

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 30, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Karas. Chairman Caverzagie 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 April 23, 2025, meeting as read. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-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.richardsoncountyne.gov.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this week. He reported that currently there are 17 inmates being held at the jail. The Department also received approval for the "Click-It or Ticket" overtime grant funding for the period of May 12 thru June 1. The County will be reimbursed for the overtime that deputies work during this time period.

Region V is offering spectrometers to different agencies within the district area of Region V. The purchase of this equipment is being funded through the Opioid settlement funds that Region V has received. Further information on the acquisition of this specialized equipment will be reviewed at a further meeting.

Discussion was also held regarding the improvements to the generator system at the law enforcement center so that service would be provided to more of the building when power is out. Quotes for this improvement are expected to be received within this week and will be reviewed at next week's meeting.

It was also reported that Commissioner Karas and Sheriff Hardesty will be meeting with the City of Humboldt City Council next Tuesday to review a proposed updated contract for Law Enforcement for the City of Humboldt. The current contract will expire on August 31, 2025.

Sheriff Hardesty also reported that an employee has begun training at the Law Enforcement Academy and is expected to complete the course sometime in August.

FC SW PROJECT OPEN SEALED BIDS

At 9:30 a.m. Chairman Caverzagie presented the proof of publication for the opening of sealed bids for the Falls City SW project pipe replacement project located between Sections 20 & 29, T1, R16.

Bids were received from the following: Van Dorn Valley Construction of Denton, NE for \$47,439.89; Malone Construction Co. Inc., of Douglas, NE for \$80,695; Sibbersen Excavating of Valley, NE for \$147,527.50 and Bauer Infrastructure, LLC of Martell, NE for \$96,857.50.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to accept the bids that were received only for the purpose of further review by the engineer and highway superintendent. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

After the bid opening a bid was received at 9:50 a.m. which could not be considered as it was received after the 9:30 a.m. deadline to receive bids. This bid remains sealed and was marked as such.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Steve Darveau, Highway Superintendent updated the Board on some of the routine road and bridge maintenance being done on county roads and bridges this past weekend.

Quotes were received for the purchase of 5 new overhead garage doors for replacement at

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ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT. (Cont.)

the Falls City County Shop. Those quotes were from Overhead Door Company of Omaha for \$33,960.00 and from Blue Valley Door Co., Inc. of Beatrice, NE for \$28,855.00.

COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL

Motion was made by Karas to go into an executive session at 9:50 a.m. to discuss pending litigation with County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel and County Clerk, Mary L. Eickhoff. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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

FC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH ENTERPRISE

Lucas Froeschl, Executive Director of the Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise presented to the Board the quarterly report of the organization.

KAYTLYN KENNEDY, EXTENSION EDUCATOR

Kaytlyn Kennedy, Extension Educator, presented to the Board the annual report of the Richardson County Cooperative Extension Service. Jami Ankrom, Extension 4-H Agent was present and introduced was Mary Ann Jensen as the new office administrator.

GRIEVANCE HEARING

A representative, Chris Morton from the NAPFSCME was present to review with the Board in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement between NAPE/AFSCME Local 61 and Richardson County, as an agreement was not reached in Step 1 of the grievance process outlined in Article 3 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and that in accordance with Step 2 of the grievance process, this grievance was presented to the County Board within five work days of the decision of the Highway Superintendent. The grievance filed and which was signed by Justin Hubly, Executive Director of NAPE AFSCME Local 61 filed by Bryan Dettman, Ron Ramer and Wyatt Martin with the Highway Superintendent on April 10, 2025, regarding the request to use civil leave on March 24, 2025, to attend hearing on CIR case #1569 instead of vacation and/or PTO leave being used. Their statement of grievance is as follows: "On April 4, 2025, Mr. Dettmann, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Ramer received their paychecks. Upon receipt, they discovered that their request to use civil leave on March 24, 2025, was not processed, and instead they had vacation and PTO leave deducted. Mr. Dettman, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Ramer which each subpoenaed to appear before the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations on March 24, 2025. Each gave testimony in a work-related impasse case CIR Case No. 1569. Article 11.16(c) states that time spent by employees appearing in court as a function of their job shall be considered as hours worked." Relief Sought states: "To be made whole, Mr. Dettmann, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Ramer must be placed on civil leave and have their vacation and/or PTO leave returned."

The grievance was denied by the Highway Superintendent and was answered as follows: "The collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between your union and the County does not provide that you will be paid for your time off to testify on behalf of your union pursuant to a subpoena requested by your union. The County has not agreed in the Collective Bargaining Agreement that you will be paid by the County for the time you spent testifying for your union. Your testimony on March 24, 2025, before the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations was required by your union not the County. Accordingly, the County is denying your request that you should be paid by the County for your absence from work on March 24, 2025. Furthermore denying your request to have your vacation and/or PTO leave returned for the absence from work on this day."

As stated within the Collective Bargaining Agreement **11.16 CIVIL LEAVE:** All employees shall be eligible for paid civil leave under the following conditions: **c. Court Appearance:** Time spent by employees appearing in court as a function of their job shall be considered as hours worked. All witness fees received as a result of these court appearances

shall be returned to the County. Employees attending courts as a plaintiff, defendant or witness on non-work-related matters, may use vacation leave or earned compensatory time. In the event the employee is subpoenaed for non-work related matters, and does not have vacation leave or compensatory time the Employer shall grant a leave of absence. The employee shall keep any witness fee paid to the employee for these court appearances.

The Board will be reviewing the information presented regarding this grievance and will discuss it further at next week’s meeting and make a decision to be forwarded back to the NAPE AFSCME Local 61.

Commissioner Campbell excused himself from the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

QUARTERLY JAIL INSPECTION

The Board conducted the quarterly jail inspection and found the facility to be in good order.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Health Insurance Renewal

Motion was made by Karas to approve the renewal of the group health insurance for county employees with Medica at an increase of premium of 5.3% for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Other

The Board approved 2 purchase orders for EMA Director, Brian Kirkendall, 1) Salamander Asset Management Program for \$2,379.00 and 2) the purchase of 2 Apple iPad Pro 13 at \$2,599.99 for a total of \$5,199.98.

CLAIMS

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

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

GENERAL FUND

Candlewood Suites, lodg	458.00
Culligan, supp	93.60
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv	241.27
Falls City Mercantile, supp	33.15
Farm & City Supply, supp	95.96
Fields, Odis, reimb	338.80
Handley Law Office, serv	3068.50
CR24-73 A. Adcock, CR24-153 H. Berry, CR24-167 D. Clum, CR24-126 B. Corbin	
MIPS, serv	3277.10
Norfolk Lodge & Suites, lodg	375.00
Pitney Bowes, supp	405.00
Quill, supp	435.54
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	560.98
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	21837.84
Riekenberg, Kris, serv	37.00
Scholl Lawn & Landscape, serv	833.00
SumnerOne, serv	51.17

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CLAIMS (Cont.)

GENERAL FUND (Cont.)

UNL, reimb	9994.51
Verizon, serv	215.91
Payroll Expense	115784.85
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$158,137.18

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Armbruster Motor Co., supp	50.61
Hamm Inc., rock	12364.90
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	11946.48
Midwest Engineering, serv	12105.00
Norris Quarries, rock	1499.65
OPPD, serv	96.95
Sapp Bros., fuel	6581.43
Unifirst, supp	55.37
Payroll Expense	32520.31
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$77,220.70

REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND

MIPS, serv	319.05
TOTAL REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND	\$319.05

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-absent, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City, NE. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk’s Office.

John J. Caverzagie, Chairman

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk