

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Board February 10, 2025

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, AND NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL MEETINGS

January 27, 2025

The Red Willow County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Equalization met in the Commissioners' Room in the courthouse on January 27, 2025. 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.

Steve Quigley will not be able to join the Board at 9:45 a.m.

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

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

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, 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 \$351,530.40. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Chairman Gans recessed the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:15 a.m. for the Board of Equalization.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING:

Chairman Randy Dean called the Board of Equalization meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Ted Gans, Randy Dean and Charles Fritsche. Dean informed the public about the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Treasurer Crystal Dack presented five motor vehicle tax exemption applications from Hillcrest Nursing Home.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to approve the motor vehicle tax exemption applications from Hillcrest Nursing Home. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Chairman Dean adjourned the Board of Equalization meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Gans reconvened the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:20 a.m.

The following correspondence was reviewed and placed on file: 1) Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy – Approved Permit for NA Timmerman, 2) Nebraska Department of Transportation – Request for Review and Comment, Project Jct. US-34 – McCook.

The following reports were reviewed and placed on file: 1) Nebraska Department of Natural Resources – Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Report, 2) Miller & Associates – Bridge Inspections, 3) HHW 4th Quarter Report.

Chairman Gans recessed the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:33 a.m. for the Noxious Weed Control meeting.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL MEETING:

Chairman Charles Fritsche called the Noxious Weed Control meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Ted Gans, Randy Dean and Charles Fritsche. Fritsche informed the public about the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Noxious Weed Control Superintendent, Sonya Prentice, joined the Board to present her annual reports. Prentice shared photos of recent inspections. A landowner south of town is refusing to cooperate with the weed warnings. Prentice has been advised not to approach or treat without law enforcement backup. Gans emphasized that proper channels need to be followed in every situation.

Chairman Fritsche adjourned the Noxious Weed Control meeting at 9:55 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING: (Reconvened)

Chairman Gans reconvened the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Carol Schlegel, Visitors Bureau Director, presented her annual report. Board members, Dan Stramel, Tyler Loop, Andrea Harms, and Kerri Unger were also in attendance to recommend her reappointment for the upcoming year, with an increase in compensation. Gans and Dean confronted them about advertising a quorum, so Harms and Unger left.

Schlegel explained two new programs she has developed; an audio tour and a downloadable app. Dean asked if a project in Indianola could be included.

Gans asked if the community is getting a fair return for the salary and bonus paid to Schlegel. Dan Stramel explained what good the program does. He also pointed out that no commissioner has attended a Visitors Board meeting in years, and how that could keep the information flowing.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to reappoint Carol Schlegel as the Red Willow County Tourism Director for 2025 at the recommended compensation, and authorize the Chairman's signature on the new agreement. Roll call: Ayes: Dean, Fritsche. Nay: Gans.

The Board revisited the Fair Board members and Fair Board Manager position.

Jiles Bowman, Fair Manager, Jo Teter, Fair Board President, Don Klien, Fair Board Member, Deb Lafferty, Past Fair Board Manager, and Deb Korte, Past Fair Board President, were present. The Board had several questions before they felt comfortable reappointing anyone.

A motion was made by Dean to table appointing the Fair Board Manager, and to proceed appointing the Board members. The motion died for lack of a second. Discussion continued at length, with no resolution.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Dean, to enter executive session at 12:20 p.m. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to come out of executive session at 1:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to reappoint Jiles Bowman as Fair Board Manager for 2025. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to reappoint Brian Reynolds and Gail Rippe to Fair Board, Terms to Expire December 31, 2027. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to appoint Galen Perry to Fair Board to Replace Chas Fritsche, Term to Expire December 31, 2027. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

The Board reviewed Don Wilson's audit findings from the FY 2023/2024 audit. There was a duplicate payment to 20/20 Technologies in December 2023 that was missed by the Clerk's Office, 20/20, and all three Board members.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter to Donald D. Wilson, CPA outlining the response "We will endeavor to look more closely at the claims from this point on." Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Dean, to approve amended Resolution Nos. 1538 and 1539, cleaning up the wording to make them more understandable. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Crystal Dack, County Treasurer, presented Resolution No. 1552, Book 24, Page 59 to Advertise Delinquent Taxes.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to authorize the Chairman's signature on Resolution No. 1552, Book 24, Page 59 to Advertise Delinquent Taxes. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Dack also clarified several fund transfers that the Board had questions about.

