

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., January 3, 2024, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published December 20, 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, January 2, 2024. 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, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

REORGANIZATION 2024

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

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

Burke moved to appoint the Chairman (Burke) to the **Welfare Board (Chairman)**, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint the Vice-Chairman (Ditsch) to the **Welfare Board (Vice-Chairman)**, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Commissioner Sautter to the **Box Butte General Hospital Board, Panhandle Public Health Board, Box Butte County Planning and Zoning Board, and Senior Citizens Board**, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Commissioner Ditsch to the **Box Butte Development Corporation Board (BBDC), Northwest Community Action Board, Region 23 Emergency Management Agency, and Box Butte County Extension Board**, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Commissioner Burke to the **Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, Region 1 Office of Human Development Board, Area Agency of Aging Board, E911 Advisory Board, and Box Butte County Prairie Dog Advisory Board**, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

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

Burke moved to appoint Barbara Keegan as **Road Superintendent** at \$5,313.36/month, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to appoint Brett Lauder as **Weed Superintendent** at existing contracted rate, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to appoint Mike Johnson as **Zoning Administrator** at \$1,250.00/month subject to the documentation standards established during the budget workshop, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

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

Sautter moved to appoint Sarah Foland as **Veteran's Service Officer** at \$23.96/hour as long as Grant County Interlocal is active, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to designate Alliance Times-Herald as **County Newspaper**, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

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

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

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

BMO BANK NA (ALLIANCE BRANCH)
WELLS FARGO BANK
NPAIT
FIRST INTERSTATE BANK
FNBO
NEBRASKA BANK (Alliance & Hemingford Branches)
SANDHILLS STATE BANK
~~MERIDIAN TRUST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION~~ (*Removed by amendment to Depositories)
PLATTE VALLEY BANK

Sautter moved to approve the December 18, 2023 minutes, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:52 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to accept the Application for Exemption Form 457 for Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Human Services, Inc, and Calvary Assembly of God presented by Treasurer Valery Bell, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to table correction book Nos. 269 and 270 until January 17, 2024, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:55 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to accept and sign the Sheriff, County Clerk/Register of Deeds, and Clerk of District Court reports, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to accept and sign the Veteran Service Office report, seconded by Burke. 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.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. Keegan submitted five NIRMA Assist grant applications; three were denied, one received 100% funding, and one received 25% funding.

Sautter moved to approve and sign the NE Crime Commission Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Application FY2025, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Ryan Dannar came before the Board to continue the Sheriff Deputy pay structure discussion. Employee retention and recruitment remain the top concerns for the department. Sautter moved to change the Sheriff Deputy pay structure from salary to hourly at the current hourly rates with an on-call rate of \$200.00 to be split to \$100.00 per deputy if on-call hours are split. Sunday will include 8-10 hours of pay depending on regular shift schedule, a \$100.00 stipend for jailers called in to work during off hours, six phones total (five new phones) to be used by the deputies for time tracking purposes, all effective January 1, 2024, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to declare the 2003 Cadillac Deville SLS surplus and accept the bid from Caleb Johnson for \$350.00, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

County Attorney Curtiss has reviewed the KONE elevator service agreement. Curtiss acknowledged that the current suspension of service was not built into the contract and could affect the five-year term and renewal dates. Chairman Burke will contact KONE to see if they are willing to cancel the contract. Burke moved to table the KONE service contract until further information has been obtained, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

County Attorney Curtiss has not had a chance to complete a draft copy of the snow removal contract with Flannel Brothers. Discussion was held regarding the expectations of Flannel Brothers. Burke moved to table the Snow Removal Contract with Flannel Brothers until January 17, 2024, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to approve the Elected Official Salary Resolution 2024-01, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, discussed the status of the Slagle parking lot signage, as well as the temporary office relocation sites during elevator construction. The Board would like White to paint the Slagle basement in its entirety.

*The Board readdressed the previously approved Depositories after receiving legal clarification that public money cannot be deposited in a Federal Credit Union (FCU). Burke moved to amend the approved **Banks as Depositories** to remove Meridian Trust Federal Credit Union, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. The Board requested the Veteran Service Office hardship fund account be moved out of Meridian Trust FCU. County Attorney Curtiss is also to immediately remove all of the County Attorney bank accounts/funds from the Box Butte Public Employees Federal Credit Union into an approved depository. Following the meeting, the Chairman was notified by VSO Foland that the VSO does not have any bank accounts with Meridian Trust FCU and utilizes BMO Bank NA.

Burke moved to approve and sign the NDOT Urban Area Boundary Map with the boundary correction map attached as provided by Brent Kusek, City of Alliance Community Development Administrator, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to approve a 3% cost of living as budgeted for in the 2023-2024 FY, effective for the December hours paid during January payroll forward, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to approve monthly payroll and claims as presented, seconded by Burke. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. **GENERAL:** ACCELERATED RECEIVABLES SOLUTIONS 650.70; AFLAC 2,782.46; AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP 282.20; BMO BANK NA 40,983.32; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 88,196.00; EQUITABLE FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE 216.72; FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY 25.00; GENE STEFFY CHRYSLER 38,122.00; JACK'S REFRIGERATION, INC 2,120.00; KANSAS PAYMENT CENTER 350.00; LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE 195.68; MASA GLOBAL BUILDING 165.50; VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC) 277.87; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER 433.00; RETIREMENT PLANS DIVISION/AMERITAS 23,318.37; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 5,628.28; TX CHILD SUPPORT SDU 700.00 **ROAD:** AFLAC 239.32; AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP 32.04; BMO BANK NA 6,693.82; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 2,044.00; LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE 4.08; MASA GLOBAL BUILDING 50.00; VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC) 110.59; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER 895.00; RETIREMENT PLANS DIVISION/AMERITAS 2,332.78; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 1,511.63 **NET PAYROLL:** 157,420.25. Claim 24010009 was previously approved in November of 2023 as Claim 23110083 for \$2,420.00. Due to damage that occurred during shipping, a discount was applied, a new invoice was issued, and Claim 23110083 has been voided by Journal Entry 24010001.

No public comment on the agenda items.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 12:29 p.m.



Eric Bah
Chairperson

Attest: *Maria R. Beto*
County Clerk 1-17-24