



# Gage County Board Minutes



Board of Supervisors Meeting – June 30, 2021

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The Gage County Board of Supervisors met on June 30, 2021, at 8:51 a.m. with Terry Jurgens, Emily Haxby, Don Schuller, Erich Tiemann, Eddie Dorn, Dennis Byars and Gary Lytle present.

Notice of said meeting was posted at the County Clerk’s Office and published prior to the meeting in compliance with State Statutes.

Let the record show that all proceedings are electronically recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Chairman Tiemann announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the Board of Supervisors Room.

Consent Agenda included the following items: 1. General Agenda; 2. Minutes from previous meeting and committee meetings; 3. claims audit in the amount of \$525,608.45, which does not include claim #21070003 to Beatrice Lawn Care in the amount of \$1,275.00 and claim #21070082 to Johnny’s Welding in the amount of \$220.47, to be voted on separately; 4. approve correspondence received and place on file; 5. Approve Utility Permit #1198 for Diller Telephone - will be plowing in approximately 1 mile of fiber 48 ct or 24 ct fiber cable. They will bore under every creek, road crossing and culvert 5 to 10 ft in depth. Bore will be 3” diameter, cable will be encased in 1 ¼” smooth wall pipe. Cable will be placed 24’-30’ from center of the road in grader ditch 5’ deep and vaults placed along the 33’ right-of-way. Located in the NE, NW ¼ Sec 31, SE ¼ Sec 30 T-4N, R-6E (Midland Twp) and NE ¼ Sec 36 T-4N, R-5E (Blakely Twp); 6. Approve Utility Permit #1199 Windstream Nebraska will be boring 2” diameter, 5’ below ditches for 66’ under S. 23rd Rd to place a new service drop to residence at 27403 S 23rd Rd. Located in the SW ¼ Sec 6 T-3N, R-7E (Rockford Twp) & SE ¼ Sec 1, T-3N R-6E (Riverside Twp)

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Allowed</u>
Courthouse Employees	Salaries	137,422.61
Aumentum Technologies	Assr support & annl. maint.	24,892.00
Beatrice Board of Public Works	Utilities	239.70
Beatrice Lawn Care	Mowing, fertilizing	1275.00
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	151.14
Capital Business Systems	ROD copier lease	45.00
Capital City Concepts	Shf. wage/benefit study	16,500.00
Clerk of District Court	St. & Shf. fees	81.77
Consolidated Management Co.	Shf Dept meals at training	97.36
Diode Technologies	Security parts, labor	127.35
First Wireless	Svc. contract	450.00
Holiday Inn, Kearney	Lodging	229.90
Holiday Inn Express, York	Lodging	100.00
Hometown Leasing	Atty copier lease	138.82
Jurors	County Court juror fees	1791.16
Konica Minolta Business Solutions	Equip. leases	1226.87
Lammel Plumbing	Repairs, labor	324.86
Land Survey Tech	Co. Surveyor operating expenses	5486.24
Lincoln Journal Star	Publications	267.30
MIPS, Inc.	ROD tech labor	331.60
NACO	Assr wkshp fees	125.00
NE Health & Human Svcs.	St. institutions	279.00
Nelson, Clark & Timan	Public Defender	6346.15
NI Government Svcs.	EM Sat. phones	74.22
NickJComputerdoctor	Computer repair	80.00
Northeast Auto	Veh. lease	1100.00



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Pinnacle Bank	ROD deposit books	88.99
Precision Auto Tune	Shf. veh repair	515.13
Priority Printing	Prob. business cards	105.00
Quill – Det.	Offc supplies	35.99
Quill – Ext.	Offc supplies	119.09
Region V Systems	EPC, The Bridge billings	428.00
Ron’s Repair	Shf veh repair	408.85
Security First Bank	Co Clk deposit books	71.07
Smith, Schafer, Davis, LLC	Atty fees	604.70
Spectrum	EM cable TV	9.75
Stephen Kraviec, PC LLO	Child Suppt. Enf. Atty	2283.86
The Voice News	Publications	609.73
TK Elevator Corp.	Elevator maint.	240.21
Tracker Products, LLC	Software updates	5400.00
U.S. Bank – Purchase Cards	Equip., supplies	553.40
Verizon Wireless EM	Wireless phones	229.27
Windstream – Omaha Prob.	Phones	119.27
Windstream – Shf.	Phones	1328.94
Windstream – Vets	Phones	370.10

## Road Fund

Highway Department Employees	Salaries	48,139.35
Beatrice Concrete Sand & Gravel	Rock & gravel	34,542.91
Cather & Sons Const.	Asphalt	7000.20
Constellation NewEnergy – Gas Div.	Utilities	59.68
Fastenal Co., Inc.	Bolts, nuts, washers	55.81
First Wireless	Repeater rental	300.00
GWorks	WebGIS annl. subscr.	3360.00
Johnny’s Welding	Supplies	220.47
Lincoln Journal Star	Publications	32.22
Norris Public Power Dist.	Utilities	227.85
Rewound Power Motors	Parts, labor	207.25
Rock On, Inc.	Hauling material	13,172.18
The Voice News	Publications	22.58

## Visitor’s Promotion Fund

Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce	Lodging tax	7178.88
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## Insurance Fund

Gage Co. Health Insurance	Employee health ins. claims paid	102,242.53
Lucent Health Solutions, LLC	Ins. premiums, admin. fees	31,319.84

## General Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	9,437.16
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	9,932.30
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	28,439.60

## Road Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	3,191.13
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	3,535.66
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	11,545.94

Motion made by Byars, seconded by Dorn to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.



