

Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Trenton, Nebraska
July 17, 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 17th day of July 2023 commencing at 9:00 o’clock a.m. Present were Chair Paul Nichols and 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 Nichols moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items: Approval of the July 3rd, 2023 meeting minutes; Approval of the July 17th, 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.

Scott McDonald advised that he has had complaints regarding the County mowing weeds and that NEB. REV. STAT. §39-1811 provides in part that it shall be the duty of the landowners to mow all weeds that can be mowed with the ordinary farm mower to the middle of all public roads and drainage ditches running along their lands at least twice each year, namely, before July 15th, for the first time and sometime in August for the second time.

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

GENERAL FUND:

General Fund Payroll -----	\$ 53,790.51
AFLAC, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 967.21
Applied Connective Technologies, IT/email services -----	\$ 2,577.35
BC&BS, dental ins. -----	\$ 1,440.91
BC&BS, health ins. -----	\$ 23,327.02
Colonial Life & Accident Ins. Co., suppl. ins. -----	\$ 39.70
Community 1 st Bank, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 17,504.40
Kimberly Cook, mileage/communications -----	\$ 164.51
Justin M. Daake, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 460.00
DAS State Accounting – Central Finance, data. process. -----	\$ 25.28
DATA/Sheild, shredding services -----	\$ 85.00
Mike DeCore, reimb. supply -----	\$ 11.30
Harvest Homes, LLC, repair -----	\$ 150.00
Eakes Office Solutions, supply/copy chg. -----	\$ 892.59
Farmers Coop Grain & Supply, fuel -----	\$ 2,107.98
Gilliam Fell, mileage -----	\$ 153.71
First Net/AT&T Mobility, service -----	\$ 397.44
Nancy Frecks, mileage/communications -----	\$ 93.55
Goodwin Siegfried LLP, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 335.00
Great Plains Comm., service -----	\$ 1,137.71
Hitchcock Co. Court, costs -----	\$ 71.00
Hitchcock Co. Sheriff, service fees -----	\$ 37.32
JA Automotive & Repair LLC, repair -----	\$ 170.38
League Builders Supply Inc., supply -----	\$ 4.90
MASA, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 56.25
Scott McDonald, mileage -----	\$ 322.26
Mid American Benefits, admin. fees/SBC prep. -----	\$ 218.75

NE Generator Service LLC, annual service fee -----	\$ 1,832.58
NE Dept. Rev., state tax -----	\$ 2,904.85
New York Life, life ins. -----	\$ 75.00
Regional West Medical Center, coroner fees -----	\$ 171.05
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 8,547.74
Rippen Oil LLC, repair -----	\$ 143.50
Scoop Media LLC, publications -----	\$ 418.65
Kenneth M. Adams, pest control services -----	\$ 75.00
Total Turf Co., Inc., repair -----	\$ 578.35
Trails West Texaco, fuel -----	\$ 111.03
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 2,174.44
VSP Insurance Co., vision ins. -----	\$ 370.62
Ron Wertz, mileage -----	\$ 510.25
US Bank, lodging/supply -----	\$ 410.66

ROAD FUND:

Road Fund Payroll -----	\$ 10,972.49
AKRS Equipment, repair -----	\$ 494.86
AKRS Equipment, 6110M tractor -----	\$114,540.71
AFLAC, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 369.79
BC&BS, dental ins. -----	\$ 293.27
BC&BS, health ins. -----	\$ 5,241.36
Bud's Tire Repair Inc., tires -----	\$ 702.00
C&K Distributors, supply -----	\$ 127.83
Community 1 st Bank, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 2,887.47
Dan's R Us Sanitation, service -----	\$ 24.63
Phillip Dixon, hwy. supt. contract -----	\$ 1,000.00
Farmers Coop Grain & Supply, fuel -----	\$ 19,328.11
Great Plains Comm., service -----	\$ 348.03
JA Automotive & Repair LLC, repair -----	\$ 393.92
League Builders Supply, Inc., supply -----	\$ 13.75
MASA, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 6.25
Mead Lumber, supply -----	\$ 27.50
Mid-American Benefits Inc., admin. fees -----	\$ 24.00
NE Dept. Rev., Motor Fuels, tax -----	\$ 430.00
NE Dept. Rev., state tax -----	\$ 408.28
Powerplan JD Financial, repair -----	\$ 408.47
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 1,440.46
Rippen Oil LLC, fuel -----	\$ 76.40
SW Farm & Auto Supply, repair -----	\$ 232.97
SW Public Power, utility -----	\$ 36.83
Village of Culbertson, utility -----	\$ 50.93
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 152.62
VSP Insurance Co., vision ins. -----	\$ 57.93

VISITOR IMPROVEMENT FUND:

Culbertson Community Foundation, special project -----	\$ 2,500.00
--	-------------

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND:

NE Department of Economic Development, reuse funds -----	\$ 1,732.25
--	-------------

911 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Great Plains Comm., service -----	\$ 15.42
-----------------------------------	----------

E-911 PSC FUND:

Great Plains Comm., service -----	\$ 48.84
-----------------------------------	----------

Member Nichols moved to approve the Application To Occupy Hitchcock County Road Right of Way filed by Great Plains for underground fiberoptic in Section 15, Township 3, Range 32 Hitchcock County, Nebraska. Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Wertz, McDonald and Nichols. Motion carried.

Dawna Vap and Korky Vernon met with the Board advised as to a recent meeting with Senator Fisher, Senator Pete Ricketts, and Congressman Adrian Smith in Washington, DC regarding the Bureau of Reclamation land transfer issue.

County Attorney D. Eugene Garner joined the meeting.

Kiley Joyce and Mary Lawson with Region II Services Developmental Disabilities gave an overview of the agency's services.

Member Nichols offered Resolution #23-10 and moved for its' adoption. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the roll was called thereupon and the following members voted in favor of the motion: Nichols, Wertz, and McDonald. Said resolution having been consented to by a majority of all members elected to said County Board, was by the Chair declared passed and adopted. A true, correct and complete copy of said resolution is as follows and is on file in the office of the County Clerk and on the County's website: www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov.

RESOLUTION 23-10

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners have identified the opportunity for the expansion of access to broadband internet for residents of rural Hitchcock County through various programs administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners believe that access to high speed broadband internet in a modern, information drive age, is an important to residents of Hitchcock County as the electrification of rural homes and farms was in the 1930's and 1940's.

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners believe that the first step toward connecting rural Hitchcock County residents with broadband internet access is the identification and formulation of plan to fairly distribute and implement such broadband access to areas with limited or no current broadband access.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, offers technical assistance grants which are designed to assist political subdivisions, such as Hitchcock County, with identifying areas of inadequate broadband service and formulate plans for how to extend service to those areas.

WHEREAS, Hitchcock County has a long standing relationship with West Central Nebraska Development District, which in turn has partnered with the South East Nebraska Development District to pool resources and expertise in the application for technical assistance grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and the distribution and administration of grant funds received.

WEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners believe that the South East Nebraska Development District, in cooperation with the West Central Nebraska Development District, are well suited to represent the interest of Hitchcock County and its residents in the application and administration of technical assistance grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and thus to begin the important process of bringing high speed broadband internet access to the areas of Hitchcock County that are now underserved or without any broadband access.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners, due to the generationally transformative change that access to broadband internet represents for many rural Hitchcock County residents, the County of Hitchcock, Nebraska, fully and formally supports the application of the South East Nebraska Development District to receive a technical assistance grant from the United States Department of Agriculture in order to conduct comprehensive broadband planning, feasibility studies, and project development initiatives.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of July, 2023.

Voting for the motion: Wertz, McDonald, and Nichols

Voting against the motion: None
Abstaining: None
Absent: Nichols

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
HITCHCOCK COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Paul Nichols, Chairman

ATTEST:

Margaret Pollmann, County Clerk

Chair Nichols executed a letter of support regarding West Central Nebraska Development District Application to United States Department of Agriculture for a broadband technical assistance grant.

Highway Superintendent Phillip Dixon discussed various road and bridge projects with the Board.

Member McDonald moved to direct Chair to execute the Certification and Verification of Information relating to CDBG Program Income amounts. Member Wertz seconded the and after consideration the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Nichols, and Wertz. Motion carried.

Attorney Garner advised as to the Real Estate Purchase Agreement on Lots, 1, 2, and 3, Original Town of Trenton.

Member Wertz moved to enter into a contract to purchase Lots 1, 2, and 3, Original Town of Trenton, Hitchcock County, Nebraska for the total purchase price of \$25,000 pursuant to Real Estate Purchase Agreement executed by Renae Huber. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the following members vote in favor of the motion. Nichols, Wertz, and McDonald. Motion carried.

Lenard Paxton met with the Board regarding tank battery removal/relocation. Zoning Administrator Mike Erickson was also present. Attorney Garner advised as to the same.

Weed Superintendent and NIRMA Contact Mike Erickson advised to departmental activities.

Pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §23-122 et seq. Hitchcock County job titles and current salaries are being published.

ANNUAL SALARIES

Commissioner \$24,999.96; County Clerk \$57,000.00; Chief Deputy Clerk \$42,632.18; Deputy Clerk \$38,112.66; County Attorney \$57,000.00; County Sheriff \$67,999.92; Chief Deputy Sheriff \$53,506.27; Deputy Sheriff(s) \$51,286.61/\$50,781.30; County Treasurer \$57,000.00; County Assessor \$57,000.00; Extension Office Manager \$32,282.25; Veteran's Service Officer \$24,741.99.

HOURLY WAGES

Attorney Legal Assistant \$21.74; Chief Deputy Treasurer \$21.88; Treasurer Clerical \$16.86; Chief Deputy Assessor \$21.88; Road Maintenance \$20.00/\$24.00; Part Time Road Maintenance \$12.00/\$16.00; Janitorial \$18.82; Weed Superintendent/NIRMA Contact/Zoning Admin. \$20.43; Communications Supervisor/Dispatcher Jailer \$20.17; Dispatcher Jailer \$18.92/19.60; Planning Commission Secretary \$13.65.

The Hitchcock County Sheriff's Office Distress Warrant Return report was on file.

The Treasurer's May 31st and June 30th, 2023 Pledged Security Report was on file.

Member moved to direct Chair to execute the certification and verification of information relating to the semi-annual report pertaining to Community Development Block Grant Program

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

Member Wertz moved to adjourn at 12:12 p.m. and to meet for the next regular meeting on Monday, August 7th, 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, Wertz, and Nichols. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Paul Nichols, Chair
Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk