

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETINGS

February 26, 2024

The Red Willow County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Equalization met in the Commissioners' Room in the courthouse on February 26, 2024. A notice of the meetings was published in the McCook Gazette and posted on the County's website. The combined agenda was e-mailed to each commissioner and the news media, uploaded on the County's website, and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Ted Gans called the Board of Commissioners meeting to order with the following members present: Commissioners Ted Gans, Randy Dean and Charles Fritsche. Gans informed the public about the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to approve the agendas as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Chairman Gans offered the floor for Citizens' Comments. No one was present.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: 1) minutes from the previous Board of Commissioners and Board of Equalization meetings, 2) accounts payable and payroll claims in the amount of \$378,250.66, 3) review backhoe bids at 10:30 a.m. rather than 9:30 a.m., 4) Oversized Load Permit for Star House Moving, 5) reappoint Kevin Potthoff to Health Board, term to expire January 31, 2027. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Notices from the Nebraska Department of Transportation regarding road construction in Red Willow County were reviewed and placed on file.

The NIRMA's annual report and the Sheriff's monthly revenue report were reviewed and placed on file.

There were no issues for the Board of Equalization.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to recess the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. to receive public comments on the Application for Conditional Use Permit submitted by Haag Land and Cattle Large Feedlot Operation Waste Storage Facility, located in pt of N/2 of Section 30, Range 2, Township 26 West of the 6th P.M., Red Willow County, Nebraska. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Craig Bennett, Zoning Administrator, joined the hearing via phone and confirmed that the Planning & Zoning Committee recommended approval of this conditional use permit. The project follows the County's zoning regulations and the impact easements that are required for Class 1 LFOs.

Myrna Haag shared concerns about the livestock expansions. She owns land around the proposed projects. Her family is concerned about the odor, insects, rodents, increased traffic, Dean asked Buck Haag how much traffic this expansion will cause. Haag wondered what the County's plans are for the Bartley Road.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to adjourn the public hearing at 9:50 a.m. and reconvene the regular meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to adopt Resolution No. 1509, Book 24, Page 16, to approve the application for Conditional Use Permit submitted by Haag Land and Cattle Large Feedlot Operation Waste Storage Facility, located in pt of N/2 of Section 30, Range 2, Township 26 West of the 6th P.M., Red Willow County, Nebraska. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to recess the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing at 9:55 a.m. to receive public comments on the Application for Conditional Use Permit submitted by Uhrich & Brown LTD Large Feedlot Operation Waste Storage Facility Holding Ponds, pt NE/4 of Section 29 Township 4 Range 29 West of the 6th P.M., Red Willow County, Nebraska. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Travis Casperson, Dave Kuchera and Ami Hauxwell were present to explain that these holding ponds are for run-off from the dairy, which will be pumped to the new location.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to adjourn the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. and reconvene the regular meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to adopt Resolution No. 1510, Book 24, Page 17, to approve the application for Conditional Use Permit submitted by Uhrich & Brown LTD Large Feedlot Operation Waste Storage Facility Holding Ponds, pt NE/4 of Section 29 Township 4 Range 29 West of the 6th P.M., Red Willow County, Nebraska. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to recess the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. to receive public comments on the Application for Conditional Use Permit submitted by Ruggles Farms, Inc. Large Feedlot Operation Waste Storage Facility Expansion, pt NE/4 Section 11 Township 3 Range 29, pt NW/4 Section 12 Township 3 Range 29 West of the 6th P.M., Red Willow County, Nebraska. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Travis Casperson presented arial photos of the location and explained the size of the storage ponds.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to adjourn the public hearing at 10:10 a.m. and reconvene the regular meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to adopt Resolution No. 1511, Book 24, Page 18, to approve the application for Conditional Use Permit submitted by Ruggles Farms, Inc. Large Feedlot Operation Waste Storage Facility Expansion, pt NE/4 Section 11 Township 3 Range 29, pt NW/4 Section 12 Township 3 Range 29 West of the 6th P.M., Red Willow County, Nebraska. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Charlie McPherson and Amanda Engell with the McCook Economic Development Corporation joined the Board to present their annual report. The housing projects are progressing well. They are building three duplexes with attached garages which will be for sale when finished. The single-family home project on North Pointe is also moving forward.