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Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Haxby to approve claim #21070003 to Beatrice Lawn Care in the amount of \$1,275.00. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Tiemann abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Haxby to approve claim #21070082 to Johnny's Welding in the amount of \$220.47, bringing the total amount of claims paid through June 30, 2021 to \$527,103.92. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Jurgens abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Terry Action spoke under public comments regarding Executive Order 14008 which focuses on international climate finance.

Committee reports were given by Dave Jones on Bldg. & Grounds, Jurgens on Finance/Insurance, Tiemann & Jurgens on Human Resources/Employee Relations, Shf. Gustafson on Law Enforcement, Lisa Wiegand on Emergency Management and P&Z, Jurgens on Road & Bridge, and Scott Bates on Veterans Service. Topics of discussion were moving survey records to 4<sup>th</sup> floor room, exterior repairs to courthouse, update to Hwy Dept. restroom, new Juneteenth Holiday, Shf. vehicle fleet, public hearing for wind regs updates, activities of Veterans Svc. Offc., avenue of flags, and Buddy Check Program.

Shari Wurtz-Miller, CEO of Blue Valley Community Action, appeared before the board with Administrative Director Heather Lytle and Foster Grandparent Program Director Sonja Workman. Wurtz-Miller presented the 2020 Impact Report and gave an update on the Community Needs Assessment and Cares Act Program. She stated that BVCA serves adults and children in a 9-county area, helping with housing, medical needs & Telehealth program, nutrition, financial skills, employment, food vouchers, and Head Start schooling. She also thanked the board for the county's funding support and having a supervisor serve on their board.

Motion made by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to receive the Blue Valley Community Action 2020 Impact Report and place it on file. Motion carried 7-0.

Carmen Hinman, Executive Director of Hope Crisis Center appeared before the board along with Victim Advocate Christina Lock and President of the Board of Directors Tyler Weishahn. Hinman thanked the board for allowing their agency to personally present their annual report and give an overview of the services they provide including a 24-hour, 7 days a week crisis hotline, one-on-one advocacy, temporary shelter, emergency assistance, legal & medial advocacy, and community education. She stated that keeping their doors open during the Covid pandemic was critical as stress and tensions flared from fear and isolation, making their services even more critical. Weishahn thanked the board for their past support and asked for their consideration in accepting their budget request, as the services provided by Hope Crisis Center are vital for the citizens of Gage County.

Motion made by Byars, seconded by Dorn to receive the Hope Crisis Center Annual Report and place it on file. Motion carried 7-0.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 21-10**

WHEREAS, the Gage County Board of Supervisors has been presented with a request for a special use permit, (SUP) #2021-2, for a temporary asphalt/concrete plant;

WHEREAS, the Gage County Planning and Zoning Commission has held a public hearing to consider this special use permit, the date of said public hearing being May 25, 2021, at 8:00 p.m., in the Board of Supervisors meeting room;

WHEREAS, the Gage County Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended approval of this special use permit, #2021-2; and



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WHEREAS, this special use permit is in an agricultural zoning district, located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 1 North, Range 6 East; and

WHEREAS, the Gage County Board of Supervisors on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021, held a public hearing to take input on this special use permit after proper notice and publication of said hearing for approving or disapproving Special Use Permit #2021-2; and

WHEREAS, public comments were heard in support of and in opposition to the special use permit and were considered by the Gage County Board of Supervisors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA that the special use permit, (SUP) #2021-2, for a temporary asphalt/concrete plant:

- approved for the reasons stated on the record.
- approved with conditions: \_\_\_\_\_
- disapproved for the reasons stated on the record.

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Dorn to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

All members present as listed and voted as follows:

Yea: Jurgens, Haxby, Schuller, Tiemann, Dorn, Byars, Lytle  
Nay: None

/s/ Erich Tiemann  
Chairman

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

/s/ Michelle K. Bloomquist  
Deputy Gage County Clerk

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Dorn to approve adopting Resolution #21-10 approving Special Use Permit #2021-2 for the placement of a temporary asphalt/concrete plant to be located in the SE ¼ of section 21-1-6, Paddock Twp. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion on KS/NE Heritage Area plan. Terry Acton, Angel Cushing, Beth Salmans and Lauren Riedesel all spoke. Points brought up included 33 of the 49 counties have signed resolutions opposing the NHA, Federal laws are not being followed, landowners are not all being notified or informed, hidden consequences in the plan, lack of public support, 30 of the 55 NHA's are up for renewal, after 15 years they are supposed to be self-supporting but none of them are, could encourage tourism across the KS/NE border, and, could allow both states to promote each other's tourist attractions. Tiemann stated that currently our tourism cannot promote other state's tourism in our state, but we can promote our own tourism in other states. Lytle added that even if we oppose this particular plan does not mean a different plan can't be formed between the counties along the KS/NE border, or do plans for a specific site such as the Homestead, so the focus stays on that site alone. Haxby said she would like to see our own local plan and to stay away from Federal programs. Schuller talked about each Heritage Area being required to have a management plan and that they're not all the same.

**RESOLUTION #21-11 OPPOSING 49-COUNTY**



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## NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

**Whereas**, Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area Partnership is pursuing a National Heritage Area designation encompassing 49 counties, (26 in Kansas, 23 in Nebraska, equaling 35,792 square miles) with a total population of 650,000;

**Whereas**, Congress has designated National Heritage Areas which encompass vast amounts of privately held land in order to highlight areas of specific interest. Citizens of this county appreciate efforts to encourage economic development, but oppose blanket designations that put dissenting private landowners in the unreasonable position of having to “opt out” of federally mandated boundaries;

**Whereas**, the establishment of a 49-county National Heritage Area would adversely influence local officials to pass zoning laws not otherwise needed in order to accommodate a National Heritage Area Management Plan developed by the National Park Service and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, thereby altering well-established processes for land use regulation;

**Whereas**, A National Heritage Area designation invites interference in local affairs by special interest groups who claim to be stakeholders, such as the National Park Service, animal rights activists and environmental groups who do not have the historical perspective or deeply felt stewardship responsibility of owners who have worked the land over several generations.

**Whereas**, the establishment of a National Heritage Area in order to leverage federal and local matching funds based upon private property, without owner knowledge or consent, illustrates a violation of private property rights; The United States can no longer afford to borrow money to engage in endless expansion of dependency and regulation by the federal government with sunset provisions for NHA’s that were never enforced, resulting in chronic dependency rather than free market activity.

**Whereas**, A fundamental interdependence exists between individual liberty and the ability to own property, the citizens of this county are very concerned that a National Heritage Area designation would deprive landowners of their ability to use and enjoy their property as they see fit;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That Gage County opposes the National Heritage Area designation of the 49-county region aforementioned, and likewise opposes the inclusion of this county within the 49-county designation map and does not wish to confer upon an unelected regional management entity the ability to establish or influence land use policy within the boundaries of this county.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Byars to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

All members present as listed and voted as follows:

**Yea:**

**Nay:**

/s/ Gary Lytle

/s/ Don Schuller

/s/ Eddie T. Dorn

/s/ Erich Tiemann

/s/ Emily M. Haxby

/s/ Dennis M. Byars



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/s/ Terry Jurgens

/s/ Erich Tiemann

Chairman

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

/s/ Michelle K. Bloomquist

Deputy Gage County Clerk

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Byars to approve adopting Resolution #21-11 opposing the KS/NE Heritage Area Plan. Motion carried 6-1 with Schuller voting nay.

Discussion on informal bids received for cement work at the Sheriff's Office Evidence Bldg. site. Bids were received from Trauernicht Construction, Inc. of Beatrice in the amount of \$38,903.00 and R.L. Tiemann Construction of Beatrice in the amount of \$39,418.50. Dave Jones said that the original bid from Trauernicht did not include removal of the sign base pad but that they agreed to include that at their original bid amount. He also said that the city has agreed to reimburse the county for 70' of curb and gutter when doing street repair. The project would likely be done in the Fall. Jones recommended going with Trauernicht Construction as they were the low bidder.

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Dorn to award the bid for cement work at the Sheriff's Office Evidence Bldg. site to Trauernicht Construction in the amount of \$38,903.00. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Tiemann abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Motion made by Byars, seconded by Dorn to move into closed session at 11:28 a.m. for personnel issues. Motion carried 7-0.

Jurgens left during closed session.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Schuller to move out of closed session at 11:38 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Byars, seconded by Dorn to adjourn Board of Supervisors meeting at 11:40 a.m. Motion carried 5-1 with Haxby voting nay.

Chairman declared Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. until July 14, 2021.

Board minutes can also be viewed on the Gage County website at [www.gagecountynebraska.us](http://www.gagecountynebraska.us).

s/ Michelle K. Bloomquist

Michelle K. Bloomquist  
Deputy Gage County Clerk

/s/ Erich Tiemann

Erich Tiemann, Chairman  
Gage County Board of Supervisors

I, Michelle K. Bloomquist, Deputy County Clerk of Gage County, do hereby certify that the above records are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Witness my hand and official seal this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

(SEAL)

/s/ Michelle K. Bloomquist

Michelle K. Bloomquist  
Deputy Gage County Clerk



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