

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 9:01 a.m., October 4, 2023, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published September 27, 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, October 3, 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 and Deputy County Attorney Terry Curtiss were 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, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to approve the September 18, 2023 minutes, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to table the court appointed juvenile fees for Enet Somers-DeHaney until October 16, 2023, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to accept and sign the County Clerk/Register of Deeds and Clerk of District Court reports, 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.

Sautter moved to approve monthly payroll and claims as presented, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. **GENERAL:** AFLAC 2,215.32; AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP 282.20; BANK OF THE WEST 39,705.66; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 91,942.00; EQUITABLE FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE 232.20; FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY 25.00; KANSAS PAYMENT CENTER 350.00; LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE 209.56; MASA GLOBAL BUILDING 165.50; VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC) 309.71; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER 433.00; RETIREMENT PLANS DIVISION/AMERITAS 22,076.43; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 5,589.23; TX CHILD SUPPORT SDU 700.00 **ROAD:** AFLAC 239.32; AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP 32.04; BANK OF THE WEST 6,044.32; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 2,044.00; LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE 4.08; MASA GLOBAL BUILDING 37.50; VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC) 100.97; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER 895.00; RETIREMENT PLANS DIVISION/AMERITAS 2,084.28; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 1,363.03 **HEALTH INSURANCE:** BOX BUTTE COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE 171,784.63 **NET PAYROLL:** 151,356.76

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:15 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Martie Burke, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings and administered the oath to County Commissioners Sautter, Ditsch, Burke, and County Assessor Michelle Robinson. Property valuation protest form 422 was heard from Claas Financial Services LLC.

190. Claas Financial Services LLC (070244103) – Burke moved to dismiss for errors in reporting, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Personal Property : 0.

Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:25 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

City of Alliance, Interim Police Chief Kirk Felker and City Manager Seth Sorensen, came before the Board to discuss the possibility of contracted police services for the City of Alliance due to staffing issues. Deputy County Attorney Curtiss suggested both entities work towards an interlocal agreement that would be mutually beneficial to the City and the County to share on-call shifts that would go beyond the scope of the previously established mutual aid agreement. The Board has asked Interim Chief Felker and Interim Sheriff JD Sutphen to further discuss this matter.

Interim Sheriff Sutphen reiterated how difficult it is for law enforcement agencies to fill vacancies, as everyone is competing for the same small pool of applicants. Deputy Ryan Dannar echoed these problems and wants Box Butte County to remain competitive by considering higher wages including hourly vs salary, overtime, additional health benefits, and sign-on bonuses.

Burke moved to appoint Interim Sheriff JD Sutphen as Sheriff, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burke recessed at 10:34 a.m., Chairman Burke resumed the meeting at 10:45 a.m., with roll call: Mike Sautter, present; Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present.

Burke moved to enter into executive session at 10:46 a.m., to discuss strategic planning, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. County Attorney Curtiss, Commissioners Burke, Ditsch, Sautter, Sheriff Sutphen, Deputy Dannar, and Dean Christensen present. At 11:20 a.m., Burke moved to close executive session discussing strategic planning, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. No action taken.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. Keegan presented the Board with two options for the 2024 tractor lease from Titan Machinery and Alliance Tractor, the Board would like to proceed with Alliance Tractor. Simons reached out to Keegan about 1,500 ton of excess millings that are available at \$13.00-\$13.50/ton. Keegan has been directed to offer \$8.00/ton for the entire pile.

Sautter moved to approve and sign Resolution 2023-18 to remove the weight limit road signs on Otoe Rd East of CR58 and CR69 South of Dodge Rd, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to approve and sign Resolution 2023-13 with NDOT for the HSIP Stop Sign Program, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Veteran Service Officer Administrative Assistant, Amy Jensen, provided the Board with multiple options for Operation Green Light. Burke moved to allow the Veterans office to spend up to \$500.00 from the (970) Miscellaneous General Fund, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to approve and sign Resolution 2023-14 Slagle Parking Lot Signage 24-Hour Limit, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

The ARPA Committee has recommended moving forward with new concrete for the remaining three sides of the Courthouse block sidewalk. Chairman Burke received a preliminary estimate of \$8.00/sq ft to remove and replace sidewalks, this included labor and materials. With the anticipation of heavy equipment on the northeast corner of the block for the elevator project, the Commissioners would like to see bids for the south sidewalk and the east sidewalk from the south end of the block to the northern edge of the building. The remaining portion will be replaced following the completion of the elevator project. Clerk Burke and County Attorney Curtiss will work on getting advertisements for bids out with the expectation that the project will happen Spring 2024.

County Treasurer, Valery Bell, discussed options for the County employee appreciation dinner. This will be held November 17, 2023 at the West Side Event Center, meals will be provided for the employee and one guest. Two options will be available, Chicken Fried Steak or Chicken Cordon Bleu.

Burke moved to sign the Maximus certificate cost allocation plan, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. This computes the indirect cost rates within the Clerk of the District Court and County Attorney Child Support offices.

County Attorney Curtiss informed the Board that the interlocal Child Support Agreement is no longer working following the election of a new County Attorney in Morrill County. The difficult working relationship and increased caseloads have made this agreement no longer feasible for Box Butte County. Burke moved to send Morrill County a child support termination notice effective December 31, 2023, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. The primary Box Butte County child support staff member understands there will be a decrease in pay following the termination of this agreement and decreased workload.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, discussed the Faris estimate that was submitted regarding the drainage issue located in the exterior North stairwell of the Courthouse. Jock Faris, Faris Plumbing and Heating Inc., believes going North out of the building and then turning East to tap into the main line will only take two days. Burke moved to allow Faris Plumbing and Heating Inc. to proceed with the drain replacement, if the project is going to exceed \$7,500.00 it needs to come back before the Commissioners, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Jerry Berggren, Berggren Architects, was available by phone presenting an addendum relating to potential HVAC relocations that could arise during the elevator project.

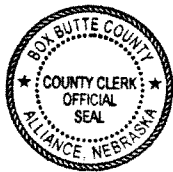
John Thomas, UNL Extension Educator, submitted a performance review for Catherine Carter for the Board to review. Burke moved to give Carter a \$.50/hour raise starting October 1, 2023, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

County Attorney Curtiss has been reviewing surrounding counties contracts for Public Defenders services. A proposed draft contract was available for the Board to review, that included the option for an Alternate Public Defender should anyone choose to submit a joint proposal. The Board would like the applicants to set their salary to include a 3% cost of living raise and the option for reimbursable expenses. Public Defender contracted services proposals are due to the Clerk’s office by November 2, 2023 by 4:00 p.m., with a decision to be made November 6, 2023.

Chairman Burke recessed at 2:41 p.m. to conduct a quarterly jail visit §47-109. Chairman Burke resumed the meeting at 3:05 p.m., with roll call: Mike Sautter, present; Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present.

No public comment on the agenda items.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 3:13 p.m.



Steve Burke Attest: Mike R. Bledsoe
Chairperson County Clerk 10-16-23