

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 8:01 a.m., September 18, 2023, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published September 6, 2023. Notice of final tax request, budget hearing and budget summary were published on September 13, 2023, all in the Alliance Times Herald. Affidavits of publication have been received in the office of the County Clerk. Agenda was emailed and posted on the county's website: boxbuttecountyne.gov, September 15, 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 presented, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to open the final tax request hearing at 8:03 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Three copies of the proposed budget were available for public view. The budget workshop was held August 21, 2023 with Budget Consultant Caleb Johnson present. Department heads and elected officials gave input regarding the 2023-2024 budget. The purpose of the final tax request hearing is to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of the Box Butte County taxpayers. With no public comment offered, Burke moved to close the final tax request hearing at 8:18 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to open the budget hearing and budget summary at 8:18 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. The purpose of the budget hearing is to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of the Box Butte County taxpayers on the proposed budget. The 2022-2023 budget was available, along with three copies of the proposed 2023-2024 budget and the aggregate page that provides an overview of the whole budget in comparison to the previous year's budget. With no public comment, Burke moved to close the final tax requesting hearing at 8:21 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

The Box Butte County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:21 a.m., September 18, 2023, in the Board Room, second floor of the County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Ave., Ste 202, Alliance, NE, immediately following the final tax request hearing, budget hearing, and budget summary. Roll call: Mike Sautter, present; Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present.

Ditsch moved to adopt Resolution 2023-16 Setting the Property Tax Request 2023-2024, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to adopt Resolution 2023-17 Box Butte County Budget Document Resolution of Adoption and Appropriations, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to approve the September 6, 2023 minutes, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to approve monthly claims as presented, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to table the court appointed juvenile fees for Enet Somers-DeHaney until October 4, 2023, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Village of Hemingford, Village Clerk Barb Straub and Board of Trustee member Rick Wacker are very satisfied with the County's coverage of the Village of Hemingford police services. They have concerns about staffing shortages at the Alliance Police Department and filling the Box Butte County Sheriff Chief Deputy/Deputy position. More specifically, the impact these openings will have on the availability/response times of the Box Butte County Sheriff's Department.

With no elected officials or office reports, correspondence was acknowledged and available for public view. Commissioners reported on meetings they had recently attended and upcoming meetings.

County Assessor, Michelle Robinson, discussed the upcoming Pictometry flight and new technology that have made the previous image resolution obsolete. As a result, the previous Agreement 2020-07 needs to be amended to terminate services in order to enter into a new agreement with the new high-resolution imagery. Burke moved to sign the amended Pictometry Agreement 2020-07, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to sign Pictometry Agreement 2023-20, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. Discussion was held about the condition of E Otoe Rd and the last time it was chip sealed, as well as the effectiveness of the weight limit signs on E Otoe Rd and by the Hemingford Cemetery. The Board asked County Attorney Curtiss to prepare a resolution to remove said signs for the October 4, 2023 meeting. Keegan has requested an updated copy of the NDOT Stop Sign Program Resolution that reflects the corrections she has identified. Burke moved to table NDOT HSIP Statewide Stop Sign Program Resolution 2023-13 until October 4, 2023, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

County Treasurer, Valery Bell, presented the 2022 Tax Remaining Reports: Real & Personal, All Collections Records for the Board to review. No action taken.

The Box Butte County Planning Commission currently has two openings for three-year terms. Burke moved to appoint Josh Foster to a three-year term on the Box Butte County Planning Commission, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to accept and sign the Public Defender inventory property statement as required by § 23-347, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Possibility of an amendment at a later date regarding those items that remain unaccounted for.

Deputy County Attorney Terry Curtiss has updates he would like to make prior to adopting the resolution for 24-Hour parking limits from October – April for the Slagle parking lot. Sautter moved to table the Slagle parking lot signage – 24-hour limit resolution 2023-14 until October 4, 2023, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Veteran Service Officer (VSO), Sarah Foland, discussed employee raises and effective dates as a result of the interlocal agreement with Grant County to provide VSO services. Sautter moved to increase the rate of pay for Sarah Foland by \$1.60/hour and Amy Jensen by \$1.00/hour effective September 1, 2023 payable on October 6, 2023, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. VSO Foland would like to expand Operation Green Light beyond just the front exterior lights of the courthouse. The Board has asked Foland to provide figures for the expansion of operation green light during the October 4, 2023 meeting. Burke moved to adopt Resolution 2023-15 Operation Green Light, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burke recessed at 10:20 a.m., Chairman Burke resumed the meeting at 10:25 a.m., with roll call: Mike Sautter, present; Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, gave updates on the roof tuckpointing and tree removal projects. White would like to see some backfill done on the planting beds prior to any snowfall.

The Board discussed filling the Public Defender vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Somers-DeHaney. County Attorney Curtiss advised the position can either be filled by appointment or through contracted services. With the high rate of turnover, the Board would like to explore contracted options. The County Clerk will accept proposals for contracted services until 4:00 p.m. on October 12, 2023 for review during the October 16, 2023 meeting. County Attorney Curtiss will provide the Board with a comprehensive sample contract during the October 4, 2023 meeting. Sautter moved to prorate the Public Defender's September salary through September 6, 2023, the date the resignation was officially accepted, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to eliminate the legal assistant position at the Public Defender's office, as the position is not needed at this time, effective immediately, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion Carried.

Burke moved to enter into executive session at 11:07 a.m., to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. County Attorney Curtiss, Commissioners Burke, Ditsch, and Sautter, County Assessor Robinson were present. At 11:52 a.m., Burke moved to close executive session discussing personnel matters, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. No action taken.

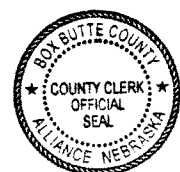
No public comment on the agenda items.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

  
Chairperson

Attest:

  
County Clerk



10-4-23