

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 9, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Absent; Kathy Hirschman, AYE; and Jessie Urbanski, Absent. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky. Due to the weather, the meeting was recessed until 10:03 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Absent. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- NONE

**Public Hearing-To Amend Zoning Regulations to update a portion of the Wind Generator Facilities** – Rasmussen made a motion to open the Public Hearing to amend zoning regulations to update a portion of the wind generator facilities at 10:03 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Mail** – None.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**Road Discussion**- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the current condition of the roads due to the previous day's snowstorm. Road crews were out cleaning county roads. Some of the roads are drifting shut behind the motor graders. East/West roads seem to have more drifting due to the wind. Ms. Thomsen estimated it would take two days to get everything cleaned up with more snow expected this week. The road crews will work extra hours if needed.

### **REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky acting as Chairman Sine dine asked for nominations for the Board Chairman for the year 2024. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to nominate Kathy Hirschman for Board Chair for the year 2024. Hirschman made a motion that nominations cease and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Chairman Hirschman then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Hirschman made a motion to nominate Gary Rasmussen for Vice Chairman. Mr. Rasmussen declined the nomination. Motion was made by Hirschman to nominate Jessie Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Treasurer Resolutions** - County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented two resolutions to the Board for their approval. **Resolution 2024-1** allows the Treasurer to deposit in any bank in excess of the capital stock and surplus of the bank, secured by pledges and assets for the bank. **Resolution 2024-2** gives the Treasurer the authority to invest funds in excess of current needs. Hirschman made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1 and Resolution 2024-2, Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. The Treasurer’s semi-annual report was presented by Howard County Treasurer, Sara Roy. Hirschman made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s semi-annual report and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Appointments**- The County Board went through the list of appointments of Committees as follows:

**HOWARD COUNTY APPOINTMENTS – 2024**

Region III Governing Board	Jessie Urbanski
Mid Plains Center for Mental Health	Jessie Urbanski
Midland Area for the Aging	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Community Action Partnership	Gary Rasmussen
Mid NE Individual Services	Jessie Urbanski
County Health Board	Dr. Chris Tomhave
	Sheriff Tom Busch
	Clerk Brenda Klanecky
Central Community College	Kathy Hirschman
Loup Central Regional Landfill	Kathy Hirschman
ADA Advisory Board	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Joint Housing Authority	Gary Rasmussen
Grievance Committee	All County Commissioners
Planning and Zoning	Ron Kulwicki (25)
	Terry Spilinek (25)
	Randy Kauk (25)
	Dave Sack (26)
	Jeff Christensen (26)
	Ken Kozisek (24)
	Jack Reimers (24)

	Daryl Anderson (26)
	Chris Kosmicki (26)
Board of Adjustment	Dave Boehle (26)
	Janet Thomsen (26)
	Mike Nelson (25)
	Chad Donscheski (26) – Alternate
	Terry Spilinek (24)
	Glenn Killion (25)
Safety Committee	Allen Wilshusen
	Jessica Hancock
	Kay Placke
	Lisa Johnson
	Jessie Urbanski
	Janice Jares
	Pat Koperski
	Janet Thomsen
	Marla Mason
	Tom Busch
	Melissa Paxton
	Jennifer Ostendorf
	Cariena Birchard
Tourism & Lodging Committee	Sheila Horak (25)
	Evelyn Dvorak (26)
	Donna Nielsen (26)
	Judy Dugan (25)
	Beth Cummings (25)
City/County Communications	Kathy Hirschman

	Jessie Urbanski (Alternate)
Extension Board	Denise Rathman
	Justin Wells
	Chandra Kosmicki
Hospital Board	Carol Schroeder
	Harriett Steenson
	Dan Nielsen
	Dave Brehm
	Mike Nelson
GIS Steering Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Neal Dethlefs
	Tim Aitken
	Brenda Klanecky
Loup Basin Health Dept. Representative	Gary Rasmussen
Howard County Spirited Citizen	Steven Neal
St. Paul Senior Center, Inc. Board	Gary Rasmussen
Crime Commission Grant Board	Tom Busch
	Dave Schroeder
	Brenda Klanecky
	Kathy Hirschman
Building Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Brenda Klanecky
South Central Economic Development Rep.	Laura Berthelsen
	Parker Klinginsmith (Alternate)
Loup Basin RCD Board	Gary Rasmussen
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Jessie Urbanski

A letter was received from the Howard County Medical Center stating that Carol Schroeder had agreed to extend her term another six years.

Rasmussen made a motion to approve the County Appointments as discussed. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Loup Central Landfill Association Resolution 2024-3** - Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3 to appoint Kathy Hirschman as the representative for Howard County on the Loup Central Landfill Association Board. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Highway Superintendent** – Rasmussen made a motion to re-appoint Janet Thomsen as Highway Superintendent and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Emergency Manager** -Rasmussen made a motion to re-appoint Allen Wilshusen as Emergency Manager and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Planning and Zoning Administrator** -Rasmussen made a motion to re-appoint Cherri Klingensmith as Administrator seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Meeting Dates** – The first meeting in May has been changed from May 14, 2024 to May 9, 2024, due to the primary election falling on that date. The December 24, 2024, meeting has been changed due to being a county holiday. Commissioners agreed to change the December 24, 2024 meeting to December 26, 2024. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Meeting Dates as presented. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Payroll Designation** – The Board reviewed the current policy regarding pay dates. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to keep the current payroll policy. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Engineer** – The County received a letter from Lance Harter asking to re-appoint Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Fair Labor Law** - Hirschman made a motion and seconded by Rasmussen that the County abides by the Fair Labor Law. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Bank Depositories** –

Boelus State Bank	Boelus, NE
Homestead Bank	St. Paul, NE
Citizens Bank & Trust	St. Paul, NE
Heritage Bank	St. Paul, NE
NPAIT	Lincoln, NE
NE Class	Lincoln, NE

County Treasurer, Sara Roy was present to discuss the Bank Depositories. Previously, the County had voted to add NE Class as a depository. Motion was made by Hirschman to approve the six depositories as listed and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Medical Provider** – Rasmussen made a motion to approve all doctors at the Howard County Medical Center as Official County Doctors. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Paper and County Website** – Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen that the Phonograph Herald is named the Official County Paper and the County’s Website the Official Website. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Contractors** - Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen that all contractors will file their proof of liability insurance with the County Clerk’s office for any County work to be done. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Burial** - Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman that the County will pay \$750.00 for both burial and cremations and will be buried only in the County lots. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Fuel Providers** -

Agricultural Services	Boelus, NE
Aurora Coop	Dannebrog, NE
Aurora Coop	St. Paul, NE
Casey’s General Store	St. Paul, NE
Jim’s Truck Stop	St. Paul, NE
K & B Kwik Stop	St. Paul, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Libory, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Paul, NE

Hirschman made a motion to approve the fuel providers as listed and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen-Aye, Hirschman-Aye and Urbanski-Absent. Motion passed.

**Gravel Providers** –

Central Sand and Gravel	Grand Island, NE
Hooker Bros.	Grand Island, NE
Island Land Handlers Inc.	Grand Island, NE
Liberty Sand and Gravel	Elba, NE
Mid-Nebraska Aggregate Inc.	Grand Island, NE

Ulrich Gravel Inc.

Ord, NE

Rasmussen made a motion to approve the gravel providers as listed and Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**2024 County Holidays –**

New Years Day	Monday, January 2, 2024
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 15, 2024
President’s Day	Monday, February 19, 2024
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27, 2024
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4, 2024
Labor Day	Monday, September 2, 2024
Columbus Day	Monday, October 14, 2024
Veteran’s Day	Monday, November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28, 2024
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 29, 2024
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, 2024
New Years Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Motion made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to approve the 2024 County Holidays as listed. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Public Hearing-To Amend Zoning Regulations to update a portion of the Wind Generator Facilities –**

Cherri Klinginsmith, Planning and Zoning Administrator presented the amendments to Zoning Regulations. After discussion, Rasmussen made a motion to close the hearing at 10:45 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4, amending certain sections of the Howard County Nebraska Zoning Regulations, specifically, Sections 4 and 6 of Wind Generator Facilities, “Requirements for small wind energy systems shall be permitted as an accessory use within any district where the use is listed and allowed,” and “Wind generator towers are limited to one tower per quarter section.” Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Law Enforcement Seminars-2024** -Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman received an email regarding Law Enforcement Seminars being offered by NIRMA. The training is geared towards law enforcement but also included County Attorneys and County Boards. The training would provide six hours of continuing education. The seminars will be held March 11-14 in various locations. One of the seminars will be in Grand Island on March 13<sup>th</sup> with no cost to the County. This information is to be shared with the Sheriff’s Department.

### **Excess Equipment-Transfer 2009 Ford F150 from the Sheriff's Department to the Emergency Manager-**

Sheriff Tom Busch provided a letter to the Board transferring a white 2009 Ford F150 pickup from the Sheriff's office to the Emergency Manager. A law/fire radio and all of the red and blue emergency lights and siren will be left on the vehicle. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the transfer of the 2009 Ford F150 pickup from the Sheriff's Department to the Emergency Manager and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. The pickup is to be delivered to the Road's Department to have decals and a toolbox removed.

### **Emergency Manager Updates-**

Some of the activities the Emergency Manager has been involved in and is currently working on are as follows:

Tire Grant.

Set date and location for tire disposal. Possible dates March 23<sup>rd</sup> or April 6<sup>th</sup>. Board asked that this information be brought to the second meeting in February, 2024.

NRD Application.

Webinars.

Assist Grants.

Grant to NEMA.

Regional PET meetings.

Twin Loups meetings.

Code Red.

Check on county tower located on Wausa Road.

March 18<sup>th</sup>-Weather Awareness seminar at the Civic Center.

**Review property schedules for NIRMA Insurance-**The Commissioners reviewed all County owned vehicles, towers and buildings, listed on NIRMA Insurance schedules. The Clerk will ask NIRMA some questions regarding the coverage and get back with the Board.

**Windows** – Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman had no new information to share with the Board.

**Executive Session** – Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen to go into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 11:48 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 11:48 a.m. Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen to come out of Executive Session at 12:11 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Action-The Commissioners, Hirschman and Rasmussen met with Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen and Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, separately during executive session to discuss their evaluations.