The following claims were allowed:

GENERAL FUND Net Salaries 136,699.57 AFLAC 1,577.99 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 19,661.93 Black Hills Energy 863.72 Bighthouse Financial 50.00 Candlewood Suites Kearney 1,874.25 City Of McCook 1,140.00 Colonial Life 233.18 Cornhusker Marriott Hotel 363.00 Credit Management Services 135.76 DAS State Accounting 357.50 Electronic Systems Inc 198.20 Election Systems & Software Inc 1,071.63 Empower Retirement 1,200.00 FGH Law Office, LLC 938.70 Furnas County Sheriff 78.60 Great Plains Communications Inc 919.89 Lancaster County Sheriff 20.80 MASA Global Building 252.00 McCook Gazette 16.02 MNB Bank 37,267.91 MNB Bank 45.50 Mousel Brooks Schneider & Mustion 1,902.46 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 5,408.48 Casey Nelms 613.91 Principal Voluntary Child Life 6.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 196.92 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 93.12 Quadient Finance USA, Inc 277.11 Red Willow County Self Insurance 4,250.00 Red Willow County Clerk 971.67 Principal Vision

Plan 276.12 Total 218,961.94 ROAD FUND Net Salaries 34,528.84 AFLAC 231.61 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 5,161.61 Black Hills Energy 298.77 Brazos Trailers LLC 774.97 Decatur Co-Op Association 2,438.32 Empower Retirement 100.00 Great Plains Communications Inc 41.31 Lakeside Sand & Gravel LLC 2,557.76 Lingo Communications 72.82 Lords Inc 46.98 Masa Global Building 70.00 MNB Bank 10,119.64 Mittens 1,382.80 Nationwide Retirement Solutions 400.00 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 1,520.44 NMC Exchange LLC 5,092.96 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 Ruggles Truck & Trailer Sales LLC 40.00 Twin Valleys Public Power District 110.71 Village Of Bartley 124.97 Principal Vision Plan 81.35 Total 66,441.96 FAIR FUND Net Salaries 7,967.29 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 1,103.99 MNB Bank 2,252.87 McCook Utilities 258.57 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 359.90 Principal Voluntary Child Life 5.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 39.50 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 7.95 Principal Vision Plan 26.05 Total 12,021.12 SELF-INSURANCE FUND Lucent Health Solutions LLC 23,399.47 Principal Life Insurance Company 3,780.95 Total 27,180.42 ARENA FUND Net Salaries 3,727.13 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 549.03 MNB Bank 940.58 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 122.78 Red Willow County Self Insurance 200.00 Red Willow County Road Dept 446.72 Principal Vision Plan 26.05 Total 6,012.29 HEALTH FUND Net Salaries 11,023.05 AFLAC 302.43 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 1,542.58 Empower Retirement 150.00 Masa Global Building 14.00 MNB Bank 3,092.10 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 400.94 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 17,009.16 WASTE FUND Net Salaries 3,033.44 Great Plains Communications Inc 205.73 MNB Bank 632.56 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 31.78 Total 3,903.51 Grand Total 351,530.40.

Chairman Gans adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting at 1:57 p.m. to February 10, 2025.

Ted Gans
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Randy Dean
Chairman, Board of Equalization

Charles Fritsche
Chairman, Noxious Weed Control Board

Attest: Penelope Cooper
County Clerk