

Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Trenton, Nebraska
December 16, 2024

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 2nd day of December 2024 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 on December 12th, 2024 in *Scoop Media 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. Christopher Baker was also present.

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 December 6th, 2024 meeting minutes; Approval of the December 16th, 2024 agenda. Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Nichols and Wertz. Motion carried.

Treasurer Jackie Drain advised as to fund balances.

Member Wertz offered Resolution #24-23 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 on file in the office of the County Clerk and on the County's website www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-23

WHEREAS the County of Hitchcock, Nebraska, is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, on September 3rd, 2024, the County adopted the 2024/2025 Hitchcock County Budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Board budgeted the expenditure of inheritance tax funds during the 2024/2025 fiscal year as follows: \$700,000.00 to the General Fund and \$300,000.00 to the Road Fund to reduce the property tax request to be transferred as necessary to meet current expenditures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to immediately transfer the sum of \$200,000.00 from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the County General Fund for the purpose of meeting current expenditures.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16th, day of December, 2024.

ATTEST:

Paul Nichols, Chair

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk

SEAL

VOTING FOR THE MOTION: Nichols, McDonald, and Wertz

VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

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

GENERAL FUND:

General Fund Payroll -----	\$51,074.58
Quality Farm Ranch Center, supply -----	\$ 3.98
American Electric, repair -----	\$ 11.90
AFLAC, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 852.70
Applied Connective Technologies, IT services -----	\$ 2,908.50
BC&BS, dental ins. -----	\$ 1,433.21
BC&BS, health ins. -----	\$22,611.17
Blue60 Media, law library -----	\$ 195.30
Bosselman Energy, Inc., heating fuels -----	\$ 972.81
C&K Distributors, equipment -----	\$ 767.85
Colonial Life & Accident Inc., suppl. ins. -----	\$ 429.08
Community 1 st Bank, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$17,290.35
Consolidated Management Company, meals -----	\$ 34.12
D&S Hardware, supply -----	\$ 139.90
DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, data process. -----	\$ 150.00
Dewald Deaver L'Heureus PC LLO, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 250.00
Eakes Office Solutions, supply -----	\$ 205.78
Farmers Coop Grain & Supply Co., fuel -----	\$ 521.82
First Net/AT&T Mobility, service -----	\$ 345.88
Great Plains Communications, service -----	\$ 1,100.88
Hitchcock Co. Court, costs -----	\$ 115.00
Hitchcock Co. Sheriff, service fees -----	\$ 47.55
IHire, recruiting service -----	\$ 2,148.00
Justice Data Solutions, RMS data processing system -----	\$14,850.00
Kohl's Auto Parts, repair -----	\$ 170.89
MASA, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 56.25
McCook Gazette, bid publication -----	\$ 34.70
Scott McDonald, mileage -----	\$ 286.76
Mid-American Benefits, Inc., deductible funding/admin. fees -----	\$ 8,112.00
Mid American Research Chemical, supply -----	\$ 454.58
Mousel, Brooks, Schneier & Mustion, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 1,613.44
NE Safety & Fire Equipment Inc., service -----	\$ 40.00
NE Dept. Rev., state employment tax -----	\$ 2,803.27
New York Life, life ins. -----	\$ 75.00
Paul Nichols, mileage -----	\$ 282.74
Prairie States Comm., Inc., repair -----	\$ 2,540.27
Protex Central, repair -----	\$ 79.86
Red Willow Co. Treasurer, bailiff interlocal -----	\$ 1,279.47
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 8,375.70
Scoop Medial LLC, publications -----	\$ 419.61
Ashley K. Spahn, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 725.00
TKO Pest Control, service -----	\$ 85.00
Total Turf Co., Inc., service -----	\$ 180.00
Dennis G. O'Brien, coroner transport -----	\$ 523.55
Van Diest Supply Co., supply -----	\$ 1,137.50
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 1,084.18
VSP Insurance, vision ins. -----	\$ 375.89
Ron Wertz, mileage -----	\$ 231.15
Westfield Pharmacy, inmate script -----	\$ 88.98

ROAD FUND:

Road Fund Payroll -----	\$10,945.72
Ace Irrigation & Mfg. Co., culverts -----	\$ 9,795.81
AKRS Equipment, repair -----	\$ 14.97
AFLAC, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 285.81
BC&BS, dental ins. -----	\$ 443.30
BC&BS, health ins. -----	\$ 7,229.21

Bosselman Energy Inc., heating fuels -----	\$ 440.78
C&K Distributors, supply/tools -----	\$ 18.82
Colonial Life & Accident Ins. Co., suppl. ins. -----	\$ 24.49
Community 1 st Bank, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 2,763.10
Dan's R Us Sanitation, service -----	\$ 27.35
Mike Erickson, reimb. small tools -----	\$ 21.30
Farmers Coop Grain & Supply Co., fuel -----	\$11,116.86
Garrisons-McCook Lettering, shirts -----	\$ 108.00
Great Plains Communications, service -----	\$ 371.45
Modern Farm Equipment Corp., blades -----	\$ 1,415.57
JA Automotive, repair -----	\$ 186.44
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers Inc., repair -----	\$ 976.55
Lakeside Sand & Gravel LLC, gravel -----	\$11,463.23
MASA, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 6.25
Mid-American Benefits, Inc., admin. fees -----	\$ 40.00
NE Safety & Fire Equipment, Inc., service -----	\$ 318.00
NE Dept. Rev., state employment tax -----	\$ 379.15
NE Machinery Company, repair -----	\$ 7,676.09
Oak Creek Engineering, bridge inspections -----	\$ 1,595.89
PowerPlan JD Financial, repair -----	\$ 4,756.21
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 1,514.82
Rippen Oil, fuel -----	\$ 179.80
SW Farm & Auto Supply, supply -----	\$ 223.70
SW Public Power, utility -----	\$ 40.97
Titan Machinery, repair -----	\$ 399.00
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 159.48
VSP Insurance Co., vision ins. -----	\$ 48.24

911 EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND:

Great Plains Communications, service -----	\$ 15.42
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911 PSC FUND:

Great Plains Communications, service -----	\$ 48.84
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Member Wertz moved to direct Chair to execute the 2024 Department of Agriculture Livestock Friendly Annual Report. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of the motion: Wertz, Nichols, and McDonald. Motion carried.