**Consent Agenda** - Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 12/27/2023, Treasurer, Clerk, District Court and Sheriff's Reports and Claims dated 1/9/2024, General-\$65,877.01; Road-\$141,718.36; Covid Funds-\$18,053.00; and 911 Emergency Management Funds-\$750.71 for a total amount of \$226,399.08. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman, seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be January 23, 2024.

Dated this 9th day of January, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 23, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of January, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th day of January 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

### **Pledge of Allegiance** -

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** Congratulations to Howard County Dispatchers, Starcie Burkett and Karol Dvorak, who completed the APCO International Communications Training Officer Graduates Certificates. In 2022 Nebraska passed a baseline training standards for 911 Dispatchers. Both Burkett and Dvorak have met those standards.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen updated the commissioners on the conditions of the county roads during the recent snow storms. Also discussed were comments made by the public. Sign training on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Set a date for Road's Work Session-** After discussion the commissioners agreed to meet with the highway superintendent on February 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. for a road work session.

### **Mail** –

NACO District Meeting 3/21/24-Hirschman and Urbanski plan to attend.

County Board Chair Workshop 2/16/24-Rasmussen, Hirschman and Urbanski plan to attend.

Courthouse Security Training to be held in March by NIRMA.

CNCAA's Spring Conf April 18-19

Thank you note from CASA

### **Unfinished Business-**None.

**NIRMA Insurance Schedule Review** –A review of county vehicles to decide whether each vehicle should have full physical damage coverage. Urbanski made a motion to remove full physical damage coverage from the 2003 ambulance and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-5-Transfer Funds from General Fund to ARPA Fund** –Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 to transfer funds from the General Fund to the ARPA fund to reimburse in the amount of \$140,121.00 for IRS penalties and interest expenses that were not qualified expenses that previously were paid out of the ARPA fund and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**IT Grant-Doug Cramer** – Doug Cramer and Eli Hunter with Hamilton Information Services were present to discuss a State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program for fiscal year 2024 with the Board. The Grant would cover 80% of the expense and the County would be responsible for 20% to implement the testing, policies and upgrade cybersecurity. They also explained what their service would provide to the County and how the process would work. Urbanski made a motion to apply for the Cybersecurity Grant and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Addendum to Fuel Providers-Charlie’s Station-Elba, NE** -Due to not having a quorum to vote on Charlie’s Station-Elba, NE at the re-organizational meeting, an addendum to add Charlie’s Station-Elba, NE was presented to the Board. Jessie made a motion to approve the addendum to add Charlie’s Station to the fuel providers for 2024 and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Abstain; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Rob Schultz-Update Weed Department, Discuss/Approve NDA State Reports, Resolution 2024-6 Delegate Authority to Weed Control Superintendent** –Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-6 to delegate authority to the Howard County Weed Control Superintendent and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz presented the Weed Control Authority Board Roster; the Budget Report; the Noxious Weed Report; the Noxious Weed Infestation Report; and the Activity Report for year 2023 to the Board and answered questions of the Board. Urbanski made a motion to approve the reports and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Vacate Bader Subdivision** – Howard County Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Greg Bader were present to discuss the vacate of Bader Subdivision. The single lot subdivision was previously approved by the Board in March 2023. Due to errors in the measurements of the subdivision, Ms. Klinginsmith stated to correct the issue, the current subdivision would need to be vacated. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the vacate of Bader Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Single Lot Subdivision application for Paulders Subdivision** – Howard County Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Greg Bader were present to discuss the application for a single lot subdivision for Paulders Subdivision. The current single lot subdivision application is located in a portion of the vacated Bader Subdivision. The application meets all regulations. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application for a single lot subdivision known as Paulders Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Distress Warrants-Sheriff’s Dept.-Graves and Jarman** – Howard County Chief Deputy, Mike Hoff was present to discuss two distress warrants to strike from the records. The first one in the amount of

\$45.31 for Jarman who is deceased. Urbanski made a motion to strike the Jarman distress warrant and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The second one for Graves in the amount of \$887.71 for personal property which is in bankruptcy. Urbanski made a motion to strike the Graves distress warrant and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Brennan's Lawn Care Inc. – Fertilizer Estimate** – Alan Brennan brought in a fertilizer estimate for the courthouse lawn for 2024 in the amount of \$1,500.00. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the estimate in the amount of \$1,500.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Present Financial Statement Books ending June 30, 2023 from Countryman Assoc. to Board** - A management representation letter was received from Countryman Associates PC for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 audit. Upon review of the letter and the draft of the Financial Statement Transmittal and Approval, Rasmussen made a motion to approve the signing of the letter and the financial statement as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mike Koperski-Executive Session** - -- Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 10:41 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 10:41 a.m. Present in executive session were Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski and Mike Koperski, Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to come out of Executive Session at 10:52 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the minutes, payroll and claims as presented. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 1/9/2024, Payroll and Claims for 1/23/2024: General-\$236,072.29 and Roads-\$66,555.74, for a total of \$302,628.03. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be February 13, 2024.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

February 13, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th day of February, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 7th day of February 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

### **Pledge of Allegiance** -

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

### **Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the USDOT Bridge Investment Program. This is a federal program with 9.7 billion dollars available. Howard County does not meet the funding levels. The State of Nebraska will sponsor a webinar on Safe Streets next week. There will be a Nebraska Bridge Conference in April. The County Engineer attends this conference. Ms. Thomsen stated she will continue to look for funding opportunities for the County.

**IBEW Discuss Possible Grievance**- Jerry Thompson requested the Board to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation. Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session at 8:37 a.m. regarding possible litigation and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation at 8:37 a.m. Those present in executive session were Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski, Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to come out of executive session at 8:54 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

### **Mail** –

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Zoom Meeting Minutes

Programmatic Closeout of FEMA Disaster 4375

Letter from NDEE

Letter regarding completion of the Tax Credit Program (Courthouse Steps Project).

Letter from Judy Puncochar to the Planning and Zoning Commissioner

NACO Legislative Report

NIRMA Annual Report

**Unfinished Business**-Allen Wilshusen stated that Jim Scheer would be working on the Howard County tower this week.

**Public Hearing-Open Gravel and Hauling Bids** –Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:01 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The Gravel and Hauling Bids were opened. Bids received were from Hooker Brothers Sand & Gravel, Island Land Handlers, Liberty Sand & Gravel, Mid-Nebraska Aggregate, Ulrich Sand & Gravel, and Wilson River Bottom Express. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:14 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the gravel bids and hauling bids as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Amendments to Odor Footprints** – Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:15 a.m. to amend the odor footprints and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Steve Wissing, Terry Spilinek and Jeff Christensen were present to discuss the odor footprints. The odor footprint will remain in place until landowner requests a change. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:31 a.m. and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-7 which amends Districts, Boundaries and Maps, Section 7, A-1 Agricultural District, Section 2, and A-2 Agricultural - Transitional District, Section 2. The Planning and Zoning Administrator will amend the zoning regulations and republish accordingly. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Verizon Tower** –Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the Verizon Tower at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present were Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Jeff Christensen, Terry Spilinek, Emily Milewski with Verizon and Andy Kampen with KGI Wireless. The new location for the tower will be 1200 feet off of Hardy Road. The Planning and Zoning Board had previously voted to approve the tower at the new location. Jessica Hancock was also present to ask questions regarding the tower. Her questions were answered by Ms. Milewski. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:43 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for Verizon Tower in the new location and Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Update Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Subdivision Regulations** - Ms. Klinginsmith was present along with Jeff Christensen, Terry Spilinek and Steve Wissing to discuss updating the comprehensive planning and zoning subdivision regulations. State law requires that updates be made every ten years. Marvin Planning Consultants Inc. was contacted. Ms. Klinginsmith received a quote of \$50,000.00 for the County and \$24,500 split between the six villages. All of the villages have been notified. This company comes highly recommended. Keith Marvin stated it would be two to three months before the company could start. Payment plans are available for the villages. The County will not have to go out for bids as this is for professional services. Urbanski made a motion to approve Marvin Planning Consultants Inc. in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be paid out of the ARPA funds to update the comprehensive planning and zoning subdivision regulations and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Possible Addendum for Pay Scales Regarding Both Union Contracts** – Jessica Hancock, Neal Dethlefs, Sara Roy, Tom Busch, Jerry Thompson and Janet Thomsen were present to discuss pay scales regarding both union contracts. Mr. Thompson presented two Addendum's to the IBEW Local 1597 Agreement for

the Roads Department, Dispatch and the Courthouse employees. The addendum would add pay scales from 8+ years to 18+ years. Currently the wage scales are set from 0 to 8 years. Employees and elected officials discussed the current agreement and how changes would affect employees. The change will affect three employees. Hirschman asked if the affected budgets could absorb the increases. She also questioned the effective date. The beginning of the next pay period would be February 18, 2024. The increase of 4% would be effective July 1, 2024. Original pay scales would remain the same. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Addendum Agreement by adding an additional 8+ to 18+ years of service to the pay scales and that the addendum be effective February 18, 2024, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Scrap Tire Grant- Allen Wilshusen** – Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present along with Jeremy Meyer and Matt Helzer to discuss the upcoming scrap tire collection in Howard County. Mr. Wilshusen suggested holding the event on Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It would be suggested that the County Commissioners be present. Mr. Wilshusen is going to reach out to all of the schools in the County to see if they have students willing to help. This will be for Howard County residents only with a limit of 30 tires. The collection will take place at the fairgrounds. The County will provide a payloader and two employees. The City of St. Paul had approved an alternate location at the tree dump north of town as well as one payloader and one employee. A flyer will be placed in the paper and on facebook. Mr. Wilshusen will send a copy of the flyer to the Clerk for the Commissioners to approve of the content prior to publishing. Urbanski made a motion to approve the date of Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds to collect 175 tons of scrap tires only, no rims limited to 30 tires and Howard County residents only with the County providing one payloader and two employees and the City of St. Paul providing one payloader and one employee and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Audit** – The Clerk received the Audit books from Contryman and Associates and presented to the Commissioners for review. Rasmussen made a motion to accept the Audit and Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Homeland Security Grant** – Adam Jurgens, Sales and New Business Developer for Hamilton Telecommunications was present to discuss a Homeland Security Grant. This grant would cover physical security needs such as cameras and access controls. Hamilton will complete the application and the County would need to submit. The grant does not have a matching funds requirement. Rasmussen made a motion to apply for the Homeland Security Grant and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Clerk will email the completed application.

**2023 Annual Report – NE Extension in Howard County** – The Board reviewed the 2023 Extension Annual Report. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Extension Report and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**MIPS Budget Revision/Compensation** – The Clerk has been working with Amy Nelson, the Clerk from Fillmore County on the new MIPS Budget system. The Howard County Clerk discussed with the Board to reimburse the Fillmore County Clerk for her time spent as well as mileage. The Board has asked the Clerk to come back with an amount.

**Rob Schultz-Award** – The Nebraska Weed Control Association recognized Rob Schultz as the Superintendent of the year in Weed Control for the State of Nebraska for 2023. Mr. Schultz has gone above and beyond the necessary duties to help prevent the spread of noxious weeds across the state.

**Windows**- State Glass came out last week and looked at the windows. The windows would be a commercial grade. Discussion was held whether the County wants windows that can open or not. Also discussed were the fourth floor windows. We will wait until a quote is received from State Glass before proceeding.

Urbanski made a motion to recess the meeting at 11:28 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Dedicate Bench in memory of Jackie Synowski** – At 11:30 a.m. a large crowd of Jackie’s family, co-workers, and elected officials both current and past, gathered in the hallway on the second floor. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman spoke a few words about Jackie. Those attending also shared memories of Jackie. A Cinco de Mayo meal furnished by courthouse officials and employees was served following the dedication.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:02 p.m.

**Road Work Session** – Present to meet with the Board were Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt and Jerry Thompson.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the minutes, reports and claims as presented. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Commissioner Meeting Minutes dated 1/23/2024, Treasurer, Clerk, District Court and Sheriff’s Reports, and Claims dated 2/13/2024: General-\$77,218.04, Roads-\$101,535.47, Tourism-\$1,700.00, ARPA - \$10,408.32, 911 Emergency Management - \$750.96, and E911 Holding Account - \$428.00 for a total of \$192,040.79. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be February 27, 2024.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

February 27, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of February, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 21st day of February 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- Dan McKeon of Amherst, Nebraska, has filed for Legislature District 41. Mr. McKeon was present to acquaint himself with the Board.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to provide an equipment update to the Board. Discussed was the current status of the trucks. The Roads Department has started hauling gravel with the majority being stockpiled.

Equipment Surplus-Ms. Thomsen would recommend to surplus a 1994 Ford LTA9000, also known as Truck 2. Urbanski made a motion to surplus Truck 2 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye and Urbanski, Aye.

### **Mail –**

Opioid Payment  
Security Grant Application  
Update on LB1067  
Letter from History Nebraska  
Information regarding the Security Grant Application  
Letter from NIRMA regarding Money for Minutes

### **Unfinished Business-** None

**Single Lot Subdivision–Ropp Subdivision** – Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and John Ropp were present to discuss the single lot subdivision application for John Ropp. The name of the proposed plat is Ropp Subdivision. Ms. Klinginsmith answered questions from the Board. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the application for Ropp Subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-John and Ruth Ropp-Cemetery** –Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing for the conditional use permit at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Ms. Klinginsmith and John Ropp were present to discuss the conditional use permit application for a church, cemetery, community center and a school building for home schooling. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:29 a.m.

and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the conditional use permit application of John and Ruth Ropp as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Lisa Johnson-Courtroom Update and Additional Quote** – Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson talked with the Board regarding the updates made to the courtroom. With the current updates a book shelf is still on backorder. The technology updates by the State of Nebraska are slated to start in April 2024. Ms. Johnson received quotes to complete the updates to the gallery area. Rasmussen made a motion to table the updates to the gallery in the courtroom until a balance in the ARPA Funds account can be determined based on other outstanding projects to be completed and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mark Feeney-Road Maintenance Wildlife Management Areas** –Mr. Feeney contacted the Clerk’s office on Monday afternoon and will be unable to attend the meeting. This item has been re-scheduled for March 12, 2024.

**Rob Schultz-NDA Reports/Requirement Sheets/Interlocal Agreement** – Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to discuss the County Noxious Weed Program Evaluation (NDA Reports) with the Board. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the reports as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Schultz also presented an Interlocal Agreement for the Provision of Weed Control Superintendent Services By and Between The County of Hall, Nebraska and the County of Howard, Nebraska. The agreement shall commence on July 1, 2024, and shall terminate June 30, 2026. Urbanski made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Tom Busch-Letter Submittal** – Sheriff Tom Busch presented two letters to the Board. The first letter was dated February 27, 2024, resigning as Howard County Sheriff effective March 11, 2024. The second letter dated February 27, 2024, Sheriff Busch recommended Chief Deputy Mike Hoff be appointed as Sheriff to complete his term in office. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman stated as the resignation was not placed on the agenda, the Board would be unable to accept the resignation or the appointment. Chair Hirschman recommended Sheriff Busch change the resignation date to March 12, 2024. Both letters will be placed on the March 12, 2024, agenda.

**Executive Session-Employee Evaluations** – Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session to discuss employee evaluations at 10:47 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session at 10:47 a.m. to discuss employee evaluations. Those present were Gary Rasmussen, Kathy Hirschman, Jessie Urbanski, and Janet Thomsen. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to come out of Executive Session at 11:36 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve road employee’s compensation package effective July 1, 2024 and road employee evaluations as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 2/27/2024 and the minutes dated 2/13/2024 as presented. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Payroll and Claims dated 2/27/2024: General-\$245,783.00, Roads-\$86,682.79, for a total of \$332,465.79 and the minutes dated 2/13/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be March 12, 2024.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

March 12, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12th day of March, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 28th day of February 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen presented a corrected wage increases document to the Board. Ms. Thomsen corrections were made to the assistant road foreman and the roads department secretary wages. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the corrections on the wage increases for the roads department as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Bridge Projects- Ms. Thomsen stated that drone pictures would need to begin before the trees start to leaf out if the Board wanted to go that route. One of the bridges that is being looked at is located on Naper Road between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Estimated cost of replacement would be \$400,000.00- \$500,000.00. There may be some other bridges that can be rehabbed instead of replaced. Also discussed was the bridge located on Inman Road going out to the golf course. Hirschman would like to get a traffic count on the Naper Road bridge. This was the consensus of all the Commissioners. The roads department will be receiving a traffic counter to use next week. The County will be receiving \$248,926.52 in federal funds sometime this month.

Gravel retrieving is being done in the St. Libory area. Ms. Thomsen provided a truck and equipment status update. Discussed were future projects.

**Mail** –

Opioid Settlement Payment

Update on front step project

Uncashed check-Sheriff's Department-a note will be sent to the donor.

NIRMA Training

**Unfinished Business**- None

**Mark Feeny-Road Maintenance Wildlife Management Areas** –Mr. Feeny was present to discuss three of the four wildlife management areas, Leonard A. Koziol, Harold Andersen and Marsh Wren all located in Howard County. Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was also present for this discussion. The road grader operator based out of the Grand Island Game and Parks division that had maintained the access roads has retired. The program has been downsized and they are not looking to fill the position.

Mr. Feeney provided maps of the areas to the Board. Areas that need to be maintained are highlighted. Mr. Feeney handles all other maintenance except for grading the roads. The Game and Parks would like to enter into a service agreement with the Howard County Roads Department between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> to grade the roads 3-4 times during that period. This agreement could be done as an annual or three-year agreement. Ms. Thomsen has estimated a \$200.00 per hour fee. Board suggested that the Highway Superintendent drive through each area and also review the costs of what to charge. This item will be placed on a future agenda within the next month.

**Resignation Letter-Sheriff Busch** –Sheriff Tom Busch was present to provide the Board of Commissioners with a new letter of resignation effective March 12, 2024. Board asked Mr. Busch about seized guns and the location. Is there a list? Discussed when the guns can be sold for parts and who to contact. Rasmussen made a motion to accept Mr. Busch’s resignation with regrets. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Busch stated he did not currently have a County vehicle and would leave his equipment.

**Letter of Recommendation – Sheriff Busch** – Tom Busch presented a letter to the Board recommending Mike Hoff who currently serves as Chief Deputy to be appointed to the Sheriff position.

**Resolution 2024-8 – Sheriff Signatories** – Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-8, to add Sara Roy as signatory on the Sheriff and Jail accounts, Ms. Roy is already a signatory on the other two Howard County Sheriff accounts and remove Tom Busch as a signatory on all four accounts as listed on the Resolution. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Protocol And Appointment Process for Sheriff’s Position** – A new Sheriff will need to be appointed within 45 days (April 25, 2024) of Sheriff Busch’s resignation. It was the general consensus of the Board to advertise the position. Ms. Hirschman suggested that Commissioner Urbanski and former Sheriff, Harold Schenck be on the interviewing committee. Mr. Schenck had previously agreed to be on the interviewing committee. Rasmussen made a motion to advertise the Sheriff’s position and have Commissioner Urbanski and former Sheriff Schenck on the interviewing committee. Applications would need to be turned in by April 5, 2024. The committee will come back with a recommendation to the Board at a special meeting on April 16, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. and to advertise in the local paper, the NACO website and the Grand Island Independent. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 3/12/2024 and the minutes dated 2/27/2024 as presented. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Claims dated 3/12/2024: General-\$69,140.17, Roads-\$93,992.67, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$51,100.07, 911 Management Fund-\$750.96 and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$800.00 for a total of \$215,783.87, the minutes dated 2/27/2024, and Reports from the Clerk, District Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be March 26, 2024.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:       Brenda Klanecky  
                  Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

March 26, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12th day of March, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 20th day of March 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** Howard County Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen stated that Todd Duncan with NIRMA would be attending this afternoon's safety meeting to discuss courthouse security. Also, there will be a mock tornado drill tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen stated the Roads Department has been out clearing snow since yesterday. Should start receiving stop signs from the State of Nebraska, the railing on the Boelus bridge was installed, and the department will begin working on trees on Dannevirke Road, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue located east of Liberty Road (drainage), work on a road in the northern part of the County, spraying weeds, get the traffic counter set up on the Naper Road bridge. This bridge is estimated replacement cost of \$800,000.00. Any new bridges will require guard rails be installed.

### **Mail –**

Howard County Unclaimed Property

NIRMA Seminar Series

Email Update on Front Step Project

Email regarding Hospital budget

Opioid Payment

Final Funding Crime Commission Grant# 25-CB-0513

**Unfinished Business-** None

**Public Hearing-Vacate Woitaszewski Subdivision** –Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith presented the vacate of the Nelson Loup Hwy 11 Subdivision application by Linda and Andrew Woitaszewski located in 29-13-11. Per State requirement, the Woitaszewski's need to vacate the subdivision (7.3 acres) so they can split off 16.7 acres which will not be required to be a subdivision. The zoning board has approved at their last meeting. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:07 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the vacate of the Nelson Loup Hwy 11 Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-John Ropp-Odor Footprint** –Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for a conditional use permit for a commercial feedlot for John Ropp. The Planning and Zoning Board denied the permit 9-0. The Planning and Zoning Board suggested that Mr. Ropp apply for a farm feedlot odor footprint and ask for a conditional use permit. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:21 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to deny the Class 1 Feedlot Odor Footprint and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-Mark Serbousek-Small Wind Turbine** – Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Mark Serbousek were present to discuss placing a small wind turbine on his property. Mr. Serbousek has received approval from the Howard Greeley Public Power District. The wind turbine would be 76 feet tall from the ground to the top tip of the blade. The Planning and Zoning Board voted to approve the wind turbine at their last meeting, 8-1. This turbine would be for Mr. Serbousek's own use for his house and building. Only one wind turbine per quarter is allowed. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:42 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for Mark Serbousek's small wind turbine and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Nay; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**M & T Administrative Subdivision** – Howard County Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, presented the M & T Administrative Subdivision located in 29-13-11, due to family estate planning to separate off 3 acres. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the M & T Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye.

**Jon Kuck-Extend Minimum Maintenance Road** – Howard County Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen were present along with Jon Kuck to discuss Gordon Road north of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Kuck purchased 15 acres of ground in the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of 1-13-10. The maintained road end at 640 Gordon Road. Mr. Kuck would like to extend maintenance another 500 feet of Gordon Road to a driveway on his property. Mr. Kuck had come to the Planning and Zoning to obtain a building permit to build a house on the property. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Highway Superintendent to do a road study for an additional 500 feet on Gordon Road and bring the information back to the Board of Commissioners within 30 days and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmusen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. This item has been placed on the April 23, 2024 agenda at 9:00 a.m.

**Copier Quotes-Planning and Zoning/Extension** –Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, was present to discuss quotes received for a colored copier to be shared between the Planning and Zoning and the Extension offices. The lease will end on the current copier with no options to purchase. Several quotes were received. The most cost-effective quote was to lease a Canon 3930i for 48 months from Capital Business. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Canon 3930i colored copier and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Veteran's Service Committee Appointment**-A letter was received from Veterans Service Office Donald Shuda regarding County veterans service committee member John Van Winkle who passed away on January 14, 2024. Mr. Shuda is submitting the name of Dale Rasmussen for the Board's consideration to replace Mr. Van Winkle. Rasmussen made a motion to approve replacing Mr. Van Winkle with Dale Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Clerk will notify Mr. Shuda.

**Scrap Tire April 6, 2024 Update**- Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to go over the details of the upcoming Scrap Tire event taking place on April 6, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Currently Mr. Wilshusen has two students to volunteer from Centura Schools and one from St. Paul Schools to help. The City will provide a payloader and one man and the County will provide a payloader and two men. Forms were provided for the Commissioners to review to be used the day of the event.

**Windows Update/Bidding Process for Windows/Approve bid Spec Sheet**- Hirschman stated she has met with several window companies and would like to move forward with letting out bidding for the windows. In the specs would like to include Low E Standard Glass and on the first floor will be tempered glass. Eight sets of windows would be obscured glass, warranty, have a sun defense glass on the east, west and south sides of the buildings, fiberglass frames, some of the windows will be fixed, foam filled frame and the hardware will be brown. Will advertise in the local paper for two weeks and send out to interested window companies. Would like to have the bids back by April 19, 2024, and open bids the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., so the windows would be done in 2024. Urbanski made a motion to move forward with the bidding process plan and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Tax Sales Report-Treasurer, Sara Roy**-Treasurer, Sara Roy met with the Board to present a list of delinquent Real Estate Taxes sold at the Public Tax Sale on March 4, 2024, and explain how the process works. No action taken.

Urbanski left the meeting to attend a funeral at 9:50 a.m.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 3/26/2024 and the minutes dated 3/12/2024 as presented. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to approve the Payroll and Claims dated 3/26/2024: General-\$223,060.38, Roads-\$65,498.64, for a total of \$288,559.02, and the minutes dated 3/12/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be April 9, 2024.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 9, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9th day of April, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3rd day of April, 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

### **Pledge of Allegiance-**

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** Kathy Hirschman would like to congratulate Tyler Moslander and Jordan Solko for completing their 40-hour basic telecommuter course at Northeast Community College. This is mandated by the State of Nebraska. Mrs. Hirschman also wanted to congratulate Tim Aitken for receiving the award for Nebraska Surveyor of the Year.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following:

**Engineering Study-Intersections of 18<sup>th</sup> and Page Roads- Resolution 2024-9** -The Board reviewed the Sign Engineering Study for the Intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Page Road. The engineering study was conducted by Oak Creek Engineering. Following discussion, Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-9, to place a stop ahead and stop sign at the northwest intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Page Road and a yield ahead sign and yield sign for the southbound traffic at the southwest intersection and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Engineering Study-Intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Odell Roads-Resolution 2024-10**-The Board reviewed the Sign Engineering Study for the Intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Odell Road. The engineering study was conducted by Oak Creek Engineering. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-10, to place yield signs at the northwest corner and the southeast corner of the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Odell Road and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Surplus Equipment**-Mrs. Thomsen wished to declare Truck 8 and Truck 12 as surplus equipment. Urbanski made a motion to approve declaring Truck 8 and Truck 12 as surplus equipment and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mrs. Thomsen received a claim from an individual who claimed underground sprinkler damage along the county road. Sprinklers are located in the County right-of-way.

**Mail –**

Veterans Service Office Letter  
Opioid Payments Received  
NACO Legislative Report update  
NACO Registration for County Budget and Board  
Unclaimed Property-State Treasurer  
Drug Take Back Event-April 27<sup>th</sup>  
NIRMA Seminar Reminder  
Letters from Tax Equalization and Review Commission

**Unfinished Business- None**

**Crime Commission Grant Contingencies-Connie Holmes** –Connie Holmes was present to discuss the contingencies for grant awards 25-CB-0513 and 25-EB-0610 for a total of \$46,137.00. Urbanski made a motion to approve the contingencies as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Planning and Zoning-Update Application #2023-7 and (4) Notice and Affidavit or Error Forms- Cherri Klinginsmith, Planning and Zoning Administrator** –Mrs. Klinginsmith was present to discuss a letter that was sent to Lowell Poland, Application #2023-7 regarding conditions that need to be met before final review. There are also four Notice and Affidavit or Error Forms for Allen and Edna Ingerle which were subdivided off in 2013. These forms and survey are recorded to correct the property according to zoning regulations when over five years old. The property owners are responsible to record the documents. No action needs to be taken by the Board.

**Copier Contract-Planning and Zoning/Extension-Cherri and Doug** – Cherri Klinginsmith and Doug Anderson were present to discuss the copier contract. Current lease expires on July 14, 2024. The copier will have to go back to the company. The extension office would like to get the new copier prior to the fair. Both offices would have two payments on copiers prior to the end of the copier lease. The Board suggested that the new copier be placed in service on May 15, 2024. Urbanski made a motion to approve the signing of the new lease with Capital Business Systems, effective May 15, 2024 at a cost of \$114.00 per month plus any overages, this is for 1,000 color and 1,000 black copies per month, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Front Steps-Change Orders 3 and 5/Payments 4 and 5-Final Payment** – Board reviewed the change orders and final payment. Urbanski made a motion to approve the final change order 5 giving Howard County a \$210.00 credit and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The final payment of \$34,893.80 will be approved with the claims.

**Dispatch Door-Mike Hoff** – Mr. Hoff discussed the current entrance door into the 911 Center with the Board. Mr. Hoff will discuss installation with Pat Koperski. Rasmussen made a motion and seconded by Urbanski to install a keypad entry into the door. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Election Costs-Special Election St. Paul Schools** –Rasmussen made a motion to approve the election costs for the St. Paul Schools Special Election in the amount of \$7,904.56, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Nebraska Choice Gas Supplier-Courthouse and Roads Dept.**-This item will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

**Battery Backup-Server in Assessor's Office-Quote-** County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs, County Treasurer, Sara Roy, were also present to discuss a new battery backup for the server located in the Assessor's office. The quote received was for \$300.00 to replace the battery backup. The courthouse has had two brief blackouts that have caused issues. Also discussed were battery backups for individual computers. The battery backup for the server will be paid out of general fund.

**Scrap Tire April 6, 2024 Update-** Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the scrap tire collection that took place on April 6, 2024. He estimated they collected over 100 tons of scrap tires as of today. Mr. Wilshusen wanted to thank, county employees, Janet Thomsen, Brandon Matlock, Jeff McClure, Pat and LaDonna Koperski, and Kathy Hirschman. Mr. Wilshusen will place an ad in the paper thanking all of those involved. Mrs. Hirschman wished to thank Mr. Wilshusen for all of the time he spent on organizing the project.

**County Attorney Door-** Discussed was replacing the door to the County Attorney's office. Cariena Birchard was present for the discussion. Several ideas were talked about. Commissioner Urbanski agreed to head up the project. Urbanski made a motion to get quotes for the project and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 4/9/2024, the minutes dated 3/26/2024, reports from the County Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's Department as presented. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Claims dated 4/9/2024: General-\$58,562.03, Roads-\$66,276.38, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$450.00, Tourism Promotion Fund-160.00, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$38,213.64, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$750.86, E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$214.00, for a total of \$164,626.91, the minutes dated 3/26/2024, and reports from the County Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's Department. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be April 23, 2024.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

### Howard COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

April 16, 2024, St. Paul, Nebraska

The Howard County Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Nebraska, met in special session at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Gary Rasmussen, Kathy Hirschman, and Jessie Urbanski. Also present is County Clerk Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held. Notice of the special meeting was posted at the US Post Office, Citizens Bank and Trust, Homestead Bank, the 2nd Floor of the Courthouse and in the Clerk's office, the convened meeting was open to the public. Copies of the agenda are kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman stated that this week is National Dispatcher Week. She wanted to recognize Melissa Paxton, Michelle Busch, Starcie Burkett, Karol Dvorak, Tyler Moslander, and Jordan Solko.

Mrs. Hirschman also wanted to thank Commissioner, Jessie Urbanski and former Sheriff, Harold Schenck for their work on the background checks and interviewing the applicants for the Sheriff position.

Fill the Sheriff's Position –Commissioner Urbanski and Harold Schenck were present to discuss the interview process and answer questions that were asked by the Board. Mr. Schenck stated their recommendation is Mike Hoff. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Mike Hoff's appointment as Sheriff and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion and seconded by Rasmussen to make the Sheriff's appointment effective April 16, 2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Hoff will be sworn in on April 23, 2024. Sheriff Hoff thanked the Board and stated he would do his best.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the special meeting at 8:37 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2024

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:  
Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 23, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of April, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th day of April, 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following:

**Randy Hansen-Window Claim** –A claim was received from Randy Hansen for an incident that took place in February. Rasmussen made a motion to deny the claim and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Claim will be turned over to NIRMA.

**County Right-of-Way and Pivots Watering County Roads** - Ms. Thomsen placed notices in the paper this week regarding County Right of Way and also another regarding pivots watering County Roads. Also discussed, was road work currently being done and conditions of roads.

**Mail** –Verisk, Medical Center is having training for Suicide Prevention, NACO-Open Meetings Law, LB287 and LB43, and the Opioid Settlement from Janssen. The Cyber-security Grant applied for was not approved.

**Unfinished Business-** None

**Extend Minimum Maintenance Road-Jon Kuck**– Jon Kuck and Highway Superintendent Janet Thomsen were present to discuss the road with the Commissioners. Superintendent Thomsen conducted a road study. The road would need to be extended 412 feet to go from the end of the local road to Mr. Kuck's property. To conform with Howard County's regulations, the road would need to be upgraded from a minimum maintenance road to a local road to build a residence on the Kuck's property. It was suggested to have the landowner be responsible for the upgrade of the road and expenses. The road would then need to be inspected by the Roads Department to make sure it is updated to local State standards before the road classification is upgraded. Rasmussen made a motion and seconded by Urbanski that Howard County will enter into an agreement with the landowner and that the landowner will be responsible for the upgrade of the road to meet the classifications of the local State standards only up to the access of the property with the expenses to be the responsibility of the landowner. Roll

Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. This item will be placed on a future agenda when a contract has been drawn up for the parties to sign.

**Swear In Sheriff Hoff** –Lisa Johnson, Clerk Magistrate was present to swear in Michael Hoff as Howard County Sheriff. Many friends, family members and courthouse employees were present for the swearing in. Congratulations Sheriff Hoff.

**Taser Gun Contract/Release Canine-Sheriff's Department** –Sheriff Hoff was present to discuss a Taser Gun Contract from October 2023. The total contract was for \$30,814.80. Sheriff Hoff had contacted the company. This item will be placed on the next agenda when we get a new contract.

Sheriff Hoff wrote a letter to release K9 Justice to Thomas Busch effective March 12, 2024. Rasmussen made a motion to release ownership of K9 Justice to Thomas Busch effective March 12, 2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Gas Choice** –After comparing the different rates, Urbanski made a motion and seconded by Rasmussen to go with Symmetry for one year on all three locations. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Open Window Bids** –Window companies present were Obermiller Seamless, North Country and Pella. Other companies sending sealed bids were State Glass and J-Tech.

State Glass-Aluminum Windows-All Fixed-\$225,685.00

J-Tech-Endur Windows-Triple Pane Glass Vinyl tilt in sashes-\$178,426.00

Obermiller Seamless-Marvin Windows-Fiberglass with wood interior-\$385,800.00

North Country-Triple Pane Glass-PVC Vinyl windows-50-year warranty-\$125,992.00

Pella Windows-Fiberglass-Includes installation, Glass Warranty 20 years, Parts 10 years-\$165,971.90

North Country and Pella Windows gave presentations of their product.

Mr. Obermiller recommended that the County go with the Pella windows. Pella Windows was asked if the windows were all tempered glass. Their current bid includes the first floor and the stairways with tempered glass. To have all tempered glass windows would add around another 10% to the current bid. The installers would be local. Urbanski made a motion to approve the bid from Pella Windows with the stipulation to add tempered glass to floors 2, 3, and 4, (all windows in the courthouse), with a possible 10% increase for the additional tempered glass and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The project should be completed by Fall, 2024.

**Viterra Quit Claim Deed** –Urbanski made a motion to approve the Deed from Viterra to the County of Howard for a 14-foot-wide strip of land on the east side of the block where the current County Roads Department is located in St. Paul at the cost of \$1.00. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed from Viterra to the County of Howard for \$1.00 and have Hirschman sign the Form 521, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Lukasiewicz Feedlot Discussion-Planning and Zoning**- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cheri Klinginsmith was present to discuss a complaint from Lynda Berggren against the Kevin Lukasiewicz Feedlot, regarding manure runoff from the feedlot into the State and County road ditches. Ms.

Klinginsmith contacted Mr. Lukasiewicz to take care of the complaint. These complaints are presented to the Planning and Zoning Board as well as the Commissioners. NDEE requires that berms with vegetation are required. Ms. Klinginsmith will follow up with Mr. Lukasiewicz.

**Executive Session-Personnel-Sheriff Hoff-** The items to discuss did not warrant going into executive session. Items will be discussed at a future meeting when more information is available.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 4/23/2024, and the minutes dated 4/9/2024 and 4/16/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/23/2024: General-\$218,748.63 and Roads-\$60,255.27, for a total of \$279,003.90, and the minutes dated 4/9/2024, and 4/16/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be May 9, 2024, due to the Primary Election on May 14, 2024.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

May 9, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9th day of May, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 1st day of May, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the Courthouse, St. Paul Post Office, Citizens Bank & Trust and Homestead Bank and emailed to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:51 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following:

**Steve Johnson-Road Discussion** – Steve and Joyce Johnson, as well as Jon Kuck were present to discuss the county road, (Gordon Road), which goes by their property. Drainage from the county road into the ditch located south of their home was discussed. Ms. Thomsen will work with the road department to make improvements for the drainage. All parties were in agreement. Ms. Thomsen hopes to start this project next week.

**Mail** –Urban Security Solutions LLC, letter from Nebraska Department of Transportation, Capital Business Systems Inc., NIRMA

**Unfinished Business-** None

**Veteran's Service Budget, Re-appoint Cyboron-Don Shuda**– Veteran's Service Officer, Don Shuda, Margy Goerl, Larry Kiser, David Cyboron, Dale Rasmussen and Bryce Pearson were present to discuss the 2024-2025 budget. Last year's budget was set at \$39,910.00. Mr. Shuda asked that the budgeted amount stay the same for fiscal year 2024-2025. Howard County currently has 402 veterans living in Howard County. There are 66, 100% disabled veterans in Howard County. Mr. Shuda also provided an update on the Veteran's Cemetery in Grand Island. Also included was information regarding LB 1300. Urbanski made a motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$39,910.00 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Rasmussen made a motion to re-appoint David Cyboron and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**GCA Days-Ben Hancock** –Ben Hancock was present to request that the Board allow the Royal Coachman to close part of Paul Street during GCA Days on July 13, 2024, from 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. for the drag races. The Royal Coachman have purchased liability insurance. Rasmussen made a motion to approve

the closing of Paul Street on July 13, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for the drag races and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-John Ropp-Kimball Kalf Ranch** – Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:30 a.m., and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present were Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and John Ropp, James Swantz and two other individuals. Ms. Klinginsmith explained the operation at Kimball Kalf Ranch. Mr. Ropp is not expecting to go over 750 head of calves. The operation will be kept under 1,000 head of calves. The Planning and Zoning Board had previously approved the Conditional Use Permit 9-0 for a 1-year permit. The permit will have to be renewed in a year. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to close the public hearing at 9:40 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the Conditional Use Permit for John Ropp of Kimball Kalf Ranch. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Rezoning Application-Nicholas Busch and Isaiah Graham** –Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:45 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present were Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Isaiah Graham, Emily Graham, Nick Busch, Liz Busch, Brian Brown, Nick Earixson, Kay Meyer, Jerry Woodgate, John Ropp, Blake Schwartz, Eric Antonson, Brian Sack, James Swantz, Bob Hymer, Zack Rasmussen, Justin Killinger, Fire Chief, Mike Becker, and Kevin Brown. Those listed spoke during the public hearing both in support and against the re-zoning application. There were other individuals present that did not speak. Nicholas Busch, current landowner and Isaiah Graham, future landowner are applying to re-zone property from A-1 (Agricultural District) to A-2 (Agricultural -Transitional District) located in the SW1/2 of 25-14-10. The zoning change on the original application was for approximately 135 acres. An Official Survey Record was recorded in the Howard County Register of Deeds office on April 29, 2024, at Book 24, pages 1588, 1589, and 1590. The survey shows three tracts of land. Tract 1 (61.24 acres) is being purchased by Graham, Tract 2 (78.34 acres) to eventually be sold, and Tract 3 (106.12 acres) to be retained by Busch. A permanent easement between Nicholas and Elizabeth Busch and Wayne and Susan Knapp is shown on the survey to provide access to Tract 2, formerly known as Tract B and that said parcel is to be subdivided into no more than two separate parcels. The Planning and Zoning Board denied the request on April 17, 2024, 9-0, prior to the survey and easement being recorded. Phone calls and texts were received by Ms. Klinginsmith and the Board which were shared at the meeting. Public comment was addressed to the commissioners. The Board questioned the original application and what was published in the newspaper. Mr. Graham stated that they only want to re-zone Tract 2 from A-1 to A-2. Hirschman questioned whether the change could be made as a conditional use permit to Klinginsmith. Klinginsmith stated the Planning and Zoning Board would probably look at a variance. If the variance would be denied, they could look at a conditional use permit. Fire Chief, Mike Becker talked about access for the fire department. The Board questioned whether they could approve the current request when it was not advertised that way. Klinginsmith left the meeting to contact Planning and Zoning Attorney David Ptak. Per Mr. Ptak, the current request is for less acres than what was advertised and would be acceptable. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to close the public hearing at 10:40 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve re-zoning from A-1 to A-2, the remaining portion of Tract 2 as designated on the Official Survey recorded on April 29, 2024 in Book 24, pages 1588, 1589 and 1590, which includes the permanent easement between Nicholas and Elizabeth

Busch and Wayne and Susan Knapp, that will stay with the land including the condition of subdividing Tract 2 into no more than two separate parcels. The condition will be added to the current application. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**SCEDD-Sharon Hueftle** –Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director of the South Central Economic Development District and Laura Berthelsen, South Central Representative for Howard County were present to bring their 2023 Annual Report. Ms. Hueftle updated the Board on projects they are helping with in Howard County.

**Bristol Windows-Marty** – Todd Hosek with Bristol Windows provided a demonstration of windows.

**Skyler Mamot-Administrative Subdivision-** Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present along with Jim Arends to discuss the Skyler Mamot Administrative Subdivision. A motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Skyler Mamot Administrative Subdivision. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Audrey Worthing-Adrian Smith Office-** Audrey Worthing was present to provide updates from 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district, Adrian Smith’s office. Ms. Worthing set up a mobile office on the first floor of the Courthouse following her updates.

**Midland Area on Aging-Budget Request-Casey Muzic-** Casey Muzic was present to discuss their annual funding request in the total amount of \$23,609.00 for fiscal year 2025. This includes the membership fee of \$1,609.00 and program support in the amount of \$22,000.00. Ms. Muzic talked about the services provided to Howard County. Ms. Muzic has concerns with future funding with the cost increases.

**Recess-**Rasmussen made a motion to recess at 12:05 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Board recessed at 12:05 p.m.

**Reconvened-**The full Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

**Executive Session Personnel** - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 1:09 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in Executive Session are Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson and Mike Koperski. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 1:09 p.m. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to come out of Executive Session at 1:25 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to amend the step increase for a road’s worker effective July 1, 2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve insurance premium for insurance benefits of a road’s worker on extended leave will be prorated based on hours worked. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Executive Session-Litigation-** Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 1:30 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in Executive Session are Janet Thomsen and Brenda Klanecky. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 1:30 p.m. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to come out of Executive Session at 1:35 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

**Taser Gun Claim-Sheriff Hoff-** Sheriff Hoff was present to discuss the billing on the taser guns received in 2023 from Axon Enterprise Inc. The bill was in the amount of \$30,814.80, which was to be paid in five increments. Urbanski made a motion and seconded by Hirschman to pay the full amount of \$30,814.80, and take the funds out of the ARPA fund. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Update of Storm Damage in Howard County and Sign Disaster Declaration-Allen Wilshusen** – Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to give updates on storm damage to the County. Mr. Wilshusen is working with NEMA to report all the damage. The Disaster Declaration was signed by Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman on April 29, 2024.

**Annual TIF Report** – The Board reviewed the Annual TIF Report received from Parker Klingensmith, Executive Director of the St. Paul Development Corporation.

**Ardent Living Quotes -Courthouse Remodel Projects** – The Board reviewed estimates received for updates to the County Clerk, County Treasurer and County Attorney’s offices. It was decided to go out for additional bids. Rasmussen made a motion to table and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sign Grant#24-CB-0515 for Additional Funding**-Urbanski made a motion to approve signing the Grant # 24-CB-0515 for additional funding in the amount of \$1,000.00, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Notaries-Courthouse**-We currently have employees that are also notary publics located in the courthouse. The public comes in on a regular basis asking for a notary public. One of the courthouse employees has agreed to become a notary. Urbanski made a motion to approve an additional notary public in the courthouse and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Elect Director-East Central Region** – Urbanski made a motion to approve voting for Tim Hofbauer for director in the east central region and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**AKRS Contract** – Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve and sign the AKRS Contract for a tower lease. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Approve Request to pay Claims Twice in June** - Rasmussen made a motion and seconded by Hirschman to approve paying claims twice in the month of June. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Close Planning and Zoning Office on May 14<sup>th</sup> due to Primary Election** – Urbanski made a motion to close the Planning and Zoning Office on May 14<sup>th</sup> due to the Primary Election as the room is used for a polling place and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 5/9/2024, and the minutes dated 4/23/2024, (BOE and Regular Meetings) and Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff monthly reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 5/9/2024: General-\$127,349.43 and Roads-\$98,744.26, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$63,372.82 and 911 Emergency

Management Fund-\$1,040.99 for a total of \$290,507.50, the minutes dated 4/23/2024, and Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff monthly reports. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be May 28, 2024.

Dated this 9th day of May, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

May 28, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 28th day of May, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 1st day of May, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Absent; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** The County was represented in the Tyler Vanderheiden Memorial Run/Walk. The Nebraska Game and Parks along with the Tyler Vanderheiden Memorial partner to do a memorial event each year to remember Tyler Vanderheiden who died by suicide in 2015. Proceeds go for the creation and maintenance of trails in Nebraska. They strive to have participants from all 93 counties in Nebraska. The intention of their message is to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention while encouraging Nebraskans to practice self-care and get outside to enjoy our state.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: The condition of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also discussed were roads in the St. Libory area. Water was running over the road on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Several other roads were also discussed.

Jon Kuck Contract Review- The Board reviewed the contract that was drawn up. The Board questioned whether a deadline date needs to be set on the contract. Also questioned was placement of the fence. Changes will be made and reviewed by the Board at a future date.

**Mail** –Opioid Settlement Payment in the amount of \$2092.59, Letter from NDEE/Lukasiewicz, Scrap Tire Disposal Grant Payment, Mid-American Benefits -PCORI Fee, Letter from NIRMA, Legislative Updates, Medica Invite, and Letter from Howard County Medical Center.

**Unfinished Business-** None

**Howard County Medical Center-Budget/Morgan Meyer and Arlan Johnson**– Chief Executive Officer Arlan Johnson and Chief Financial Officer Morgan Meyer were present to discuss the hospital budget with the Board. Ms. Meyer noted that their revenues are higher as well as their expenses. Ms. Meyer would like to speak with our accountant regarding future budgets so we do not need to continue amending budgets. The accountant has been on vacation. Amending the budget will be on the June 25, 2024 Agenda. The amendment will need to be submitted to the State by July 1, 2024.

**NACO Update-Beth Ferrell** – Beth Ferrell with NACO was present to speak with the Board regarding upcoming County Budget Workshop, the Governor is scheduled to speak with the County officials. Other

updates included the legislative conference, ribbon cutting at the new site in Ogallala, December conference, and legislative updates.

**Public Hearing-One and Six Year Plan-Roads Dept** – Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:30 a.m., and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present was Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen. Ms. Thomsen discussed upcoming projects. Hirschman asked about the bridge projects. Gordon Road north of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Ms. Thomsen stated the Board can approve the One and Six Year Plan as presented and can amend later to add additional projects. Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to close the public hearing at 9:48 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the One and Six Year Plan as **Resolution 2024-11**. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Approval for Letting Bids/Shop Plans-County Roads Building** –Stacy Spotanski of Spotanski Creative Building Design and Drafting LLC, Janet Thomsen and Ray Hurt were present to discuss the letting of bids for the shop plans for the new County roads building. Mr. Spotanski presented the plans for the new roads building to the Board and answered all questions including the building possibly being built a little further south to meet the grade and also whether the State Fire Marshall would require a sprinkler system. Urbanski made a motion to approve the County building plans as shown and to go out for bids and set a date for the public hearing on July 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to open the bids and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sheriff Hoff-Personnel** –Sheriff, Mike Hoff, and deputies, Trev Sharman and Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss promotions within the department. Sheriff Hoff would like to promote Mr. Sharman and Mr. Tartaglia including pay raises. Discussed was the current budget and the budget moving forward. Also discussed was the hiring of an officer. The Board reviewed the Sheriff’s expenses through the end of May. The Board stated they would be able to make the promotions effective before the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Hoff will send a letter to the Clerk’s office regarding the promotions and pay raises.

**Sheriff Hoff-Body and Car Cameras** – Sheriff Hoff spoke to the Board regarding body and car cameras. Currently, the Sheriff’s office has car cameras. It would cost approximately \$22,000.00 to update the cameras the department currently uses. Axon has body cameras and car cameras. The Sheriff would like to order eight body cameras. If they buy seven the eighth one is free. The cameras (including body and car) would be on a five-year contract. The Sheriff’s department will get a contract with exact prices and bring back before the Board at the June 11, 2024, meeting.

**State Grant Award-** Connie Holmes was present to speak about Grant Number 25-CB-0513 in the amount of \$46137.00 for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Urbanski made a motion to approve the signing of Grant Number 25-CB-0513 and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Distress Warrant-Annual Report-Sheriff’s Department** -Sheriff Hoff spoke to the Board regarding the current distress warrants. Currently, there are two active warrants. Urbanski made a motion to accept the report and Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**M and K Mathews Administrative Subdivision-Michael and Kathleen Mathews-** Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Mike and Katie Mathews were present to discuss the M and K Mathews Administrative Subdivision. Ms. Klinginsmith gave the background history on the property. Urbanski made a motion to approve the M and K Mathews Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Code Red Billing Contract- Emergency Manager-**Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the Code Red billing contract which is ending June 30, 2024. He received a one-year contract in the amount of \$4828.00, annually and a three-year contract in the amount of \$4683.00, annually. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the three-year contract in the amount of \$4683.00 per year. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Security Camera-Courthouse** – The Sheriff received a bid from Urban Security Solutions LLC for a security camera. The Sheriff’s office will check the coverage of current cameras. This will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

**Sheriff’s Inventory/K9 and K9 Fund Claim** -The canine ownership was transferred to former Sheriff Busch. The County currently has a K9 Fund. During the last fiscal year the costs of the canine were taken out of general. The amount was \$561.60. The account will be reimbursed by the K9 Fund. The second item was a kennel that was installed at Mr. Busch’s residence. One was donated (\$1500.00) and the other was paid by the County (\$1251.00) for a total of \$2751.00. The permanent kennel paid for by the County is on the Sheriff’s inventory and will need to be transferred to Mr. Busch to come off of the Sheriff’s inventory. Sheriff Hoff will draw up a letter to be presented at the next Board meeting.

**FY2025 Agreement-Howard County Clerk of the District Court-**

Hirschman made a motion and seconded by Urbanski to approve the agreement between the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation and Howard County effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$18,024.00 annually. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Set Budget Dates/Budget Preparation** – Hirschman made a motion to begin the budget workshop on the afternoon of June 25, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and June 27, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 5/28/2024, and the minutes dated 5/9/2024, (BOE and Regular Meetings). Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to approve the payroll and claims dated 5/28/2024: General-\$232,209.57 and Roads-\$75,825.53 for a total of \$308,035.10, and the minutes dated 5/9/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Absent; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be June 11, 2024.

Dated this 28th day of May, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 11, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 11th day of June, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 5th day of June, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanicky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** None.

**County Road Discussion** –David Dominguez was present to discuss flooding issues on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and with his property after heavy rains fell on May 30, 2024. Mr. Dominguez provided photos to show the Board regarding the issue. Mr. Dominguez spoke about a neighbor that had straightened a creek which has caused his property to flood. Ms. Thomsen will meet with Mr. Dominguez this afternoon to check out the road and bridge that have been affected. Also discussed, was planting crops on County Road Right- A-Way.

Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to report to the Board regarding flood damage during the recent heavy rains on May 30, 2024. All of the roads are currently open. Ms. Thomsen stated the roads department is currently grading the minimum maintenance roads. Another issue is large piles of cornstalks that have washed in and need to be removed. They have approximately 13-20 areas affected by the flooding that will need repaired. Preliminary paperwork has been sent to FEMA regarding the flood damage.

**Mail** – Meeting notices from the City of St. Paul regarding public hearings to amend the redevelopment plan for the Middle Loup Subdivision and the National Opioid Settlement for Kroger Co.

**Unfinished Business-** None

**Vacate Dush Acres**–Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the vacate of Dush Acres (3.6 acres). The Dush and Bear vacates are being done to change to a multi-lot subdivision. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the vacate of the Dush Acres Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Vacate Bear Subdivision** – Ms. Klinginsmith was present to discuss the vacate of Bear Subdivision which is 3 acres. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the vacate of Bear subdivision. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Vacate Tract NW1/4 21-14-11-Mark & Patti Van Pelt** –Ms. Klinginsmith was present to discuss the vacate of Tract NW1/4 21-14-11, by Mark and Patti Van Pelt. The current tract is 2.9 acres, where their

residence is located. Urbanski made a motion to approve the vacate of tract NW1/4 21-14-11, Mark and Patti Van Pelt Subdivision, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mark & Patti Van Pelt Administrative Subdivision-** This administrative subdivision is where the Van Pelt's residence is located. The lot will include both the house and septic system in the subdivision. Motion was made Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the Mark & Patti Van Pelt Administrative Subdivision. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**MPVP Administrative Subdivision** –Ms. Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for the MPVP Administrative subdivision. This is in the same quarter as the Mark & Patti Van Pelt Administrative Subdivision. This would allow for two houses in the quarter. Urbanski made a motion to approve the MPVP Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Disaster Declaration** – Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the signing of the Disaster Declaration which Mr. Wilshusen had Ms. Hirschman sign on May 31, 2024 for the floods that took place on May 30, 2024. This has been submitted. Mr. Wilshusen and Michelle Woitalewicz attended an informational meeting with NEMA at City Hall on June 7, 2024.

**NIRMA Renewal** – The annual policy renewal is \$143,703.00. Last year's annual premium was \$155,888.00. The premium is \$12,185.00 less from last year. The Board reviewed the deductibles. Urbanski made a motion to approve the annual policy renewal and to leave the deductibles where they are currently set and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Region 3-FY2024/2025 County Match Request** – Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Region3-FY2024/2025 County Match Request in the amount of \$17,194.25 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Surplus Equipment-Dog Kennel-Sheriff's Dept.** – Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss surplus equipment-two dog kennels and presented a letter to the Board to remove the kennels from the Sheriff's inventory. The canine ownership was previously transferred to former Sheriff Busch. Kennels that were installed at Mr. Busch's residence, one was donated by American Fence in the amount of \$1500.00 and the other was paid by the County in the amount of \$1251.00 for a total of \$2751.00 are currently on the Sheriff's inventory. Rasmussen made a motion to remove the kennels from the Sheriff's inventory and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sheriff Hoff-Body and Car Cameras** – Sheriff Hoff spoke to the Board regarding the purchase of body and car cameras. Sheriff Hoff received a quote from Axon for 8 body cameras (buy 7 and get the 8<sup>th</sup> one free) in the amount of \$5,821.12 annually for a total of \$29,105.60 for a 5- year contract. They will receive updates and repair during the contract period. The car cameras are also a 5-year contract at \$18,926.88 annually for a total of \$94,634.40. The storage of video is included in the cost. Hirschman raised a concern of the additional \$24,748.00 annually that would need to be added to the Sheriff's budget. Also discussed was cost to install the cameras in the Sheriff's vehicles and if we will be looking to replace any of the current fleet. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 5-year contracts for the body cameras (\$29,105.60) and car cameras (\$94,634.40) with Axon and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Security Cameras-Dispatch/Courthouse** – The Sheriff received a bid from Urban Security Solutions LLC for a security camera for the courthouse and the Platte Valley quote for the dispatch camera replacement. Rasmussen made a motion to accept the quotes to add an additional security camera to the courthouse to increase coverage with additional monitoring at the 911 Center and to replace the security camera at the 911 Center and seconded by Urbanski. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Valley County/Howard County Jail Contract** – The contract was not ready to be signed. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

**Jessica Hancock-Cell Phone Allowance** – Motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski to deny Jessica Hancock cell phone allowance. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Executive Session- Personnel-Sheriff Hoff**- Present were Sheriff Mike Hoff, Trev Sharman, Paul Tartaglia and Malik and Shelby Bear Heels. Urbanski made a motion and Rasmussen seconded the motion to go into executive session at 10:50 a.m. to discuss personnel. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session to discuss personnel at 10:50 a.m. Urbanski made a motion and Rasmussen seconded the motion to come out of executive session at 11:28 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 6/11/2024, and the minutes dated 5/28/2024, (BOE and Regular Meetings), Clerk, District Court and Treasurer Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 6/11/2024, minutes dated 5/28/2024, and Clerk, District Court, and Treasurer Reports. General-\$228,532.35, Roads-\$108,770.51, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$2,850.00, Tourism Promotion Fund-\$5,640.00, American Rescue Plan-\$32,214.80, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$830.70, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$10,380.83 for a total of \$389,219.19. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be June 25, 2024.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 25, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of June, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of June, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanicky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen, were present to provide the Board with a flood update. Ms. Thomsen provided pictures of the damaged roads. She was out with NEMA and FEMA on Monday, June 24, 2024, to look at the flood damage. Several of the same roads were damaged three weeks ago due to heavy rains as well as in 2019. They are currently finding damage all over the County. Thomsen advised that the public should drive cautiously on the county roads. The Roads Department's main goal is to make all of the roads passable. Mr. Wilshusen reported that a page went out for Dannebrog on Saturday, June 22, 2024, for volunteers to put sandbags out and then pick up sandbags on Sunday. Several homes in Dannebrog reported water in the basement. Also reported was damage at Farwell. Mr. Wilshusen received correspondence from the USDA stating that farmers with damage should contact their local FSA office to see if they are eligible for any assistance. Congressman Adrian Smith's office also reached out to Mr. Wilshusen. The Code Red was used several times during the weekend.

**Executive Session- Jerry Thompson IBEW-Discuss Personnel-** Present were Union Steward, Jerry Thompson and Janet Thomsen. Rasmussen made a motion and Urbanski seconded the motion to go into executive session at 8:59 a.m. to discuss personnel. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session to discuss personnel at 8:59 a.m. Rasmussen made a motion and Urbanski seconded the motion to come out of executive session at 9:07 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Roads Department pay scale and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Howard County Ag Society-Request to use County Equipment** – Jerry Thompson and Janet Thomsen were present to request use of County Equipment during the Howard County Fair. The Howard County Ag Society is requesting permission to use a County Payloader during the Howard County Fair to prepare the track for the demolition derby. Two of the County Road's employees serve on the Howard County Ag Society Board would run the equipment. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the request and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye

## Mail –

Emails with Berggren Architects regarding Historic Tax Credits  
Various Planning and Zoning Correspondence  
Letter from NIRMA regarding ASSIST Awards  
Damage Assessment emails from NEMA  
Filings from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission  
National Opioids Settlements-Payment  
Updated County Purchasing Act amounts effective January 1, 2024 and after  
Champlin Tire Recycling Inc.

## Unfinished Business- None

**Dush Acres Second Subdivision**–Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Lenny Dush were present to discuss the Dush Acres Second Subdivision. During the last meeting two subdivisions were vacated. This is a multi-lot subdivision. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application of the Dush Acres Second Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Fries Subdivision-Administrative Subdivision**-Ms. Klinginsmith and Jim Fries were present to discuss the application for the Fries Subdivision. This subdivision is dividing the residence from the farm ground. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Fries Subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Fiber Optic Quote/Install Cables in Courthouse for Extension and Treasurer (phone)-Doug Cramer -**  
Doug Cramer was present to talk to the Board regarding additional cables that need to be installed in the Courthouse. The Extension office would not require additional cables for a copy machine. The Treasurer’s office would like to add an additional phone line at the counter. Mr. Cramer estimated the cost at \$500.00 to \$600.00. to run the cable. Urbanski made a motion to approve running a cable from the Treasurer’s counter to the Assessor’s rack for the additional phone line and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The second item was fiber optic quote for the courthouse. Lumen provided two different quotes, one bandwidth-200 Mbps and the other bandwidth-400 Mbps. Rasmussen made a motion to approve a three-year contract with Lumen fiber optic for the 400 Mbps bandwidth at \$688.00 per month and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Public Hearing-Amend Hospital Budget** – Rasmussen made a motion and seconded by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 9:30 a.m. regarding amending the Hospital Budget. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Arlan Johnson (CEO) and Morgan Meyer (CFO) were present to discuss amending the Hospital Budget due to increased staffing costs (employed and contracted), increased supply and drug costs associated with increased volumes, and increased benefit costs related to the facility’s self-funded health insurance plan in the amount of \$1.6 million. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:54 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve amending the hospital budget by \$1.6 million and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Clerk will submit the amended budget to the State Auditor’s Office. The hospital will be responsible for any expenses imposed on the County. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman stated this amendment does not change the County’s tax asking dollars.

