

PAWNEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 28, 2023

The Pawnee County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., which was open to the public, on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in the first-floor meeting room in the Pawnee County Courthouse, Pawnee City, Nebraska. Notice of such meeting was published in the Thursday, October 26, 2023, issue of the Pawnee Republican. Present were Ron Seitz, Jan Lang, Lavon Heidemann and County Clerk, Candi Nicholas. Chairman Seitz opened the meeting and announced the open meeting law poster is posted on the east wall of the meeting room. Lang moved and Heidemann seconded to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting. Voting: Seitz (yes), Lang (yes), Heidemann (yes). Lang moved and Heidemann seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Voting: Lang (yes), Heidemann (yes), Seitz (yes). Lang moved and Heidemann seconded to approve the claims as presented. Voting: Heidemann (yes), Seitz (yes), Lang (Lang (yes)).

After review Heidemann moved and Lang seconded to approve the Chairman to sign the Pawnee County Memorial Hospital License Renewal application January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Voting: Seitz (yes), Lang (yes), Heidemann (yes).

At 9:05 public comment was held. Scott Brown, Johnson Winemiller, Susan Eisenhauer, Mark Sunneberg, Chris Rohrbaugh, Tonya Brown, Josh Wilkerson, Colleen Morehead and Nancy Tilton spoke during public comment. Eight people spoke in support of the Sheriff's office receiving raises and one person spoke concerning increase of taxes with raises.

Terry Kerl, Zoning & Weed Administrator, met with the Board introduced Josh Black. Kerl indicated that he would like to resign and Black is interested in the weed and zoning administrator job. The Board will need to do an appointment after the first of the year.

Chad Engel, NIRMA, met with the Board and discussed that he will be meeting with the safety committee to discuss best safety practices for the county. Engle went over details that the county safety committee should be discussing in their quarterly meetings. NIRMA can provide safety training to employees at no cost.

Kellie Wiers and Debbie Green, CASA, met with the Board and discussed the CASA program. CASA is a court appointed special advocate to help children whose families are in the court system and they indicated that they need more volunteers. Volunteer duties are to attend court hearings to represent the children, meet with child once a month, if there are needs, they let DHHS know, build a rapport with child and earn their trust, can help the guardian ad litem, attend team meetings and write a court report to the Judge.

James Thies, Lewiston, met with the Board and discussed items that he believes need changed. He indicated that the county needs better management, better oversight, better training and watch the bottom line in the budgets.

John Samuelson, Chief Deputy and Taylor Bredemeier, Deputy Sheriff, met with the Board and presented them with their requested changes to benefits and salaries. They also presented charts comparing deputy salaries in Pawnee, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha and Richardson counties. Samuelson said the deputies are not compensated for what they do and they are doing it alone which is not acceptable any more. Chairman Seitz indicated Pawnee County deputies have comparable salaries to other counties which have similar valuation and population as Pawnee County. The counties the deputies are comparing salaries to have much higher valuations and are capable of collecting more revenue from taxes than Pawnee County. Pawnee County is limited on the amount of tax dollars we can collect and we are unable to collect enough additional taxes to par for the requests made. The Board will decide how they would like to move forward attempting to address the deputies requests, one on one or during a commissioner meeting.

Nancy Tilton, Sheriff Admin. Asst., met with the Board and discussed possibly using the Hireclick Hiring tool. The Board will look into Hireclick.

Megan Buckley, Emergency Manager, met with the Board and gave updates. The County Board representative for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Policy Committee will be Ron Seitz.

Chris Rauner, Hwy Supt, met with the Board. Rauner gave the rock report. Chairman Seitz signed the previously approved Easement Deed Between Pawnee County and Corey W. and Christina R. Hain for a tract of land in the NE ¼ Section 13 Township 1 Range 12. Rock prices at the DuBois Rock Quarry are going up effective January 1, 2024. Rauner discussed various roads and equipment.

The following claims were reviewed and signed:

NET PAYROLL 41841.30; FWH 4445.52; SWH 1981.31; FICA 6848.86; MICA 1601.62;
RETIREMENT 6693.62; DIRECT DEPOSIT FEE 10.00;

GENERAL FUND:

Pam Bennett, mental health board 100.00; Capital Business Systems, Sheriff lease 113.88; Capital Business Systems, Extension lease 170.00; DAS State Accounting, data storage 230.00; Donahue & Sisco, postage reimbursement 85.60; Eakes, Clerk supplies 13.75 & courthouse supplies 255.00; Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts & Ziskey, court appt atty 133.00; Jere Gravatt, mental health board 100.00; Dylan Handley, mental health board 400.00; Amy Hector, mental health board 200.00; Johnson County Sheriff, inmate lodging 2015.00; NE Assoc of County

Assessors, 2032 NACA registration 25.00; Pawnee Co. Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Bridge/Road Fund 95303.64; Pawnee County Clerk, reimburse postage 9.65; Pawnee County Sheriff, service fees 119.09; Radiology Assoc, inmate medical 35.00; Richardson County Sheriff, inmate lodging 1705.00 & medical 72.06; Pawnee True Value, clerk supplies 5.99; U.S. Bank, Treasurer postage 67.05, Assessor NACO registration 150.00, Sheriff equipment 3393.99, transport 239.54, fuel 556.62; Verizon, Sheriff cell phones 362.52;

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND:

Black Hills Energy, heat 126.94; Martin Marietta, rock 16160.68; NMC, repairs 1358.28; NPPD 31.58; Office Depot, supplies 342.95; PowerPlan, repairs 2032.29; Tanner Sharpe, reimburse boots 214.99; US Bank, fuel 142.00.

Chairman Seitz adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

S/Ron Seitz

S/Jan Lang

S/Lavon Heidemann

Attest: Candi Nicholas, Pawnee County Clerk