

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Annual meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Roll call was answered by Karas, Sickel and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Sickel. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

Motion was made by Sickel to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2023, meeting as read. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sickel to approve the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting from December 27, 2023. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower-Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and on the Richardson County website [www.co.richardson.ne.us](http://www.co.richardson.ne.us).

**BOARD REORGANIZATION**

Motion was made by Sickel to reappoint John Caverzagie as the Chairman of the Board for 2024. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reappoint David Sickel as the Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2024. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie that the listed duties be designated to the following commissioners:

Commissioner Karas: County Roads, Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND) and the Southeast Nebraska Community Action Council

Commissioner Caverzagie: Courthouse Building and Grounds and Law Enforcement Center, Region V Systems & Services, member of the Product Development & Public Policy Committee of the Greater Falls City Economic and Development Growth Enterprise (EDGE) and alternate to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC),

Commissioner Sickel: County Roads, The Greater Falls City Economic and Development Growth Enterprise (EDGE), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Falls City Airport Road Committee and the Southeast Nebraska Health Board

Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT OF BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Motion was made by Sickel to reaffirm the appointment of Steve Darveau, Jr. as the Richardson County Highway Superintendent, License #S-1660 Class A with an annual salary for 2024 approved at \$68,850.00 (2% increase). Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reappoint Mona Godemann as the Richardson County Veterans Service Officer for 2024 with a salary of \$25.58/hour (2% increase). Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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## APPOINTMENTS (Cont.)

Motion was made by Sickel to reappoint Brian Kirkendall as the Richardson County Emergency Manager and the Noxious Weed Control Superintendent with an annual salary for 2024 approved at \$65,382.00 (2% increase). Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

## SPECIAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Sickel to reaffirm the appointment of **Dr. Allan W. Tramp to the County Health Board** for the year 2024 pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 71-501. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sickel to reappoint Richard (Dick) James, Ben Steffen and Jerry Duerfeldt to the **Richardson County Planning Commission** for a term of 3 years which expires December 31, 2026. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Karas to reappoint **William Niedfeldt and Bonnie Kanel** to the County Visitor's Committee for a term of 4 years (January 1, 2024, thru December 31, 2027). Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reaffirm the appointment of the members of the County Safety Committee: Sheriff Hardesty; Jail Administrator, Kristen Morehead; Ryan Curtis, Courthouse Maintenance; Steve Darveau, Highway Superintendent; Wyatt Martin, Road and Bridge Department; and Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-absent, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week. A report was given to the Board regarding the installation of a HVAC unit as a back-up system for the Law Enforcement Center. He also reported that there are 23 inmates currently being held in the Jail.

The Sheriff also reported that for the period of December 15 thru 31 there were 290 traffic stops with 71 citations issued, 1 search warrant and 37 arrests of which 14 were felonies. For this time period, a grant through the Nebraska Department of Transportation, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" was awarded to Richardson County and utilized to cover overtime costs of law enforcement officers.

Carla Zarybnicky, Communication Director of the Southeast Communications Beatrice 911 and James Allman with the NE Public Service Commission attended the meeting today to review with the Board the dispatching services currently provided for by Southeast Communications 911 Beatrice and what would be needed to have the dispatch service returned to the County and/or the City of Falls City. Falls City representatives, Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk and Falls City Police Chief, Jamie Baker were also in attendance at the meeting and offered to answer any questions regarding the dispatch services through the City of Falls City.

Motion was made by Sickel to adopt Resolution 2023-2024-25 to terminate the interlocal agreement effective July 31, 2024, with the City of Beatrice to provide dispatch services to Richardson County. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 27, Page 62)

The Sheriff also informed the Board that Superintendent, Dr. George Griffith of Humboldt/Table Rock/Steinauer Schools has inquired about the County entering into an agreement for providing a school resource officer for the next school year, 2024-2025.

Sheriff Hardesty presented to the Board the Distress Warrant report for the 2022 tax year in which one warrant was issued and collected including expenses in the amount of \$130.24.

Commissioner Sickel excused himself from the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

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**ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.**

Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent was attending a 4-county meeting in Tecumseh today regarding the Federal Bi-Partisan Infrastructure bill and the grant funding that is being made available for county projects.

The Board briefly reviewed further the rock bids received at last week’s meeting and will be discussed further at next week’s meeting.

Motion was made by Karas to adopt Resolution 2023-2024-24 certifying proper completion of project(s) C007402110 permanently closing of bridge structure located on a road located ½ mile south of the intersection of 717 Road and 640 Avenue and project C007425105 replacing bridge structure located on 655 Avenue south of 710 Road. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-absent, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 27, Page 61)

**CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER**

**Pledge Securities**

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the replacement of the following pledge securities from F&M Bank: Receipt #392202823 for #JC93066; Receipt #392220963 for #JC93059; Receipt #392205249 for #JC93022A; Receipt #392221285 for #JC93002D; Receipt #751011520 for #JC93031D; Receipt #392210030 for #JC93013. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-absent, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**Applications for County Depository**

The Board did not act on Resolution 2023-2024-23 to approve financial institutions as a Depository for county funds during the year 2024. This will be considered at next week’s meeting.

Motion was made by Caverzagie pursuant to NE Revised State Statute 77-2315 to authorize the County Treasurer to invest and reinvest funds for Richardson County. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-absent, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**Fee Reports**

Reports were approved for the following officials for fees collected during the month of December, 2023:

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk	\$ 257.00
Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds	\$40,760.75
Pam Scott, Clerk of Dist Court	\$ 1,148.00

**Monthly Operating Statement**

The Board reviewed the operating statement for December, 2023.

**CLAIMS**

Motion was made by Karas to allow the payment of all claims submitted today. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-absent, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

*(The claims listed below are available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.)*

**GENERAL FUND**

Bud Sewer Service Inc., serv	445.00
Capital AutoGlass, serv	350.71

GENERAL FUND (Cont.)

Crook, Eric, mowing	910.00
DAS State Acctg, fees	163.18
Falls City Mercantile, supp	302.54
Falls City Sanitation, serv	40.00
Falls City Utilities, serv	6781.37
Farm & City Supply, supp	119.98
Jim Hill's, serv	625.00
Lincoln National Life Ins., life ins	1161.38
Malcolm, Terry, DDS, serv	280.00
MIPS Inc, serv	3729.19
NACO, dues	1656.13
National Association of County Officials, dues	450.00
Nemaha County, fees	5371.59
Radiology Associates, serv	464.00
Region V Systems, fees	4168.50
Richardson County Clerk, fees	4.38
Richardson County Court, fees	2912.47
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	37.46
Richardson County Sheriff, fees	802.23
Richardson County Sheriff Petty Cash Acct., reimb	330.82
Scholl Lawn & Landscape LLC, serv	110.00
Southeast Nebraska Communications, serv	2201.28
SumnerOne, serv	103.24
TK Elevator Corporation, serv	402.87
Verizon Wireless, serv	303.65
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$34,226.97</b>

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

East Richardson RWD #2, serv	46.00
Southeast Nebraska Communications, serv	103.80
<b>TOTAL ROAD &amp; BRIDGE FUND</b>	<b>\$149.80</b>

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVE

MIPS Inc., serv	315.57
<b>TOTAL REG OF DEEDS PRESERVE</b>	<b>\$315.57</b>

STOP PROGRAM DIVERSION FUNDS

Intoximeters, serv	1607.25
<b>TOTAL STOP PROGRAM DIVERSION FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,607.25</b>

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS

Southeast Nebraska Communications, serv	145.00
<b>TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS</b>	<b>\$145.00</b>

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-absent, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City, NE. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

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John J. Caverzagie, Chairman

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Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk