

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 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 Commissioner Sickel. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

A motion was made by Sickel to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-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 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.co.richardson.ne.us.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau, Jr. updated the Board on the maintenance being done on county roads and bridges this past week. Road graders are out and rock hauling is being done. The department is also working on buildings at the shop area in Falls City and installing heaters at the motor grader shops noting that the shops in Salem and Barada are still needing some heat source.

Mr. Darveau also presented informal quotes for the purchase of a belly dump trailer: 1) Murphy Tractor & Equipment, Co., Lincoln, NE were unable to provide a quote; 2) Jim Hawk Truck Trailers, Inc. were unable to provide a quote at this time due to supply and inventory; 3) Brazos Trailers of Wills Point, TX provided a quote for \$38,790.00 for a 2024 Brazos 40' Pit Boss Belly Dump.

Motion was made by Sickel to approve the purchase of a belly dump trailer from Brazos of Wills Point, TX in the amount of \$38,790. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty was unable to meet with the Board due to investigative matters.

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Kimberly Tanner, Emergency Preparedness Offsite Coordinator and Matthew Nee, Emergency Preparedness Manager from the Cooper Nuclear Station (Brownville) met with the Board in an on-going effort to keep the County informed with the emergency training and emergency plans for the Brownville plant. They also reported that Cooper Nuclear Station will be moving away from using the warning sirens and going to the IPAWS which would inform the area of an emergency with a notification on cell phones, etc. The sirens would most likely then be turned over to the counties for their use. The Board agreed that quarterly updates from Cooper Nuclear Station would be beneficial to county officials in keeping up with the emergency plans, etc.

NAPE/AFSCME LOCAL 61

The Board met with members of the NAPE/AFSCME Local 61, Justin Hubly, Executive Director and Eddie Schooler and stewards of the Road Department Union, Ron Ramer, Wyatt Martin and Bryan Dettmann to resume negotiations for an agreement. The County submitted a counter-proposal to the Union's proposal that was submitted at the October 4, 2023, meeting. The Union submitted today a counter-proposal to the Board for their consideration.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 11:40 a.m. for a strategy session with respect to collective bargaining negotiations and for the protection of the public interest with County's legal counsel, Jerry Pigsley and Sarah Carstensen. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye,

Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to close the executive session at 12:23 p.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

The Board then presented to the Union their response on the counter-proposal from the Union today. The Union members requested time to excuse themselves from the meeting room to review this proposal and then returned with a counter proposal to the County Board.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 12:35 p.m. for a strategy session with respect to collective bargaining negotiations and for the protection of the public interest with County's legal counsel, Jerry Pigsley and Sarah Carstensen. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to close the executive session at 12:47 p.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Pigsley, County special legal counsel, then asked Justin Hubly, Union Rep if this counter-proposal was the "Final Offer" from the Union and he replied no. The County then responded that they would need some time to consider the offer that was proposed by the Union. The Board then scheduled a time to meet further with the Union on the collective bargaining negotiations on Wednesday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Monthly Operating Statement

The Board reviewed the January, 2024 monthly operating statement.

Fee Reports

Reports were approved for the following officials for fees collected during the month of January, 2024:

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk	\$ 176.50
Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds	\$3,800.75
Pam Scott, Clerk of Dist Court	\$1,552.00
Sheriff Hardesty	\$4,029.18

Other

A letter was sent for testimony at a hearing to be held on Thursday, February 8 with the Nebraska Legislature Revenue Committee on LB1067 regarding the elimination of inheritance tax in Nebraska and the ramifications with the loss of this revenue would have on Richardson County operations.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Sickel to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, 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

Amazon Capital Services, supp	37.99
BuckIT, serv	7103.33
Consolidated Management Company, serv	10600.95
DAS State Acctg, fees	163.18

GENERAL FUND (Cont.)

Detectachem, Inc., supp	120.23
Falls City Journal, ads	242.00
Falls City Mercantile, supp	188.47
Falls City Sanitation, serv	60.00
Ferebee, Elizabeth D., fees	836.00
CR22-337 T. Alexander, JV22-33	
First Wireless Inc, supp	317.74
Godemann, Bethany, reimb	5.00
Jim Hill's, serv	445.00
Johnson County Sheriff's Office, serv	1105.00
Koch's Auto Service, serv	3525.59
Meyer Laboratory Inc., supp	558.20
Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc., serv	110.00
Midwest Mobile Radio Service, serv	90.00
MIPS Inc., serv	3218.84
Postmaster, supp	340.00
ProServ Business Systems, serv	146.41
Radiology Associates, serv	35.00
Ram Exterminators, serv	48.00
Region V Systems, serv	856.00
Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash Acct, reimb	17.55
Richardson County Sheriff, fees	741.00
Richardson County Sheriff Petty Cash Acct, reimb	479.89
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	24215.98
Richardson, Kristy, reimb	48.24
Scholl Lawn & Landscape LLC, serv	85.00
Sisco, Emily, serv	2000.00
Southeast Nebraska Communications, serv	2173.76
Spartan Stores, LLC, supp	86.76
SumnerOne, serv	309.92
Ultra-Chem Inc, supp	142.60
Verizon Wireless, serv	303.68
Volitant Technologies, LLC, supp	11338.50
W&D Auto Care, serv	120.00
Payroll Expense	108610.60
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$180,826.41

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Falls City Sanitation, serv	20.00
Home Lumber Company, supp	715.30
Midwest Service & Sales Co., supp	640.00
Nebraska Public Power District, serv	36.88
Nebraska Snow Equipment, supp	3039.48
NMC, Inc., supp	2710.47
Operation & Expense Account, reimb	626.04
Quill, supp	173.98
Salem, Village of, serv	24.55
Southeast Nebraska Communications, serv	106.60
UniFirst Corporation, supp	56.41
Verdon, Village of, serv	31.76
Wolfe's Printing, supp	323.85
Payroll Expense	31592.85
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$40,098.17

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CLAIMS (Cont.)

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVE

MIPS Inc., serv	315.57
TOTAL REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVE	\$315.57

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS

Southeast Nebraska Communications, serv	155.00
TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS	\$155.00

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sickel to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 p.m. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

John Caverzagie, Chairman

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk