

Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Trenton, Nebraska
June 5, 2023

A meeting of the County Board of Commissioners of Hitchcock County, Nebraska was held at the Hitchcock County Courthouse Commissioner’s Room, 229 East D Street, Trenton, Nebraska on Monday, the 5th day of June 2023 commencing at 9:00 o’clock a.m. Present were Chair Paul Nichols, Commissioners Ron Wertz and Scott McDonald and County Clerk Margaret Pollmann. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Hitchcock County News, the designated method for giving notice. Board agendas are posted on the County’s website www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov. Notice of the meeting was given to the Chair and all members of the Board. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held.

Chair Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Member Wertz moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items: Approval of the May 15th, 2023 meeting minutes; Approval of the June 5th, 2023 agenda. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Wertz, and Nichols. Motion carried.

The following *DISASTER DECLARATION* was signed by Chair Nichols on May 26th, 2023:

“Hitchcock County, Nebraska, has suffered from flooding and flash flooding due to heavy rain that has occurred 26 May 2023, causing severe damage to public and private property, and the endangerment of the health and safety of the citizens of Hitchcock County.

Therefore, the Chair of the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners has declared a state of emergency authorized under Nebraska Statute R.R.S. 81-829.50 on behalf of Hitchcock County, and will execute for and on behalf of Hitchcock County, the expenditure of emergency funds from all available resources, the invoking of mutual aid agreements, and the applying to the State of Nebraska for assistance from the Governor’s Emergency Fund and any other resources that he deems necessary in the fulfillment of his duties.”

Member Wertz moved to approve the following claims. Member Nichols seconded the motion and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Nichols, Wertz and McDonald. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND:

General Fund Payroll -----	\$18,399.95
Boarders Inn & Suites, lodging -----	\$ 285.00
Capital One, supply/equipment -----	\$ 676.32
Carpennter-Breland Funeral Home, coroner transport -----	\$ 920.00
Clerk District Court, adv. costs -----	\$ 72.00
Community 1 st Bank, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 5,933.96
Dollar General, supply -----	\$ 18.80
Eakes Office Solutions, supply -----	\$ 290.87
Great Plains Comm., service -----	\$ 1,171.25
GIS Workshop, annual fee -----	\$10,080.00
Hitchcock Co. Court, costs -----	\$ 118.00
Hitchcock Co. Sheriff, service fees -----	\$ 91.98
MASA, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 6.25
Midwest Connect LLC, supply -----	\$ 223.00
MIPS, Inc., data process costs -----	\$ 2,438.85
NE Dept. Rev., state tax -----	\$ 887.79
Paul Nichols, mileage -----	\$ 385.80
NIRMA, liability/work comp./auto/bonds/E&O/physical damage -----	\$36,393.00
Peckhan Dental Clinic, inmate dental -----	\$ 200.00
Postage -----	\$ 1,000.00

Protex Central, inspection -----	\$ 69.50
Quality Farm & Ranch Center, supply -----	\$ 14.99
Quality Urgent Care, new hire testing -----	\$ 50.00
Retirement Plans Division, Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 2,751.47
Safe Life Defense, uniform -----	\$ 234.37
Ryan R. Wilcox, public defender contract -----	\$ 3,500.00

ROAD FUND:

Road Fund Payroll -----	\$14,503.67
Bud's Tire Service, repair -----	\$ 1,734.00
Community 1 st Bank, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 4,031.24
Dust Cloud Construction Inc., contract labor -----	\$ 5,865.00
EIA, LLC, gravel -----	\$ 5,202.72
Great Plains Comm., service -----	\$ 348.03
Lakeside Sand & Gravel, gravel -----	\$ 2,450.76
MASA, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 6.25
NE Dept. Rev., state tax -----	\$ 648.23
NIRMA, work comp./liability/physical damage/vehicle/E&O insurance ---	\$35,738.00
Quality Urgent Care, DOT testing -----	\$ 50.00
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 2,092.88
Richard's Gravel Pit, gravel -----	\$14,688.00
Village of Stratton, utility -----	\$ 158.04

VISITOR'S PROMOTIONAL FUND:

McCook Gazette, visitor's guide -----	\$ 400.00
---------------------------------------	-----------

REGISTER OF DEEDS P&M FUND:

MIPS, Inc., data process. -----	\$ 248.32
---------------------------------	-----------

911 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Centurylink, service -----	\$ 528.00
GEO-Com., GIS maint. -----	\$ 1,527.84
Great Plains Communications, service -----	\$ 15.42

E-911 PSC FUND:

Centurylink, service-----	\$ 1,672.01
GEO-Com., GIS maint. -----	\$ 4,838.16
Great Plains Communications, service -----	\$ 48.84

County Attorney D., Eugene Garner joined the meeting.

Highway Superintendent Phillip Dixon and Lance Harter with Oak Creek Engineering advised as to estimated county road repair costs as a result of the recent flooding.

Member Wertz moved to authorize and direct Oak Creek Engineering and County Highway Superintendent Phillip Dixon to make assessments of damages to county roads including without limitation major collectors caused by recent flood events as are necessary and proper for seeking possible emergency relief funding. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Wertz, and Nichols. Motion carried.

Sheriff Hunter and Assessor Riggs joined the meeting regarding 2023/2024 employee salaries and the proposed County Facebook page. Treasurer Drain was present via phone conference.

Kathy Haas and Evelyn Pettit with Family Resource Center provided information as to the Center's offerings and budgetary items for the past fiscal year. It was the consensus of the Board to consider \$4,000 in the upcoming 2023/2024 County budget.

Hitchcock County Sheriff's office Dispatch Supervisor Kayla Hodges advised the board as to the Hitchcock County Sheriff's Department Severe Weather policy specifically in relation to tornado watch/warning notifications.

Weed Superintendent, Zoning Administrator and NIRMA Contact Mike Erickson offered departmental updates. Discussion held on tank batteries in county road right of ways.

Building and Grounds manager Dave Swanson gave a departmental update.

Member Wertz moved to direct Chair to execute the Min-American Benefits, LLC Administrative Services Agreement. Member Nichols seconded the motion and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Wertz, and Nichols. Motion carried.

Member McDonald moved to direct Chair to execute the Agreement by and between the County and Daniel D. Miller, CPA PC for 2023/2024 budget preparation services in the amount of \$3,000.00. Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Nichols, Wertz, and McDonald. Motion carried.

Attorney Garner advised as to statues relating to bridge's located county line roads.

The Treasurer's 4/30/23 and 5/31/23 pledged security reports were on file.

Member Wertz moved to recess at 12:34 p.m. and to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. this date. Member Nichols seconded the motion and the roll was called with the following members voting in favor of said motion: Nichols, McDonald, and Wertz. Motion carried.

The Board reconvene at 7:00 p.m. this date as per recess.

Those present were Chair Paul Nichols, Commissioners Scott McDonald and Ron Wertz, County Attorney D., Eugene Garner and County Clerk Margaret Pollmann. There were 70 patrons in attendance. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held.

Chair Nichols stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide information and hear comments from those in attendance relating to Bureau of Reclamation redevelopment plans for Swanson Reservoir concession and mobile home/cabin areas and its' effect on the local economy. Chair Nichols advised as to the County's efforts to date, those being meetings with Aaron Thompson, Bureau of Reclamation Manager for the Nebraska area, correspondence with Senator Deb Fischer's office, letters written to Senator Pete Ricketts, Representative Adrian Smith, Representative Don Bacon, Representative Mike Flood, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton and President Biden. Chair Nichols offered a beginning to current synopsis of meetings/conversations with Manager Thompson and indicated any mutually agreeable resolution had been futile. In closing, Chair Nichols indicated that as the Bureau of Reclamation is a federal government agency, contacting senators and representatives in an effort to effect legislation seemed to be the only solution and opened the meeting up to comments and questions.

Dawna Vap representing Good Life Marina read a news release dated June 5th. 2023 entitled *Reclamation announces redevelopment plans for Swanson and Red Willow Reservoir concession areas* and noted plans for redevelopment could be viewed at https://www.usbr.gov/gp/nkao/redwillow/redwillow_swansonconcession.pdf

Those recognized and offering comments were: Susan Doak (Lighthouse Marina), Tom Faimon, Robert Peterson, Val Jansante (Adrian Smith's office), Kari Clausen, Karla Heble, Al Dunworth, Jennifer Baker, Tammy Faimon, Bill Roddy, Rob Housz, Korky Vernon, Scott Chvatal, Bonni Brown, Melanie Standiford (Midwest Media by Melanie) Tim Daum, Nicole Peterson, Pennie Peterson, and Penny Walter. Comments/questions included but were not limited to: infrastructure (septic systems); if Bureau doesn't follow through with redevelopment in a timely manner what can be done; effect on local economy; Game and Parks withdraw from management; observations relating to RV site low occupancies; no park superintendent; Bureau directives not being followed; litigation options; Bureau options (nothing HAS to be done); environmental and fire codes are not being violated at present; frustration with lease signing delays and undisclosed changes in leases; contacting DC elected officials to affect change; utilizing social and news media to inform the public of the impending change and its' effect;

private and exclusive uses pertaining to mobile home sites on Bureau lands; lack of Bureau feasibility study and site survey; the SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) survey for this area; the “Dingell Act”; Bureau of Reclamation’s mission statement.

Member Wertz moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. and to meet for the next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Member McDonald seconded the motion and the roll was called with the following members voting in favor of said motion: McDonald, Nichols, and Wertz. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Paul Nichols, Chair
Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk