

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order in the Board Room, second floor of the County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Ave., Ste 202, Alliance, NE at 9:00 a.m., May 15, 2023, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published May 3, 2023, in the Alliance Times Herald. Affidavit of publication has been received in the office of the County Clerk. Agenda was emailed and posted on the county's website: boxbuttecountyne.gov, May 12, 2023. Roll call: Mike Sautter, present; Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present. Martie Burke, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. County Attorney Marissa Curtiss was 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 Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to approve the May 3, 2023 minutes, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to accept and sign the Sheriff's amended March monthly report and the April monthly report, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; 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 Fair representative Alaina Schoeneman presented the Board with figures from the 2022 Box Butte County Fair. The Box Butte County Fair/Ag Society asked the Board to approve a Special Designated Liquor License for the same 150' x 175' area as last year for August 9th – 13th, 2023. Burke moved to approve the Box Butte County Ag Society Special Designated Liquor License, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:18 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. County Assessor, Michelle Robinson, presented four Homestead Exemption corrections from the Department of Revenue 2020 audit for Property ID's 070121028, 070016089, 070040346, 070109028. Burke moved to sign correction book Nos. 253 - 256 as presented, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to approve the claim to Constance M. Laing in the amount of \$14.95, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:23 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Assessor Robinson further discussed the details of the contract with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. The certified general appraiser would only be utilized for the commercial property assessment year 2024 with the possibility of utilizing their services again in five years. Sautter moved to approve the contract with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc, Agreement 2023-09 not to exceed 20 hours without authorization from the Board, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan and employee Cole Baumann thanked the Board for the opportunity to go to Iowa for additional training. Keegan provided the Board with a road and equipment report. Keegan also presented the WNCC CDL program and available options for Class A and Class B licenses. Currently, there are only two employees that are not carrying a Class A standard transmission CDL. County Attorney Curtiss had additional questions about the confirmatory testing required with the alcohol testing procedure. A large gap has developed on the North side of the Alliance shop possibly due to water freezing and expansion that is directly affecting the integrity of the shop floor. After discussion was held about the intersection of CR67 and Cherry, Keegan will finish rocking the intersection.

Sheriff Tammy Mowry and Deputy JD Sutphen do not have a timeline on the completion of the build of the 2023 Dodge 1500 ordered in October of 2022. The WING vehicle is the current priority, as several costly repairs have had to be done. Burke moved to allow the Sheriff to purchase a WING vehicle not to exceed \$25,000.00, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. The guide wire located near the elevator doghouse that will be in the way of the elevator expansion is a matter to discuss with Action Communications. No action taken. The Sheriff's office presented two quotes for new Motorola radio systems from Action Communications. The radios will eliminate the communication dead zones within Box Butte County. The alternative option is constructing additional towers (\$800,000.00/tower) throughout the county to increase the coverage. Burke moved to table the Motorola radio quotes until a further date, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Honorable Judge Paul Wess and Clerk Magistrate Chelsie Hoagland spoke with the Board about relocating County Court and the offices during the elevator construction. County Court will need enough space for Court and three staff members to conduct day-to-day business, along with any requirements issued by the State of Nebraska. The Board asked the County Court representatives to contact the library, Simmons Olsen, and Creston Myers about office rental prices and availability. No action taken.

Sautter moved to accept the State of Nebraska Crime Commission Grant 24-CB-0501, Agreement 2023-10, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Highway Bond Payment. The Board would like Treasurer Valery Bell’s input prior to making a decision. Burke moved to table the Highway Bond Payment to June 5, 2023, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to sign the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Board of Directors ballot in favor of Tyler Rexus, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, is concerned about upcoming power outage and what ramifications it is going to have on the GEO’s. The Board asked White to contact the City to inquire if the City generator will power the courthouse during the outage. Century Link has reviewed the plans to relocate the 911 equipment and would prefer the contractors relocate the equipment with a Century Link employee on-site providing technical assistance.

Discussion was held regarding the County water purchases for each of the offices. After reviewing each offices bottled water or Culligan purchases, the Board is going to send the Public Defender’s office a letter about being more consciousness of any future water purchases, including the possibility of implementing a Culligan system. Burke moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

No public comment on the agenda items.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 12:18 p.m.



Steve Burke
Chairperson

Attest: Mel R Bhat
County Clerk 6-5-23