



Gage County Board Minutes



Board of Supervisors Meeting – April 6, 2022

1

The Gage County Board of Supervisors met on April 6, 2022, at 8:45 a.m. with Terry Jurgens, Emily Haxby, Don Schuller, Erich Tiemann and Eddie Dorn present. Dennis Byars and Gary Lytle absent.

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 \$450,446.14; 4. approve correspondence received and place on file; 5. 5. approve cancelling check #22030027 to Lancaster County Sheriff’s office in the amount of \$19.77; 6. approve reappointing Jason Hartig, 1323 S. 4th Street, Beatrice, NE 68310 for another term on the Gage County Veterans’ Service Committee for a term expiring July 2027; 7. approve District Court Summary Fee Report & Register of Deeds Fee Report for the month of March, 2022; 8. Approve Utility Permit #1239 to Windstream Nebraska, LLC, – Windstream will be placing a new line to a building at 21410 SW 89th Road. Windstream will start at pedestal 3016/F890HF in the West grader ditch, bore a 2” x 4’ deep line under SW 89th Road to pedestal 3016/894HF in the East grader ditch and pull new line. All other work in done on private property. Located in Northeast quarter section of 15, Northeast quarter section of 14, T-4-N, R-5-E, Blakely Twp; 9. approve Utility Permit #1240 to Sun Pro Solar - Sun Pro will be boring under South 38th Road approximately 275’ South of Dogwood Road for new electrical service. Sun Pro will start boring just on the North side of the residence in the West grader ditch, bore a 2” x 4’ deep line under South 38th Road to electrical pole and meter in the east grader ditch. Located in Northeast quarter section of 31, Northwest quarter section of 32, T-5-N, R-7-E, Hanover Twp; 10. approve declaring as surplus and advertising on Purple Wave - 1989, M998 4x4 AM General Humvee, camo colored with 52,238 miles. SN# 059667; 11. approve receiving Notice of Tort Claim against Gage County and filing with NIRMA.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Allowed</u>
Courthouse Employees	Salaries	137,553.17
All Copy Products	DC copier maint.	2.14
Beatrice Board of Public Works	Utilities	233.99
Beatrice Community Hospital	Continuing ed.	180.00
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	1596.13
Capital Business Systems, Inc.	ROD copier maint.	53.56
Charm-Tex, Inc.	Inmate provisions	791.20
City of Beatrice	Ext. gbg svc.	23.00
Clerk of District Court	St. & svc. fees	422.13
Culligan of Lincoln	Water cooler	39.00
Dept of Corr. Svcs. Intragncy 460	Inmate boarding/medical	1235.62
Diode Technologies	Equip./repairs	1009.40
Eakes Office Solutions	Offc supplies	161.05
Election Systems & Software	Elec. expenses	6261.90
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts, et al	Atty fees	2025.00
First Wireless	Equip rental, svc. contract	890.00
Hamm Glass	Equip.	257.00
Jerry Shelton, Atty	Atty fees	1971.25
Lancaster Co. Shf.	Svc fees	27.59
Latimer Reporting	Ct. transcripts/depositions	889.75
Mahloch Law Offc.	Atty fees	660.25



Gage County Board Minutes



Board of Supervisors Meeting – April 6, 2022

2

MIPS, Inc.	Computer equip., programming, etc.	7469.63
Nelson, Clark & Timan	Public Defender	6346.15
NI Govt. Svcs.	EM Sat. phone	74.22
Noakes	Duct work	56.89
Precision Signs & Graphics	Shf. veh. graphics	113.26
Quill – Dist. Ct.	Offc. supplies	209.99
Quill – Ext.	Offc. supplies	146.71
Quill – Prob.	Offc. supplies	716.20
Quill – Treas.	Offc. supplies	2.93
Security Services	Jail fire alarm svc call	134.00
Sheridan Industries	Ext. Offc. janitorial svcs.	120.00
Soap Opera Laundry	Mop & rag cleaning	61.45
<u>General Fund</u>		
Spectrum	Jail/EM cable TV	184.21
Stanard Appraisal Svcs.	Appraisal maint.	4345.00
Staples	Offc. supplies	87.83
Stephen Kraviec, PC LLO	Child Suppt. Enf. Atty	2283.86
Summit Food Svc.	Jail meals	1769.16
Time Warner Cable	Prob. phones	272.92
TK Elevator Corp.	Elevator maint.	240.21
UN Nebraska Extension	UNL internet	1200.00
UNL Print & Copy Svcs.	Ext. Offc. supplies	189.34
U.S. Bank – Purchase cards	Supplies, equip., etc.	1769.17
U.S. Post Svc.	Postage for meter	25,000.00
Verizon Wireless – EMS 8923-1	Phones	241.44
Verizon Wireless – GCSO	Phones	480.12
Windstream – Wilb. Prog.	Phones	45.93
Windstream – Fillmore Co. Prob.	Phones	411.57
Windstream – Vets	Phones	381.98
Zultys, Inc.	Prob. phones	943.86
<u>Road Fund</u>		
Highway Department Employees	Salaries	47,807.19
Beatrice Concrete Sand & Gravel	Rock & gravel	3685.14
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	136.00
Capital One, NA	Supplies	46.42
Constellation	Utilities	369.82
MIPS, Inc.	Hwy program maint.	1607.76
Motor Fuels Div.	Diesel tax	1554.00
Rose Equipment, LLC	Parts	58.03
Tractor Supply	Parts, supplies	70.39
<u>Visitor's Promotion Fund</u>		
Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce	Lodging Tax	6104.31
<u>Insurance Fund</u>		
Gage County Health Ins.	Employee health ins. claims paid	77,902.38
Lucent Health Solutions	Ins. premiums, admin. fees	33,637.92
<u>General Fund</u>		
Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	9,493.92
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	9,937.42



Gage County Board Minutes



Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	28,352.60
---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------

Road Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	3,226.94
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	3,510.26
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	11,166.27

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Dorn to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

No public present for comments or request for future agenda items.

Committee reports were given by Tiemann on Building & Grounds, Equalization & Human Relations/Employee Relations; Jurgens on Finance/Insurance & Road/Bridge; Scott Bates on Veterans’ Service; Shf. Gustafson on Law Enf. Topics included the patchwork on the North side of the Courthouse; streaming services for boardroom (still checking); ramp construction on East side; Masonry Const. will bid entire North side to wash stone; Veteran population down 165 veterans from 206 – 2020 and down 5 from 2019 – 2020; 100 burial flags, so far have been returned to the families; need VA van volunteers needed to drive the van; Corrections pay increases making a big difference in applications received.

The county honored Donald Junker during the Veteran Honors portion of the meeting. Veteran Service Officer, Scott Bates introduced Mr. Junker. Scott said Donald Junker enlisted in the United States Army 24 November 1965 and was Honorable discharged September 26, 1967 with the rank of CPL. During Don’s time in service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, 1 Overseas Service Bar, and the Expert M-14 Rifle Badge. Don stays active with American Legion Post 27 and is serving on the Legion Honor Guard; he is also an active member of the VFW post 1077 where he served many different positions throughout the years to include post commander. Don has been serving on the Gage County Veterans Board since Jul 2001 and currently holds the position of Chairman. Don said he started his career in 1965 – he got on the Rock Island railroad in Fairbury and rode it to Omaha, was sworn in on Thanksgiving Day. Took a bus to Ft. Leonard Wood for basic training then to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma where he did his AIT in artillery training on 105 Howitzer. Left for Ft. Irwin, California for 6 months of training in the Mojave Desert, it was very warm. I left from San Diego, California on a ship, SNS Barrett to head to Vietnam. It took 28 days to get there, on the 3rd day out, I didn’t care for the water. During the trip we hit a typhoon and I thought the big ship was going to upset. When we arrived, the first day we didn’t even have weapons, they hadn’t got there yet. Don stated “I’m glad I got home, a lot of them didn’t.”

Mark Kuhnke spoke on his recommendation of the excavator bid that was received at the last meeting. He recommended the John Deere 250G from Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co. of Lincoln, NE.

Tiemann felt that next time we called for bids that the specs should allow for 4cyl as well as 6cyl.

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Dorn to approve the John Deer 250G in the amount of \$193,857.00. This bid amount included the warranty and allowed for a trade-in value of \$120,000.
Motion carried 5-0.

Tiemann thanked all of the bidders for providing a bid to the County. The bids received were from Murphy Tractor, NMC and Interstate Power Systems.

Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Dorn to approve recommendation of Donald Esau as the manager for the Gage County Agricultural Society. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Dorn to approve recommendation of Special Designated Liquor license to J & M Liquor for an event being held on July 23, 2022 at 803 East Pine Rd., Wymore, NE. Motion carried 5-0.



Gage County Board Minutes



Board of Supervisors Meeting – April 6, 2022

4

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Haxby to open public hearing at 9:15 a.m. to hear support and/or opposition from the public on: Special Use Permit 2022-1, for expansion of existing poultry operation located in the NW¼ of Section 16, in Hooker Twp. Motion carried 5-0.

Lisa Wiegand gave recommendation from Planning & Zoning Commission. They recommended approval.

Speaking was the applicant Taylor Tekolste, 11762 S. 134th Rd., Adams, NE.

There was no opposition to the Special Use Permit. Taylor informed the board that he spoke with his surrounding neighbors prior to pursuing the permit.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Schuller to close public hearing @ 9:25 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The resolution for the Special Use Permit will be on the April 20th meeting.

Kristin Jensen, Tourism Coordinator – Presented a Visitor Improvement Grant submitted by Leadership Beatrice Class 16 through the Chambers Stake Your Claim Foundation for a Bike Trail Enhancement Project, in the amount of \$10,671.00. This grant will allow for stations along the bike trail that will provide necessary tools for most bike repairs.

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Dorn to approve the Visitors Improvement Grant for a Bike Trail Enhancement project in the amount of \$10,671.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion took place on the Gage County Rural Broadband project. Haxby stated that our county received almost \$4.2 million with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Through those guidelines, we discussed the best way to impact the most people and landed on broadband. When we talk about broadband, we are helping farmers in field, people working from home, kids being able to do their homework or do remote learning, and more. The impact would be far-reaching; medicine, education, agriculture, businesses...the list goes on. This would do so much for not just the people and businesses in our county but it would also help further the reach of people from our county to other parts of the state, nation, and beyond. I spoke to a few of my neighbors asking how broadband affects their lives; one of my neighbors is a speech pathologist and would better be able to do remote therapies and speech lessons with children locally and in other parts of the state, giving those kids the ability to better communicate and the confidence to reach for their dreams. Another neighbor is trying to balance being a successful medical practitioner, a mother, and a wife by doing medical records from home, which is dependent on a speedy and reliable internet service. There is also a counselor and therapist that does telehealth consultations for children and families. Another neighbor works for a Nebraska business that provides digital based school curriculum through Zoom and distributes this teaching content nationwide – imagine trying to do that from a phone, laptop, computer, or other electronic device with unreliable service? That's just a few of the people I've talked to about how broadband affects their lives and there are countless others. We requested proposals for a rural broadband project and received bids from three companies: Windstream, Nextlink, and Diode. Our subcommittee of Erich Tiemann, Eddie Dorn, and myself evaluated proposals to determine the best option for our county. To begin, I want to thank all 3 companies for taking time to complete the proposal process. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the economic growth of our county. I also want to thank Erich and Eddie for working through all our meetings and phone calls; it has taken a lot of time and deliberation to choose what is best and both of them have taken a lot of time out of their schedules to make this happen. Also, I'd like to thank Oliver with SENDD as he has spent a lot of time going through these proposals with us and making sure we follow ARPA stipulations. Finally, Loel Brooks with UBC has also helped us answer a lot of questions through this process and kept us where we needed to be and we are excited about its build potential. Our subcommittee unanimously recommends moving forward with contract negotiations with Nextlink. Their proposal covered a significant part of rural Gage County with fiber. They will hit about 1,000 homes in the next 2 years. Their cost per month was about \$30 less than the next closest applicant as well as an active participant in the Affordable Conductivity Program. They offer speeds from 100/100 to 2gig/2gig in their fiber layout. Their plan is to bury the fiber in conduit and is going to have a warehouse for operations here in our County. It was a very difficult decision because of the other competitive applicants but the committee feels that the best use of these funds would be with Nextlink as their guarantee to build had the lowest risk to the county to complete the project. This project will also



Gage County Board Minutes



Board of Supervisors Meeting – April 6, 2022

5

compliment the federally funded RDOF build which is separate from our ARPA project but will provide a licensed fixed wireless service in the Southeast corner of the county where it is not feasible to plow fiber due to the rocky topography, but will allow them to get better speeds on a dedicated frequency. The subcommittee recommends that we accept the proposal from Nextlink and authorize Loel Brooks with UBC (Universal Broadband Consulting) to assist in negotiating a contract for the Rural Broadband Project in Gage County. Oliver from SENDD has been with us through this whole process going back to our initial discussions in November.

Oliver Borchers-William, SENDD spoke on extending SENDD's support on this project and about being part of the project from the beginning, with preliminary discussions in September/October to proposals in December/January and is thrilled to see this Rural Broadband project coming to a conclusion. He expressed that the ARPA funds allowed for a once in a generation opportunity and it will do more than connect households, it sets the county up for continued economic growth and creates a solid playbook for other Nebraska counties.

Oliver thanked several for their time and work on the project, including those submitting a bid on the project for sharing the promising vision for broadband expansion in the county.

Tiemann spoke saying that he wanted to echo all that Oliver said. Oliver spent countless hours with us. He thanked Diode who helped earlier and was 1 of the top 2 bidders and Nextlink for working with us, and Loel with UBC for his all of his legal expertise. This project will bring service to over 1,000 locations. He wanted to emphasize that this is about a \$4.2 million project and we said how do we make that into more, we didn't want to take that and just purchase something, the goal was to subsidize something and I think this is darn near a 11 – 12-million-dollar project. This 4 million is not just a 4 million project but between a 11- or 12-million-dollar project. There is a lot of potential here.

Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Dorn to approve authorizing the subcommittee to proceed with contract negotiations with Nextlink using the Universal Broadband Consulting firm. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Dorn to approve a contract with Universal Broadband Consulting firm to negotiate Rural Broadband Project contract. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion on the MOU with Nebraska Public Power District is for a broadband study. The cost will be approximately \$20,000 with NPPD paying half and the other half split between 5 or 6 other entities.

Motion made by Schuller, seconded by Dorn to approve Public Entities Memorandum of Understanding for Broadband Infrastructure Development between Gage County and Nebraska Public Power District. Motion carried 5-0.

Short break @ 9:53 a.m.

Back in session @ 10:02 a.m.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Haxby to go into closed session at 10:03 a.m. for personnel and possible litigation. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Haxby to come out of closed session at 11:03 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Jurgens out at 11:03 a.m.

Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Dorn to adjourn meeting at 11:03 a.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman declared Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m. until April 20, 2022.

Board minutes can also be viewed on the Gage County website at www.gagecountynebraska.us.



Gage County Board Minutes



Board of Supervisors Meeting – April 6, 2022

6

/s/ Dawn Hill

Dawn Hill

Gage County Clerk

/s/ Erich Tiemann

Erich Tiemann, Chairman

Gage County Board of Supervisors

I, Dawn Hill, 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 6th day of April, 2022.

(SEAL)

/s/ Dawn Hill

Dawn Hill

Gage County Clerk