

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., January 17, 2024, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published January 3, 2024, 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 16, 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. Sautter moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to approve the amended January 3, 2024 minutes, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

No elected official reports. Correspondence was acknowledged and available for public view. Commissioners reported on meetings they had recently attended and upcoming meetings.

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:19 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Assessor Michelle Robinson, presented three tax list corrections. The Board would like further clarification on the duplicate equipment listed on correction book No. 270. No action taken. Burke moved to sign the correction book Nos. 269 and 271 for an adjustment to the income-based exemption percentage (Property ID 070007179) and the removal of a previously accelerated property (Property ID 070144834), seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to accept the Application for Exemption Form 457 for Evangelical Free Church of Alliance presented by Treasurer Valery Bell, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:29 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Val Jansante, Congressman Adrian Smith staff member, gave a brief update on federal and state matters, including the Farm Bill, USDA Emergency Relief, E-15 sales, and hydropower tax incentives.

Burke moved to approve monthly claims, to include the full \$1,500.00 payment to Mike Johnson, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Assessor Robinson discussed the rent restricted housing project Rosewood Estates I and II. This type of assessment is problematic because they do not reflect an accurate property value when the income approach based on property rent is utilized and the owner reports a negative income resulting in an assessed value of \$0.00. An income approach based on like properties would be the preferred method of assessment and requires a petition to the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) for approval. Burke moved to reopen BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:54 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke made a motion to petition TERC for an alternative appraisal method for Rosewood Estates I and II, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to allow for signatures on said petition once it has been prepared, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:58 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. The crew had a difficult time getting the equipment located at the Hemingford shop to start in the sub-zero conditions. Keegan discussed how valuable a semi-enclosed building with electricity would be to the road department.

Treasurer Bell, presented the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report that was published in the Alliance Times Herald. No action taken.

Sheriff JD Sutphen requested an extension of the current vacation accrual caps for the jailers, as they are short staffed and unable to take vacation. Burke moved to extend the vacation accrual cap for jailers to 200 hours, to be reassessed in June, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, confirmed the snow removal map, verified that the Slagle parking lot signs are to be ordered and installed, and has been asked to prepare a list of equipment that is necessary to fulfill the maintenance duties.

Burke moved to approve the Snow Removal Contract with Flannel Brothers Agreement 2024-02 with the snow removal rates of \$55.00/hour for labor and \$200.00/hour for machine hours, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to approve the By-Laws of the Box Butte County Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Advisory Board, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to implement a Consent Agenda going forward to include the agenda, minutes, elected official reports, office reports, payroll, claims, invoices, and correspondence, seconded by Ditsch. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to approve the Inter-Local Government Agreement Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Agreement 2024-01 with Commissioner Brett Ditsch appointed as the representative for Box Butte County, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

No public comment on the agenda items.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 10:53 a.m.



Steve Burke
Chairperson

Attest:

Mato R. Bledsoe

County Clerk

2-5-24