



# Nance County Board Minutes



April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

A meeting of the County Board of Supervisors of Nance County, Nebraska was convened in open session on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the Supervisor’s Room, Nance County Courthouse, Fullerton, Nebraska.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am with the following members present-Timothy Cornwell, Andrew Ditter, Robert Voichoskie, Ralph Horacek, Darren Nelson, Steve Crouse, and Gary Juracek. Absent-None. Also, present is County Clerk, Adrian Chlopek.

Chairman advised those present of the open meetings act and its posting in the Supervisor’s Room.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publication in the Nance County Journal on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

Notice of the meeting was given to the Board and a receipt of their acknowledgment is on file in the Clerk’s office.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the previous Board of Equalization meeting.

Moved by Voichoskie and seconded by Crouse to approve the agenda.

Moved by Nelson and seconded by Crouse to approve minutes of the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.

Moved by Horacek and seconded by Crouse to approve all claims submitted.

## **SALARY CLAIMS**

GENERAL FUND	\$59,994.98
ROAD FUND	\$34,925.17

9:02 am Rod Wetovick, County Attorney present.

9:08 am Ben Bakewell, County Sheriff present.

The Board reviewed and approved the Monthly Fee reports of the County Clerk in the amount of \$2113.44; Clerk of the District Court in the amount of \$55.52; and County Sheriff in the amount of \$1,073.92.

The Board reviewed and approved the County Treasurer’s Miscellaneous Receipts #24020001 through #24020054 in the amount of \$2,322,964.50 for the month of February 2024.

Audrey Worthing, Grand Island Staff Assistant for Adrian Smith Office presented an update from Congressman Adrian Smith’s Office. Discussed that the Grand Island Office handles case work, which helps constituents and government entities to navigate federal red tape, from the IRS, VA Benefits, expedite passports, etc. That Congressman Adrian Smith’s Office has internships available in the Grand Island flagship office and in Washington D.C. to have hands on experience of the Legislature process. She mentioned that if there are any local events that we would like Adrian Smith or a representative to attend to send invites to the Grand Island Office. Congressman Smith is on the Ways and Means Committee in Washington D.C. Worthing discussed that

there will be opportunities for Community Funding Grants that the Congressman would take to the Appropriations Committee, to keep an eye on Congressman Adrian Smith's website in the future for updates. Question was asked of how many staff Congressman Smith has, she explained that there is a cap of staff members, and she explained that there are about 15 on his staff between Nebraska and Washington D.C. Congressman Adrian Smith is serving Nebraska's 3<sup>rd</sup> District, which includes 80 counties in Nebraska. Worthing explained that they like to get to all Counties with updates once a year and hold an open office in each county once a year.

Malander Lot Split was postponed until the next meeting, as the information was not ready yet.

Board reviewed pledged collateral #20033AT71 in the amount of \$245,000.00 matured on 3/28/2024 from First National Bank and newly pledged collateral, #856285J44 in the amount of \$245,000.00 from First National Bank. Moved by Ditter and seconded by Juracek that the pledged collateral has been reviewed and approved.

Presented a request from NanceTrans, Inc., for a resolution supporting the operation in Nance County. Medicaid has made the decision that public transportation systems, either must be licensed with the Public Service Commission and or qualify for an exemption from their regulations. NanceTrans, Inc, also submitted the yearly boarding information for the past couple of years.

#### RESOLUTION #24-4

WHEREAS, NanceTrans, Inc. operates a transit service which assists residents of Nance County, with transportation to doctor's appointments and other necessary travel in and outside the County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NANCE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Supervisors support and approve the NanceTrans Transit service to operate within Nance County and support an exemption from the Public Service Commission. Moved by Juracek and seconded by Nelson to approve said resolution. All motions, except where specified, had the following roll call vote: AYES- Voichoskie, Horacek, Crouse, Nelson, Juracek, Ditter, Cornwell; NAYS-None; Absent- None. Motion carried.

9:44 AM, Moved by Juracek and Seconded by Voichoskie to convene an Executive Session for Personnel Discussion. 9:51 AM moved by Juracek and seconded by Voichoskie to end Executive Session and reconvene open session.

Tony Bernt, Highway superintendent, gives department updates. Hauled white rock/gravel mix to 110<sup>th</sup> Ave. Have some covering to do on 470<sup>th</sup>. Working on the tower road. Have a few roads they will be hauling in dirt and capping with clay that have sandy areas and where snow sat on the road. Also digging out ditches in those areas. On 530<sup>th</sup> (Palmer Road), it is a Cottonwood Township Road, county assisting with putting in tubes, Township has a budget for this project, if not Bernt explained that some could be carried over to the next budget year. Discussion held on road department staffing, currently down 2 full-time staff. Have 2 part-time staff that are looking for full-time, have not had any more applications returned. Discussion held, agreed that it would be good to move them to full-time and to work with HR on the start date for that due to insurance benefits. Will then still have openings for 2 part-time employees. The fence on the 160<sup>th</sup> has not been replaced yet. Cameras are working at the West Shed. Fuel contract is looking good still, have roughly 20,000 gallons left and contracted for

another 10,000 gallons. Discussion on the budget is going to restrain on what projects can be done the rest of this fiscal year. Will be getting snow cleats for each road department employee to use in snow/ice situations for safety concerns. Discussion was held on reimbursement for prescription safety glasses with permanent side shields, just like the reimbursement for Safety boots/shoes. After discussion, decided to increase the reimbursement to \$150 a year per road employee, they can choose to use it all on steel toe boots, all on safety glasses or a combination of both during their purchase year. Bernt talked about how they have a good Safety Program at the Road Department, they have a meeting once a month, and employees assist in coming up with safety ideas.

SuAnn Engel, HR/Budget gave updates on the Budget. Budget worksheets have been handed out to Department heads and are due back by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The budgets will be reviewed by the Board with each department on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Currently all budgets in the current fiscal year 2023-2024 are at 75% and people are budgeting at their lowest. We will need to continue to work on increasing cash reserves. Health insurance rates will be out April 25<sup>th</sup>, might have to look at cutting back the buydown to assist with the budget. This fiscal year, we are over by at least \$10,000 for the buydown, each year you just never know how much everyone is going to use. At the first board meeting in May there will have to be a decision made on insurance. Open enrollment starts the end of May. For open enrollment, we have changed the program we use. It will now be through Madison National Insurance, Wyze Benefits. They will do a Face-to-Face Zoom with each employee for enrollment, to give a more personalized approach to enrollment. Bernt talked of doing the merit increase again this next fiscal year for the road employees. Bakewell, talked about doing a step raise for the Sheriff Department this next fiscal year. Engel explained that she would like department heads to write on their budget worksheets what increases they are asking for to help her in preparing the budgets.

Moved by Horacek and seconded by Voichoskie to adjourn.

All motions, except where specified, had the following roll call vote: AYES-Voichoskie, Horacek, Crouse, Nelson, Juracek, Ditter, Cornwell; NAYS-None; Absent-None. Motion carried.

Timothy C. Cornwell  
Chairman

Adrian F. Chlopek  
County Clerk