The MEDC also assisted with the transfer of a day care center, and with residential housing for the hospital. They have assisted with building single family homes in McCook, Benkelman, and Cambridge, and are looking at Indianola next.

McPherson and Engell are looking for 2024/2025 projects.

The Board reviewed informal bids for a backhoe. Dean presented 19 bids. The Board discussed a backhoe with Greg from Nebraska Machinery. His bid is a 2017 Cat for \$90,000, which is the only one bid with a warranty.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to purchase the 2017 Cat for \$90,000 from NMC pending inspection using ARPA funds. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Sheriff Kevin Darling and Jail Administrator Dee Schilz joined the Board to discuss rust mitigation at the jail facility. The “stainless steel” is rusting badly, and the company who provided the materials has gone out of business.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to declare the rust issue at the jail an emergency item and direct the Sheriff to address the problem. ARPA funds will be available for this emergency. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

The following claims were allowed:

GENERAL FUND Net Salaries 124,948.16 AFLAC 2,012.41 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 20,102.77 Black Hills Energy 1,501.89 Brighthouse Financial 50.00 City Of McCook 1,240.00 Colonial Life 233.18 Credit Management Services 135.76 DAS State Accounting 178.75 Empower Retirement 1,050.00 Midwest Liberty Fed Credit Union 5,240.00 Midwest Liberty HSA Account 400.00 Masa Global Building 196.00 MNB Bank 36,088.45 MNB Bank 45.38 Nebraska Child Support 687.00 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 5,337.03 Principal Voluntary Child Life 15.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 305.64 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 104.70 Quality Urgent Care 39.00 Ravenswood Electric LLC 280.00 Red Willow County Self Insurance 4,750.00 Red Willow County Clerk 1,122.00 20/20 Technologies LLC 2,499.00 Principal Vision Plan 377.32 Total 208,939.44 ROAD FUND Net Salaries 32,007.69 AFLAC 200.67 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 5,011.14 Black Hills Energy 498.86 Decatur Co-Op Association 2,039.66 Empower Retirement 100.00 Midwest Liberty Fed Credit Union 1,439.00 Lingo Communications 36.02 Masa Global Building 70.00 MNB Bank 9,845.26 Nationwide Retirement Solutions 400.00 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 1,530.84 Principal Voluntary Child Life 5.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 187.11 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 3.99 Red Willow County Self Insurance 1,050.00 Twin Valleys Public Power District 142.15 Principal Vision Plan 81.35 Total 54,648.74 FAIR FUND Net Salaries 8,675.57 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 1,226.41 MNB Bank 2,411.81 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 371.76 New Frontier Ag LLC 6,100.00 Principal Voluntary Child Life 5.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 39.50 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 7.95 Red Willow County Self Insurance 200.00 20/20 Technologies LLC 2,000.00 Principal Vision Plan 52.10 Total 21,090.10 SELF-

INSURANCE FUND Lucent Health Solutions LLC 26,494.20 Lucent Health Solutions LLC 18,223.26 Principal Life Insurance Company 4,926.63 Total 49,644.09 ARENA FUND Net Salaries 3,459.66 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 519.60 MNB Bank 935.17 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 126.08 Red Willow County Self Insurance 200.00 Red Willow County Road Dept 1,249.30 Principal Vision Plan 26.05 Total 6,515.86 HEALTH FUND Net Salaries 13,134.79 AFLAC 302.43 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 1,837.94 Empower Retirement 150.00 GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals 3,664.46 Masa Global Building 14.00 MNB Bank 3,572.00 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 461.61 Pfizer Inc 8,850.00 Principal Voluntary Child Life 5.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 13.25 Red Willow County Self Insurance 400.00 Red Willow County Clerk 50.00 Principal Vision Plan 15.81 Total 32,471.29 WASTE FUND Net Salaries 4,104.46 MNB Bank 771.11 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 65.57 Total 4,941.14 Grand Total 378,250.66.

Chairman Gans adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:20 a.m. to March 11, 2024.

Ted Gans
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest: Penelope Cooper
County Clerk