



Richardson County Board Minutes



RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Sickel at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Roll call was answered by Karas, Caverzagie and Sickel. The Invocation was given by Chairman Sickel and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice-Chairman Caverzagie. Chairman Sickel announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sickel to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower Level Lobby and on the Commissioner’s Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.co.richardson.ne.us.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Doug Merz, County Attorney and Samantha Scheitel, Deputy County Attorney along with County Treasurer, Amanda Bartek-Ramsey reviewed with the Board the different options available with the settlement agreement regarding the Opioid settlements.

Motion was made by Sickel to approve the option #1 on the settlement agreement for the County to receive its direct share and potentially receive additional funds from NE Opioid Recovery Fund. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

DOUG MERZ, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Doug Merz, County Attorney and Samantha Scheitel, Deputy County Attorney reviewed with the Board the NACO Salary Recommendations for County Officials for the 2023-2026 term of office. Mr. Merz reported to the Board the number of court cases filed this year: over 200 District Court cases; over 600 criminal cases in County Court; 750 traffic cases filed in County Court and 400 child support cases.

Mr. Merz also reminded the Board that the contract with the Public Defender caps the number of felony cases that must be handled by the Public Defender at 40. After 40 then the court appointed attorneys will be assigned to those felony cases which will be an added cost to the County.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau, Jr. met with the Board to update them on the routine maintenance being done this week on County roads and bridges. He reported that the new motor grader had been delivered and the tire repair equipment had been received. He also has been informed that it might be in the best interest of the County if plans were made to bid out for equipment that may be planned for within the next fiscal year with anticipated increased pricing and expected delays with delivery.

Motion was made by Sickel to approve an overload/overweight permit for Barnhart Crane to travel on 641 Avenue into the wind farm during the period of December 14 through 18. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Darveau requested the Board to consider extending the paid leave outside of the employees’ regular allowance for paid time off for those employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19. Motion was made by Karas to allow the additional paid time off for employees testing positive with COVID for up to 5 work days



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retroactive to July 1, 2021 and extending through April 30, 2022. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Deputy Stonebarger and Chief Deputy Roland Merwin updated the Board this week on the business of the Law Enforcement Center.

They presented to the Board a proposal from “FirstNET built with AT&T” for the purchase of 11 cell phone units plus 11 Airgain Connect Antenna-Modems totaling \$15,010.90 with a credit to the County after 3 billing cycles of \$9,700.00. This system has been demonstrated for a period of time with the Sheriff’s Department and it was determined that cellular phone service could be obtained in many more areas of the County than with the current provider. Motion was made by Caverzagie to authorize the purchase of the cellular phone package as presented from “FirstNet built with AT&T”. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

A report was approved for Sheriff Hardesty for fees collected during the month of November, 2021 totaling \$9,527.35.

SOUTHEAST COMMUNICATIONS 911 CENTER Beatrice

Bruce Lang, Police Chief of the City of Beatrice and Carla Zarybnicky, Director of the SE Communications 911 Center for the City of Beatrice requested to meet with the Board regarding the dispatching services they are providing Richardson County and to offer an update to the Board of the services being provided.

Motion was made by Sickel to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an Executive Session at 10:32 a.m. with Bruce Lang and Carla Zarybnicky from Southeast Communications 911 Center; Chief Deputy Sheriff, Roland Merwin; Deputy Clinton Stonebarger and Deputy County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel for the protection of the public interest. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sickel to close the executive session at 10:49 a.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Carverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

AUSTIN DUERFELDT, ARPA ADMINISTRATOR

Austin Duerfeldt, ARPA Administrator met with the Board to review the results of the survey that was done with county residents regarding the use of ARPA funds within Richardson County. Questions regarding the use of ARPA funds to pay for additional sick pay for county employees if diagnosed with COVID were reviewed and Mr. Duerfeldt advised against the use of ARPA funds for this purpose. Mr. Duerfeldt indicated that he would request to meet with the Board again in January and for them to have a priority of 2 to 3 large projects to designate the funds to be used for and at that time could designate a certain amount of funds for each of the projects. Results of the survey are available for public inspection at the Office of the Richardson County Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER



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ARPA Funds

The Board discussed the regulations for the expenditure of ARPA funds and the possible use to provide a one-time extra payment to Richardson County’s essential employees which are being defined within the ARPA regulations as any work performed by an employee of the state, local or tribal government. No action was taken.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Sickel to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried.

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CLAIMS (Cont.)

(The claims listed below are available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.)

GENERAL FUND

Armbruster Motor Co., supp	59.75
Bartek-Ramsey, Amanda, reimb	62.00
Biernacki, Jenna, fee	49.68
Bruna Implement, supp	271.70
Buethel, Cassie, reimb	26.40
Creamer, Shawn, fee	20.00
Culligan, serv	77.36
CVSOAN, dues	120.00
DAS State Accounting, serv	289.00
Delta Gloves, supp	746.15
Eickhoff, Mary, reimb	483.58
F&M Bank, rent	76.00
Falls City Auto Supply, supp	48.89
Falls City Mercantile, supp	128.63
Falls City Sanitation, serv	20.00
Family Medicine, supp	25.30
Farm & City Supply, supp	662.94
Government Forms & Supplies, supp	1054.04
Harmon’s OK Tire, supp	24.00
Kawre’s, supp	7.50
Kuker, Frances, serv	900.00
Lynn Peavey Co., supp	273.50
Merz Ink, supp	178.85
Meyer Laboratory, supp	105.50
NACVSO, dues	100.00
NE Health & Human Services, serv	90.00



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O'Reilly Automotive, supp	16.04
Paper Tiger Shredding, serv	90.00
Petersen Reporting, serv	534.80
Physicians Laboratory, serv	2682.00
Ram Exterminators, serv	45.00
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	608.85
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	19931.97
Riggs, Kim, reimb	328.76
Schawang, Brandon, serv	1750.00
Schmidt, Brandon, fee	20.00
SNC, serv	2079.37
Stripes & Signs, supp	88.00
SumnerOne, serv	122.84
True Value, supp	92.39
Washington County Sheriff, serv	1260.00
Wolfe's, supp	29.82
Payroll Expense	89045.10
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$124,625.71

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Capital One Trade Credit, supp	111.78
Falls City Sanitation, serv	20.00
Interstate Billing Services, supp	3290.00
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers, supp	200.06
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	8752.13
NE State Fire Marshal, fee	240.00
Operation & Expense Account, reimb	42.49
Rulo, Village of, serv	25.00
Sapp Bros., fuel	1559.67
SNC, serv	161.22
Unifirst, serv	27.54
Verdon, Village of, serv	25.00
Wiltse Electric, serv	207.25
Payroll Expense	34347.38
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$49,009.52

ARPA FUNDS

Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	15.77
Payroll	
TOTAL ARPA FUNDS	\$125.21

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND

SNC, serv	133.00
TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND	\$133.00

JAIL BOND REPAYMENT FUND



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BOK Financial, int	12828.75
TOTAL JAIL BOND REPAYMENT FUND	\$12,828.75

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Caverzagie to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m. Motion seconded by Karas.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Caverzagie-aye, Sickel-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

David D. Sickel, Chairman

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk