



Merrick County Board Minutes



February 23, 2016

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 9:10 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Graves, Kucera, Carlson, Weller, Helgoth, Kreachbaum, and Wiegert present. County Attorney Homolka was also present.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil and The Palmer Journal and on the Merrick County website. Proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's Office. Copies of the agenda were mailed to each Supervisor and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

Chairman Wiegert declared the meeting was preceded by publicized notice and having acknowledged and identified the location of the posting of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act, called the meeting to order and in open session at 9:10 a.m.

Moved Graves, second Kreachbaum to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:10 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Agenda: Moved Carlson, second Weller to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 minutes as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: Carlson attended the Merrick County Development Corp meeting, Taylor Samek's graduation and made several trips to the fairgrounds; Graves attended the personnel meeting on February 18; Kreachbaum attended the ice jam meeting at the community room with Emergency Management and the Mid Plains meeting in Grand Island; Helgoth attended two personnel meetings and the ice jam meeting; Kucera attended the two personnel meetings and Taylor Samek's graduation reception; Wiegert attended Taylor Samek's graduation reception.

Official's reports: Extension Educator Stuhr, County Treasurer Bolte and Interim Sheriff Westman gave updates for their offices.

Senator Smith's Office: Jerad Reimers, community liaison for Senator Adrian Smith's Office gave the Board an update from Senator Adrian Smith.

Hospital: Julie Murray gave the Board a brief update on the hospital.

Comprehensive Plan: Moved Kucera, second Graves to open the public hearing on the adoption of the revised Merrick County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Graves, second Helgoth to close the hearing on the adoption of the revised Merrick County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations at 10:47a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kreachbaum, second Graves to table the adoption of the Merrick County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations. until March 22, 2016. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Planning & Zoning appointments: Moved Graves, second Kucera to reappoint Lynn Wiegert, Kelly Wichmann, Gregg Ferris, and Pat Robinson to the Planning Commission for another three years. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Chapman Village Planning Commission: Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to appoint Liz Gamblin to replace Richard Ogden as the Chapman Village representative on the Planning Commission. Roll Call: All Ayes. Jennifer Myers said that Richard Ogden service was definitely appreciated by Planning and Zoning.

4H Building change order: Extension Educator Stuhr said the change order was not ready.

One and Six hearing: Moved Kucera, second Graves to open the hearing for the One and Six road plan at 11:04 a.m.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kucera, second Graves to close the hearing for the One and Six road plan at 11:08 a.m.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kreachbaum, second Carlson to approve the One and Six Year Road Plan with the changes made by Highway Superintendent Mike Meyer. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Kreachbaum, second Carlson to have the Chairman sign RESOLUTION 2016-1 approving the One and Six Year Road Plan. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2016-1 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

Closed session: Moved Kreachbaum, second Kucera to go into executive session at 11:24 am. with Attorney Pam Bourne to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Graves, second Carlson to go out of executive session at 12:11 p.m. with Attorney Pam Bourne. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Merrick County Sheriff vacancy: Carolyn Kucera, as the spokesperson for the personnel committee read the following to the Board: The committee toughly reviewed all eight applications and utilized a point system that took in consideration of experience, certification status to include management and supervision training, among other characteristics. Equal and fair assessment was given to all applicants. Based on the point system in the application process we extended invitation to interview to the top four applicants. For which are presented to you as applicant A, B, C, and D. You have also been presented copies of the remaining four applications. All four applicant interviewed extremely well and made our decision very difficult. The total accumulated scores have been made available to you for each interview. Individual score sheets can be made available if you would like to view them. After a lengthy discussion and consideration the personnel committee recommends this board appoints Applicant "B" as the Merrick County Sheriff. This applicant exhibited the most relevant experience, particularly in the areas of management and supervisor. His jail training and experience along



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with his quality and quantity of references made him stand out as a top choice for the position of sheriff. We feel Applicant "B" will make a great sheriff for Merrick County not only now but in the years ahead. Moved Kreachbaum, second Weller to appoint John R. Westman to fill the vacancy of the office of Merrick County Sheriff effective February 23, 2016 for the remainder of the unexpired terms; that said appointee shall be entitled to the salary and benefits established for the office of Merrick County Sheriff. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Eagle Communications: Moved Carlson, second Kreachbaum to approve the Chairman signing the contract and SLA with Eagle Communications for a new phone system. Roll Call: All Ayes.

February 2016 payroll: General: Gross: \$114,713.48 Net: \$78,561.83 Roads: Gross: \$48,795.34 Net: \$34,335.76 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$3,173.00 Net: \$2,232.60. Moved Kucera, second Graves to approve the February 2016 payroll. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Helgoth, second Kreachbaum to adjourn at 12:37 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk