

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 17, 2023, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published January 11, 2023, 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 13, 2023. Roll call: Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present. Martie Burke, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. Deputy County Attorney Terry 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; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to approve the January 5, 2023 minutes, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to accept and sign Sheriff monthly reports for November and December, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Correspondence was acknowledged and available for public view. Commissioners reported on meetings they had recently attended and upcoming meetings.

Box Butte County Treasurer, Valery Bell, presented the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report that was published in The Ledger. No action taken.

Box Butte County Weed Superintendent, Brett Lauder, presented the annual Noxious Weed Control Plan for 2022. Noxious weed control enforcement has been updated to include both a 10-day and 15-day notice. The infestation report numbers have been updated to reflect accurate figures for Canada thistle and Leafy spurge. Burke moved to sign the Noxious Weed Control Plan, Activity Report, Budget Report, Weed Control Authority Board Roster, and the Noxious Weed Infestation Report, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent, Barb Keegan, provided a road and equipment report. Discussion was held about tank storage capacities at each of the facilities. Zoning restrictions and containment standards restrict the possibility of installing larger fuel storage tanks. Ms. Keegan has been in contact with Dudley Prochazka about building the road up at the entrance of the Prochazka Pit.

Valery Bell reported to the Board on the proposed Inclement Weather Policy that the committee drafted. Deputy County Attorney, Terry Curtiss, stated that ultimately the Commissioners are responsible for opening/closing the courthouse and should have the final say. The Board would like the committee members to consult with the Road Department and/or the Sheriff's office to obtain an accurate assessment of the road conditions. Burke moved to table the inclement weather policy to the February 6, 2023 Commissioner's meeting, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burke addressed the vacation accrual policy as laid out in the handbook. Employees are only allowed to carry vacation hours equivalent to the amount they would be able to earn in a year. Once an employee has maxed out their vacation hours, they are unable to accrue additional hours until such time as they are under the maximum amount. Effective July 1, 2023, the time and attendance program vacation hours will be updated to reflect the maximum amount each employee can earn in a year in accordance to their tenure with the County. Employees who are currently exceeding their true maximum accrual amount should use vacation time prior to May 31, 2023 in order to continue to accrue vacation hours each month. Each department will be responsible for letting the Clerk's office know when an employee has earned additional vacation hours and moves into the next years of service bracket.

Elevator discussions continued to include the findings of Klass Structural Engineering, LLC. The North wall can be moved 12" without any structural problems. The Board is inclined to go the route of a Hydraulic Lift elevator rather than a Traction Control system, as the Doghouse would no longer be necessary. Jerry Berggren, Berggren Architects was available for questions via telephone. The fee schedule was discussed in regards to on-site inspections and consultants retained by the architect. The named consultants in the agreement are encompassed in the overall cost of the project and will not be billed separately. Berggren did note that being ADA compliant is a part of the requirements of the project specs. Burke moved to sign the Owner–Architect Agreement with Berggren Architects, Agreement 2023-01, with the following contingencies: the elevator must be ADA compliant, the cost of changing the elevator doors is included in the bid, the bidder or architect shall bear all costs associated with any changes to the elevator car or any wall other than the North wall, not Box Butte County, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to rescind



the contract with KONE and to send a letter requesting full refund, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to approve Resolution 2022-20, the Master Agreement with the Department of Transportation of the State of Nebraska for County Surveyor Services, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, brought forward problems with the new concrete, including scaling and the crack in the sidewalk on the Northwest corner that has not been fixed by K L Wood. The location of the handicap stall and signage were both matters that need to be discussed with the City of Alliance. Patrick Hartman, Flannel Brothers, had mentioned the possibility of applying a salt water brine mix to the parking lot and sidewalks prior to snow events at the rate of \$215.00/application. With the increasing cost of private snow removal, the County is going to look into purchasing their own snow removal equipment for Buildings and Grounds to operate. For the time being, if there is 1" or less of snowfall, Building and Grounds is to remove the snow. In the event that snowfall exceeds 1", Building and Grounds is to notify Flannel Brothers.

Burke moved to allocate the National Opioid Settlement funds for year 2 to Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burke recessed at 11:10 a.m. to conduct a quarterly jail visit §47-109. Chairman Burke resumed the meeting at 11:32 a.m., with roll call: Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present.

Prior to approving monthly claims, the Board discussed claims to Western Nebraska Newspapers \$339.28, Michelle Robinson \$262.97, Michael Johnson \$1,250.00, City of Alliance \$12,865.80, and Brett Lauder \$5,126.25. Burke referenced Nebraska State Statute §13-2203 in regard to public funds being used for employee retirement expenses. Burke spoke with Johnson prior to the meeting about providing the board with reports to justify an increase in pay. Burke moved to approve and sign monthly claims with the exception of the \$339.28 Western Nebraska Newspapers Invoice and the \$262.97 Michelle Robinson Invoice, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Attest:

Chairperson

County Clerk