

## COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Courthouse, Clay Center, Nebraska, November 21, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

The Clay County Board of Supervisors met November 21, 2023 as per public notice given in the Clay County News on November 15, 2023 a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the County Clerk's Office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting. Chairman L. Wayne Johnson presided with roll call showing the following present: Scott Bitterman, Glen Becker, Dick Shaw and L. Wayne Johnson; absent: Eric Samuelson, James Pavelka and Ivan Fintel. Minutes of the meeting held November 14, 2023 were mailed to the board members. All of the proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman, L. Wayne Johnson stated that the open meeting law poster is posted on the west wall in the back of the room.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Bitterman to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 14, 2023 as mailed. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried.

Recommendation for appointment to the Clay County Board of Adjustments was received. Motion by Becker and seconded by Shaw to re-appoint Wayne Peshek and Lynn Lipovsky to serve on the Clay County Board of Adjustments for a term of three (3) years effective September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried.

Thomas Roemmich, II, Highway Superintendent provided his road report and discussed how soft the roads are due to the recent rain. Once the roads dry out the crews will be able to get back on the gravel roads to clean them up. Roemmich presented the Year-End Certification for the State of Nebraska. Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Shaw to adopt Resolution #23-21 authorizing the signing of the Year-End Certification and approve the Year-End Certification of the County Highway Superintendent. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried. (Resolution on file in the Clerk's office)

Brandy VanDeWalle, UNL Extension Educator introduced Mateus Ribeiro who has been hired to fulfill the Clay County Water & Cropping Systems Educator position. VanDeWalle provided the Board with the September and October narratives and some program updates. Discussion was had regarding the Extension Office's request for additional outlets in their office. The Board will have a discussion with the electricians prior to adding any additional electrical circuits in the Courthouse.

Katie Kahulnek with the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District presented the Board with a Cooperative Agreement for Clay County with the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and provided information on how the Juvenile Diversion Program works. There is no budgetary requirement of Clay County for this program; however, if Clay County would continue to participate in the program, there is approximately \$21,894.00 available from the State on our behalf for the program. Motion by Shaw and seconded by Bitterman to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid for the term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried.

Donnie Batterman met with the board to discuss lawn service for the courthouse, cemeteries and other county properties he mows. He isn't asking for any increase in pay for his service. Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Shaw to extend the agreement with Donnie Batterman (Don's Lawn Service) for lawn mowing services through 2024 at the same rate of \$125.00 but providing an increase in fuel surcharge to \$50.00. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried.

Batterman also discussed concerns with the conditions of some of the cemeteries and how to address the overgrowth of trees, cutdown trees that have been left behind, badger holes and headstones that have fallen and how they could get assistance for resetting them. The Board asked that Batterman provide a "to do" list for each cemetery and present it to the Board at another meeting for further discussion.

Haley Malone, Emergency Manager presented her monthly report.

Recommendation for appointment to the Clay County Joint Planning & Zoning Commission was received. Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Becker to re-appoint Heather Wharton, Steve Furman and Robyn VonSpreckelsen to serve on the Clay County Joint Planning & Zoning Commission for a term of three (3) years effective January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried.

A request for surplus was provided to the Board prior to the meeting from the Clerk of the District County and the Clay County Court Clerk Magistrate. The State of Nebraska offered a technology upgrade for the Courtroom and the following items are available for surplus: computer monitors, microphones, speakers, an IT tower, and smaller items. Motion by Shaw and seconded by Becker to approve the request for surplus as presented. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried.

Clerk Aksamit provided the Board with an update on the COVID / ARPA Fund Expenditures to date for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. Aksamit also provided the Board with an update on electrical and plumbing work done in the Courthouse and Courtyard recently. Aksamit will continue to work with the Custodian to find a replacement water fountain for the third floor.

Motion by Shaw and seconded by Bitterman to adjourn this meeting at 10:55 A.M.; next regular meeting scheduled for November 28, 2023. On roll call, yea: Bitterman, Becker, Shaw and Johnson. Motion carried.

Cassie Aksamit, Clay County Clerk

L. Wayne Johnson, Chairman