Dennis Egle joined the meeting and inquired as to the County's livestock friendly designation. Discussion held on various roads.

Member Nichols moved to direct Chair to execute the Memorandum of Understanding for Community Based Juvenile Services for fiscal year 2025/2026. Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Wertz, Nichols, and McDonald. Motion carried.

CTE representative Chris Haveman and Vap Construction representative Brandon Cavenee were present for agenda item #5, Building Bids.

County Attorney D. Eugene Garner joined the meeting and advised to performance bonds and contracts relating to the County's building project.

Member Wertz moved to accept the bid of for construction of a 56'x60' steel building to be erected 423 East 3rd Street in Trenton in the amount \$156,900 conditioned upon providing performance bond in that amount pursuant to a change order. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Nichols and Wertz. Motion carried.

Sheriff Jason Swartz presented his letter of resignation to be effective January 27, 2025 and the same was received by the Board.

Member Wertz moved to reluctantly accept the resignation of Jason Swartz and Sheriff. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Wertz and Nichols. Motion carried.

Attorney Garner advised as to statutory requirements relating to county official resignations.

Motion Wertz to amend the December 16th, 2024 agenda to add an emergency item based upon the receipt this date, of the resignation of Hitchcock County Sheriff Jason Swartz and the necessity to act upon the vacancy left by said resignation. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of the motion: Wertz, Nichols and McDonald. Motion carried

The Board declares a vacancy exists for the office of Hitchcock County Sheriff effective 4 p.m. CT on Monday, January 27, 2025.

Member Nichols moved to commence the search to fill the position of Hitchcock County Sheriff. Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of the motion. McDonald, Wertz, and Nichols. Motion carried.

Member Wertz offered Resolution #24-24 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 on file in the office of the County Clerk and on the County's website www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-24
(Obligation of ARPA/SLFRF Funds)

WHEREAS the County of Hitchcock, Nebraska, ("COUNTY") is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, acting by and through the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY is the owner of the following described real estate, to wit:

Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 12, Original Town of Trenton, Hitchcock County, Nebraska, (a/k/a 423 East 3rd Street, Trenton, Nebraska)

(the "Property"), said Property being located adjacent to the Hitchcock County Courthouse, which was purchased by COUNTY in August, 2023 because said Property had become severely dilapidated, wholly uninhabitable, substandard, blighted, rodent and vermin infested and a general public health nuisance and safety concern to the community of the Village of Trenton, Nebraska, as a result of the lack of proper care and maintenance thereof by the previous owner; and

WHEREAS COUNTY has since demolished the dilapidated structures located on the Property in an effort to remedy the nuisance nature and public health and safety risks associated therewith; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY was the recipient of *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds* ("SLFRF"); and

WHEREAS, because COUNTY currently has no building or other readily available structure in which to park law enforcement patrol vehicles to protect said patrol vehicles from the elements, vandalism and inclement weather, including without limitation, freezing temperatures, severe snow/ice storms and severe hailstorms, COUNTY has at times been adversely affected by such inclement weather events that have caused severe damage to said patrol vehicles resulting in (1) said vehicles at times being out of service for repair(s) for extended period(s), which can result in delayed response time for emergencies due to necessary unscheduled service and/or repairs; and (2) increased property casualty insurance premiums and deductibles paid from property tax funds levied and collected by COUNTY; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY has determined it to be in the best interests of COUNTY and the community as a whole, to construct a new steel building on the Property for the purpose of housing and protecting its law enforcement patrol vehicles, and said building could also be made available for public benefit in the event of a mass disaster incident, including without limitation, offsite/supplemental emergency management command center, staging location for emergency responders, storage and distribution center for food, water and other supplies, temporary emergency shelter and/or such other use(s) as the circumstances may at that time necessitate for the health and safety of the community

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners believes that investment of SLFRF funds into its infrastructure in this manner, will better enable COUNTY to: (1) aid in maintaining essential public services to the community; (2) bolster public health and safety in the community; and (3) support local businesses, stabilize households and boost resilience in the local economy, following the adverse and long lasting effects to the community as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY would not otherwise be able to fund said infrastructure investment without (1) effectuating budget cuts in other areas of public services; or (2) by increasing tax request(s) upon an already stretched and struggling local agricultural based economy; and

WHEREAS, SLFRF funds must be designated, allocated and otherwise obligated as per federal requirements by contractual commitment(s) on or before December 31st, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2024, COUNTY entered into a contractual agreement in the amount of \$156,900.00 with Vap Construction, Inc. for the erection of a 50'x60' steel building on the Property.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners designate, allocate and otherwise obligate to and for the purpose of said infrastructure investment/public health and safety/community betterment project, the sum of **\$139,051.83** in ARPA/SLFRF funds now held by COUNTY.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16th day of December, 2024.

ATTEST:

Paul Nichols, Chair

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk

SEAL

VOTING FOR THE MOTION: Nichols, McDonald, and Wertz

VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

Member McDonald moved to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. and to meet for the next regular meeting on Monday, January 6th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Member Wertz seconded the motion and the roll was called with the following members voting in favor of said motion: Nichols, McDonald and Wertz. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Paul Nichols, Chair
Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk