

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice-Chairman Sickel at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Roll call was answered by Karas and Sickel. Chairman Caverzagie was absent. The Invocation was given by Vice-Chairman Sickel and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Karas. Vice-Chairman Sickel announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2023, County Board meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-absent. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sickel to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-absent. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and on the Richardson County website [www.co.richardson.ne.us](http://www.co.richardson.ne.us).

**ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.**

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau, Jr. updated the Board on the routine maintenance being done on county roads and bridges the past several weeks. He reported that the road improvement project on 706 Road or known as W14<sup>th</sup> Street has begun. A report was also given on roadside brush complaints that have been received and progress that has been done by landowners.

A report was given on the concern that Tom Farwell had regarding a driveway tube and that a solution has been reached to correct the situation to replace the tube.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER**

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week. It was reported that Deputy Roland Merwin submitted his letter of resignation with his last day being Friday, September 15, 2023. The Sheriff reported that during the past grant period August 16, 2023 through September 4, 2023 there were approximately 480 traffic stops with 22 arrests being made. For the month of August, the department had 56 arrests of which 52 were made by the Sheriff's department, 260 calls, 561 traffic stops and that currently there are 22 inmates in the jail.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the re-hire of Nick Hildebrand who will be working part-time as a deputy. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-absent. Motion carried.

**Dispatch Service with City of Beatrice**

James Allman with the NE Public Service Commission was in attendance at the meeting to review the services provided by Southeast Communications Center 911 at Beatrice.

Commissioner Karas reported that he and Sheriff Hardesty had met with the City of Beatrice City Administrator and the Chief of Police regarding the terms for the renewal of the contract in August of 2024. At that time, they indicated providing this service to Richardson County would require an increase in the rate for the new contract period, which was quoted as almost to be double the current amount. Commissioner Karas and Sheriff Hardesty requested another meeting with them to negotiate the costs but have not received any return calls or further correspondence.

Sheriff Hardesty has recommended that the County provide a notice to the City of Beatrice that Richardson County will not be renewing the contract. The Board will consider approval of sending a notice to the City of Beatrice regarding the non-renewal of the contract in August of 2024.

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## **CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER**

### **Hiring Restriction**

The Board held a brief discussion on implementing a hiring restriction with-out prior approval from the County Board of Commissioners on all new hires with a review of that job description to be filled in all County Departments. This matter will be considered further at next week's meeting.

### **Courthouse Roof Replacement**

It was reported that the Skyline Construction, Inc. crew was still working on the roof and the anticipation of the completion is expected for next week.

### **County Visitor Agreement**

Motion was made by Karas to enter and approve an agreement with the Richardson County Visitor Committee and Pamela Scott to perform the duties of secretary to the Committee for a fee of \$100.00/year. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-absent. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 27, Page 37)

### **Fee Reports**

Reports were approved for the following officials for fees collected during the month of August, 2023:

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk	\$ 331.50
Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds	\$14,426.00
Pam Scott, Clerk of District Court	\$ 961.00

## **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, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-absent. Motion carried.

## **GENERAL FUND**

Clerk of District Court, fee	470.00
Comfort Inn, lodg	119.95
Consolidated Management, serv	71.50
Datashield, serv	69.10
Falls City Sanitation, serv	40.00
Falls City Utility Dept., serv	7484.06
Farm & City Supply, supp	35.97
Galls, supp	31.32
Generators for Sale, serv	525.40
Jim Hill's, serv	285.00
Meyer Home Center, serv	1673.00
Meyer Laboratory, supp	563.93
Miller-Monroe, ins	740.00
MIPS, serv	3295.80
NACO, fee	135.00
Norfolk Lodge & Suites, lodg	344.85
Paper Tiger Shredding, serv	70.00
Register of Deeds, fee	60.00
Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash, reimb	20.62
Richardson County Court, fees	2171.19
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	56.92
Richardson County Sheriff, fees	1109.92

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CLAIMS (Cont.)

GENERAL FUND (Cont.)

Richardson County Sheriff Petty Cash, reimb	81.94
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	26601.20
Scholl Lawn & Landscape, serv	265.00
Secretary of State, fee	30.00
SNC, serv	2159.08
Unifirst, serv	73.22
Weaver & Merz, reimb	18.80
Payroll Expense	125715.86
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$174,318.63</b>

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

CapitalOne Trade Credit, supp	24.98
Culligan, serv	38.00
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv	46.00
Falls City Journal, adv	33.00
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	16559.04
Norris Quarries, rock	5833.20
SNC, serv	101.74
Truck Center Companies, supp	1943.28
Payroll Expense	32654.00
<b>TOTAL ROAD &amp; BRIDGE FUND</b>	<b>\$57,233.24</b>

REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND

MIPS, serv	315.57
<b>TOTAL REG OF DEEDS P&amp;M FUND</b>	<b>\$315.57</b>

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND

CPC, serv	2709.44
SNC, serv	145.00
<b>TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND</b>	<b>\$2,854.44</b>

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Sickel-aye, Caverzagie-absent. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, for the Public Budget Hearing and Special Hearing to Set the Tax Levy at 10:00 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

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David Sickel, Vice-Chairman

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Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk