

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order in the Board Room, second floor of the County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Ave., Alliance, NE at 9:00 a.m., January 5, 2023, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published December 21, 2022, in the Alliance Times Herald. Affidavit of publication had been received in the office of the County Clerk. Agenda was emailed and posted on the county’s website: boxbuttecountyne.gov, January 4, 2023. Roll call: Brett Ditsch, present; Mike McGinnis, absent; Steve Burke, present. Martie Burke, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. County Attorney Marissa Curtiss present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairperson Burke acknowledged that this meeting will follow the open meeting act posted on the North wall of the County Board Room. Burke moved to accept the agenda as printed, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to accept the resignation of Commissioner Mike McGinnis, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

REORGANIZATION 2023

Ditsch nominated Steve Burke as **Chairman**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke nominated Brett Ditsch as **Vice-Chairman**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the same boards as appointed in 2022, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burke

- Region 1 Mental Health Board**
- Area Agency of Aging Board**
- Region 1 Office of Human Development Board**
- Alternate/Northwest Community Action Board**
- E911 Advisory Board**
- Welfare Board Chairman**

Vice-Chairman Ditsch

- Box Butte Development Corporation Board**
- Welfare Board Vice-Chairman**
- Box Butte General Hospital Board**
- Northwest Community Action Board**
- Region 23 Emergency Management Agency**

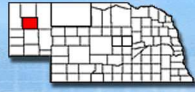
Burke moved to appoint Ditsch to the **Senior Citizens Board** and **Extension Board** until a third Commissioner has been appointed, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to appoint Burke to the **Public Health Board/Panhandle Partnership** until a third Commissioner has been appointed, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint the Commissioners as **Building & Grounds Directors**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Barbara Keegan as **Road Superintendent**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to appoint Mike Johnson as **Zoning Administrator**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.



Burke moved to appoint Scott Bossé as **County Surveyor** as needed, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to appoint Sarah Foland as **Veteran’s Service Officer**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Brett Lauder as **Weed Superintendent**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to designate **Banks as Depositories** as presented, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

- BANK OF THE WEST (ALLIANCE BRANCH)
- WELLS FARGO BANK
- NPAIT
- GREAT WESTERN BANK
- FNBO
- NEBRASKA BANK (Alliance & Hemingford Branches)
- SANDHILLS STATE BANK
- MERIDIAN TRUST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (Veterans Office)

Burke moved to designate Alliance Times-Herald and The Ledger as **County Newspapers**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to designate KCOW/AM & KAAQ/FM as **County Radio Stations**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

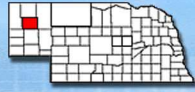
Ditsch moved to designate www.boxbuttecountyne.gov as the official **County Website**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to set the **2023 Regular Board Meetings**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

January 17, 2023; February 6, 2023; February 21, 2023; March 6, 2023; March 20, 2023; April 5, 2023; April 17, 2023; May 3, 2023; May 15, 2023; June 5, 2023; June 20, 2023; July 5, 2023; July 17, 2023; August 2, 2023; August 21, 2023; September 6, 2023; September 18, 2023; October 4, 2023; October 16, 2023; November 6, 2023; November 20, 2023; December 6, 2023; December 18, 2023.

Burke moved to set the **2023 Holidays**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

New Year’s Day	January 2, 2023
Martin Luther King Day	January 16, 2023
President’s Day	February 20, 2023
Arbor Day	April 28, 2023
Memorial Day	May 29, 2023
Juneteenth	June 19, 2023
Independence Day	July 4, 2023
Labor Day	September 4, 2023



Columbus Day	October 9, 2023
Veteran's Day	November 10, 2023
Thanksgiving	November 23, 2023
Day after Thanksgiving	November 24, 2023
Christmas	December 25, 2023

35-Hr Employees = 91 Holiday Hours
40-Hr Employees = 104 Holiday Hours

Ditsch moved to approve December 19, 2022 minutes with the correction of meeting date from December 7, 2022 to December 19, 2022, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to accept and sign County Clerk/Register of Deeds and Clerk of District Court monthly reports, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, discussed the snow removal boundaries for Flannel Brothers and K L Wood. It was clarified that the County is responsible for the snow removal of the sidewalk in front of the Law Enforcement Center and the sidewalk on the South side adjacent to the Law Enforcement Center. Ms. White has continued her discussions with Jay Dubs on the elevator clearance requirements. Commissioner Burke has Stephen Klaas, Klass Structural Engineering, LLC, scheduled next week to do an on-site visit to assess the feasibility of a possible elevator shaft expansion.

Commissioner Burke had no information to report on board meetings. Correspondence was acknowledged and available for public inspection.

Ditsch moved to approve monthly payroll and claims as presented, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried. **GENERAL:** Net payroll 122,531.43; AFLAC 2,372.36; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp 434.10; Bank of the West 40,904.56; Box Butte County Treasurer 78,890.00; Credit Management Services, Inc 514.79; Family Support Registry 25.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance 205.48; MASA Global Building 153.00; Retirement Plans Division/Ameritas 23,319.17; State of Nebraska Dept of Revenue 5,787.72; Independent Eye Care Professionals 11.88. **ROAD:** Net payroll 45,367.98; AFLAC 239.32; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp 126.18; Bank of the West 9,376.31; Box Butte County Treasurer 2,044.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance 3.40; MASA Global Building 50.00; Midland Funding LLC 499.61; NE Child Support Payment Center 1,117.00; Retirement Plans Division/Ameritas 2,875.79; State of Nebraska Dept of Revenue 2,242.58; Independent Eye Care Professionals 24.06.

Box Butte County Treasurer, Valery Bell, clarified that although money was budgeted in the Highway Bond Fund, adequate funds had not been collected at the time of request to pay a December claim to BOK Financial in the amount of \$73,426.98. Bell contacted the Auditor and their recommendation was to seek board approval for short-term borrowing from the Inheritance Fund to be paid back once funds become available. Burke moved to transfer \$73,426.98 from the Inheritance Fund to the Highway Bond Fund to be paid back as funds are available, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Val Jansante, Congressman Adrian Smith staff, gave a brief update on federal and state matters, including the Speaker of the House, IRS funding of extra agents, and Waters of The United States (WOTUS).

Road Superintendent, Barb Keegan, provided a road and equipment report. The 2004 CAT motor grader had a new transmission put in it and with 505 engine hours it is having transmission problems that will be covered under warranty. Keegan plans to burn the tree pile at Lore's and is unsure of how much tree trimming and removal the crew will complete this year. At this time, FEMA will not be reimbursing for snow removal. Through the NIRMA Assist program, the Road Department will be purchasing 15 cameras to be installed in the motor graders and trucks.



Burke moved to accept the bid proposal submitted by Westco for 30,000 gallons at \$3.165 in the amount of \$94,950.00 (Option – C), seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to sign Resolution 2023-01, to set a public hearing for a partial road vacation on February 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Tory McVicker to the Box Butte County Extension Board, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 10:15 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Treasurer Bell presented four Form 457 applications. Burke moved to approve Form 457 applications from Evangelical Free Church of Alliance, Holy Rosary Community, Sisters of St. Francis, Human Services, Inc., seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Box Butte County Assessor, Michelle Robinson, requested the Board to approve a claim in the amount of \$29.94 to Capstone for a refund for 2021 taxes paid. Burke moved to accept the claim to Capstone for \$29.94, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to sign the correction book as presented by Robinson, correcting eight Homestead Exemption filings from the 2020 tax year identified by the Department of Revenue income audits, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 10:28 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Bell came before the Board to discuss the inclement weather policy. Bell expressed concerns about who should be making the decision, what weather conditions warrant closure, and whether or not staff should be paid if the courthouse is closed due to inclement weather. Assessor Robinson shared that she would like to have a notification system in place, such as CodeRed that notifies all staff members of courthouse closures. A committee consisting of elected officials and Commissioner Ditsch will meet and present policy suggestions at the January 17, 2023 Commissioners meeting.

Ditsch moved to approve signing the Nebraska Crime Commission FY2024 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid (EB) Application, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to table the Master Agreement and Resolution until the January 17, 2023 board meeting, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; McGinnis, absent; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Chairperson

Attest: _____
County Clerk