security First Bank, county share social security, 111.45/employee share social security 111.45/county share medicare, 26.07/employee share medicare 26.07/withholding, 100.00; Village of Harrison, water, 66.25; Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND: PAYROLL: 3,602.87; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 34.34; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 243.19/employee share retirement, 162.13; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 2,801.24; Centurylink, internet, 83.02; Herren's, supplies, 17.77; MASA Global, insurance, 12.50; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 53.71; Nick Sanderson, mileage, 117.92; Security First Bank, county share social security, 186.51/employee share social security, 186.51/county share medicare, 43.62/employee share medicare, 43.62/ withholding, 175.00.

No one from the public was present to speak.

Michelle Zimmerman, Sioux County Clerk submitted financial reports to the board. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the audit submitted by Contryman Associates, P.C. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Gesier, seconded by Downer to approve a National Day of Mourning and closure of Sioux County operations on January 9, 2025. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

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

Nick Sanderson submitted his annual control plan. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the plan and direct Chairman Skavdahl to sign the plan. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. Sanderson has received the \$15,000 forest service grant for spraying on forest service lands. Sanderson has had no contact with the contractor who is supposed to be doing

the repairs on the weed shop. Sanderson gave board members copies of Sheridan County's resolution regarding prairie dog management. Attorney Edmund will review the plan.

Sheriff McCumbers provided financial reports to the board. McCumbers said the claim that had been submitted for payment on the new Tahoe was in error. The payment should be made at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Josh Skavdahl was sworn into office by Sioux County Clerk Michelle Zimmerman.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to appoint Joshua Skavdahl as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025.

Aging 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; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

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

New Year's Day– Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – Monday, January 20, 2025

President's Day – Monday, February 17, 2025

Arbor Day – Friday, April 25, 2025

Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, 2025

Juneteenth-Thursday, June 19, 2025

Independence Day – Friday, July 4, 2025

Labor Day – Monday, September 1, 2025

Veteran's Day – Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 27, 2025

Friday following Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28, 2025

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 2025

New Year's Day -Thursday, January 1, 2026

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 Downer, seconded by Geiser to give all non-elected employees a 3% cost of living raise for 2025. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

David Levy, Baird Holm, LLP, and Austin Paxson NextEra Energy Resources, LLC met with the board to discuss Road Use and decommissioning agreements for the wind energy project. Dan Skavdahl suggested changes in the decommissioning agreement. Road Superintendent Phipps reviewed and commented on the Road Use Agreement. Both agreements will be revised, with new agreements being sent out prior to the February 3, 2025 board meeting. Final agreements will be reviewed/approved at that time.

Jim Fox met with the board and reported on a conversation he had with railroad personnel in Alliance regarding them providing gravel for Toadstool Road. The cost to the county would be too much to proceed. Fox has also reached out to the forest service, but they won't do anything with Toadstool Road. Road Superintendent Phipps advised Fox that gravel crushing bids would be opened with one of the locations being the Fox pit.

Two bids for gravel crushing were opened and reviewed. Road Superintendent Phipps will get verbal clarification on one of the bids. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to accept the bids, with the verbal clarification needed prior to awarding the work. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Jim Phipps and Assistant Eric McCoy met with the board. Discussion was held with Phipps regarding the hours that he is working, and Eric McCoy's position of Assistant Superintendent. Wages and duties will be discussed again during budget negotiations.

Gale Henry inquired about the predator control contract with Dawes County. County Attorney Edmund and Commissioner Geiser advised Henry that Dawes and Sioux Counties are working on it.

The board adjourned for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

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 1:09 p.m. The Sioux County Board of Commissioners will meet February 3, 2025.

/s/Josh Skavdahl
Chairman of the Board

/s/Michelle J. Zimmerman
Sioux County Clerk