**Resolution 2024-12 Transfer Funds-Communications** - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve Resolution 2024-12 transferring \$31,058.20 from the E911 Wireless Service Fund and \$10,352.74 from the 911 Emergency Management Fund to the Communications General Fund. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-13-Transfer Funds E911** – Rasmussen made a motion and Urbanski seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2024-13 to authorize the County Clerk and the County Treasurer to transfer \$4,880.86 from the E911 Wireless Service Fund to the 911 Holding account. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Dental Amendment Proposal/Worksite Benefits/1095/1094 Reporting-Kevin From**-Kevin From and Chad Svoboda with Svoboda Benefit Solutions Inc., were present to discuss 1095/1094 reporting and worksite benefits. Their company is able to do the reporting for a fee. If the County was to go with worksite benefits, the fee could be lowered. This will be reviewed at the time of renewal. The other item dealt with amending the dental plan for in network and out of network dental plan. Rasmussen made a motion to amend the dental plan to mirror the medical plan with In Network and Out of Network with the change to be effective on the October 1<sup>st</sup> renewal.

**First Light Child Advocacy-Leah Smillie**-Leah Smillie, Executive Director of the First Light Child Advocacy was present to request funding in the amount of \$4,000.00. Ms. Smillie provided the Board with information regarding families that have been served in Howard County and the services they provide in general. Urbanski made a motion to approve First Light Child Advocacy request for funding in the amount of \$4,000.00 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Valley County/Howard County Jail Contract** - The contract is on the Valley County agenda for June 25, 2024. This item will be placed on the agenda for July 9, 2024.

**Surplus Equipment-Ambulance and Car-Sheriff Hoff**-The Sheriff's office would like to surplus three vehicles. An ambulance, Charger and a Tahoe. The Sheriff will submit a letter listing the vehicles including a description and VIN numbers. This item is to be placed on the July 9<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**Purchase New Car Proposal-Sheriff Hoff**- The Sheriff's office received proposals for two vehicles, a 2022 Ford Police Interceptor and a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor as well as a quote for radio equipment for both vehicles in the amount of \$99,251.82. Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of the two vehicles in the amount of \$99,251.82 to be paid out of the ARPA fund and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Disaster Declaration** – Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the signing of the Disaster Declaration for heavy rain and subsequent flooding that occurred on Friday, June 21, 2024. Chairman Hirschman read the Disaster Declaration. Urbanski made a motion to approve Hirschman signing the Disaster Declaration and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**(2) SDL Applications-Bootlegger Inc.**-The Bootlegger Inc. is applying for (2) SDL's located at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The first event is to take place on July 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. The second event is to take place on July 16, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the two SDL's for Bootlegger Inc. as presented. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Transfer of Ownership/Courtroom Inventory**-The County received a letter from Corey R. Steel regarding courtroom technology items that the Nebraska Administrative Office of Courts and Probation (AOCP) purchased and installed for the County. Per an agreement signed between the AOCP and Howard County to transfer the courtroom technology. Urbanski made a motion to sign the Statement of Acceptance of Possession and Future Responsibility and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 6/25/2024, and the minutes dated 6/11/2024, and the Sheriff's Report. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 6/25/2024, minutes dated 6/11/2024, and the Sheriff's Report. General-\$296,978.78, Roads-\$145,280.52, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$2.50 for a total of \$442,251.69. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be July 9, 2024.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

2024-2025 Budget Session

June 25, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of June, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska, for the purpose of budget workshop.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of June 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

The Board met with several Department Heads to discuss their budget request amounts for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Rasmussen made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. The Board adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

2024-2025 Budget Session

June 27, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of June, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska, for the purpose of budget workshop.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of June 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

The Board met with Department Heads to discuss their budget request amounts for fiscal year 2024-2025.

The Board recessed at 11:55 a.m. for lunch and returned at 1:00 p.m.

The Board continued to meet with Department Heads.

Urbanski made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. The Board adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Dated this 27th day of July, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 9, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9th day of July, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3rd day of July, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanicky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to provide an update on the flooding. The Road's Department is continuing to repair the flood damaged roads. The highly traveled roads have taken priority. They will also be starting to work on the minimum maintenance roads. Bridge-23605 (8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East of Hwy 11) will be reviewed this afternoon. Also discussed were roads in need of gravel. Personnel-Ms. Thomsen questioned the Board on whether she could look at advertising for a Roadworker position. Urbanski made a motion to approve advertising for a Road's position and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mail** –

NIRMA Members Survey  
NIRMA Crime Coverage Agreement  
USAC Funding  
Hamilton Monthly Report  
Payment in Lieu of Taxes  
Treasurer's Semi-Annual Statement

**Unfinished Business** - None

**Open Bids County Roads Building-** Present were, Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson, Rob Schultz, and Stacy Spotanski. Also present was a representative from Hackel Construction Inc., who brought in a bid. Board Chair Kathy Hirschman opened the lone bid from Hackel Construction Inc., located in Ord, Nebraska. The lump sum base bid was \$2.6 million with an alternate of \$469,000.00. The alternate is considered an addition. Urbanski made a motion to reject the bid from Hackel Construction Inc. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Board held a brief phone call with Tanner Hackel to ask questions regarding the bid. The County Road's Building Committee will meet at the courthouse on July 10, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

**J & S Riverview Subdivision** –Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for the J & S Riverview Subdivision. This is a single lot subdivision. The Board asked questions regarding an easement into the property. The Board stated that an easement would be required before selling the property and/or building a home on the lot. Urbanski made a motion to approve the J & S Riverview Subdivision adding that an easement would be required before selling the property and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Interlocal Jail Agreement-Valley County/Howard County**–Sheriff Mike Hoff and the Board reviewed the interlocal jail agreement. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the interlocal jail agreement between Valley County/Howard County and seconded by Urbanski. This agreement is to be signed by the Sheriff and the Board Chair. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Three Surplus Vehicles-Sheriff's Department**-Sheriff Hoff presented a letter to the Board to declare three vehicles as surplus to be sold. The vehicles are a 2002 Ford Ambulance, a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe and a 2013 Dodge Charger. Rasmussen made a motion to approve declaring the vehicles listed as surplus vehicles and authorize sale of each vehicle and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Surplus Vehicle-Emergency Manager** -The Board received a letter from Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen to request declaring a 2009 Ford F150 Pickup as surplus. Urbanski made a motion to approve declaring the 2009 Ford Pickup as surplus equipment and sale of said vehicle and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Sheriff's office will remove excess equipment from all four surplus vehicles prior to selling.

**K-9 (Canine Fund)-Sheriff's Department**– Sheriff Hoff and Deputy Malik BearHeels were present to discuss the Canine (K-9) Fund and purchasing a K-9. The Howard County Sheriff's office is scheduled to receive annual payments for the next 10 years from a Howard County resident that passed away in December, 2023. The first payment is to be received this week. Money could be placed in a separate canine fund. The account would make it easier to keep track of expenses. The Sheriff's office has the opportunity to purchase a K-9 from out of state. The dog is already trained. The Board discussed costs and expenses with the K-9 to get set up, additional training, supplies, vet expenses and dog food, etc. Urbanski made a motion to set up a separate Canine (K-9) Fund within the budget and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The K-9 will be placed on the next agenda. Payment for the dog will be discussed.

**Window Change Order** - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the window change order in the amount of \$3,000.00. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 7/9/2024, and the minutes dated 6/25/2024 and 6/27/2024, and the Department Reports. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 7/9/2024, General-\$61,174.55, Roads-\$130,702.89, Inheritance Fund-\$72,725.54 and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$862.39 for a total of \$265,465.37, minutes dated 6/25/2024, and the budget workshop minutes dated 6/25/2024 and 6/27/2024, and the Clerk, District Court Clerk, Treasurer, and Sheriff's Report. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and

Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be July 23, 2024.

Dated this 9th day of July, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

2024-2025 Budget Session

July 11, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 11th day of July, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska, for the purpose of budget workshop.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3rd day of July 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

The Board met with Department Heads to discuss their budget request amounts for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Urbanski made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. The Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

### Howard COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

July 11, 2024, St. Paul, Nebraska

The Howard County Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Nebraska, met in special session at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Gary Rasmussen, Kathy Hirschman, and Jessie Urbanski. Also present is County Clerk Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held. Notice of the special meeting was posted at the US Post Office, Citizens Bank and Trust, Homestead Bank, the 2nd Floor of the Courthouse and in the Clerk's office, the convened meeting was open to the public. Copies of the agenda are kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss the County Road's Building. The building committee met on July 10, 2024. Board Chair Kathy Hirschman conveyed to the Board the discussion and recommendations from that meeting. The Board reviewed how they will proceed. Rasmussen made a motion to re-bid the County Road's Building with bids being due on August 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the special meeting at 12:02 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2024

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 23, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of July, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th day of July, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment-** None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items:

County Roads Building-No updates. Bids will be opened on August 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Bridge-23605-(8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East of Hwy 11)-Chris Adelman with Husker Steel was present to discuss a proposal from Norfolk Contracting to replace the abutment on a bridge located on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, East of Hwy 11. Due to the current status of the bridge the repair work is considered an emergency. Norfolk Contracting would be able to make the repairs in late August. It was estimated that the repairs could be completed in three weeks. A replacement bridge would close the road for more than a year. Mr. Adelman stated that if the County would provide a 24" culvert the company could install it at the time the repairs were made. Urbanski made a motion to approve Norfolk Contracting's proposal in the amount of \$186,754.00, for repair work on the bridge located at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East of Hwy 11, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The County will be responsible for packing the work site when the repairs are completed.

Irrigation Water and Mowing Ditches-Ms. Thomsen stated that she had placed notices in the Phonograph Herald this week. The first one is per Nebraska State Statute 39-301, it is illegal to water a public road. The second notice is per Nebraska State Statute 39-1811, that landowners are required to mow land that abuts public roads and drainage ditches at least twice per year. Mowing the first time by July and the second time, in September.

Several roads were discussed that are in need of various maintenance and repairs.

**Mail** –

Crime Commission Grant Assessment  
Highlights Elevated Threat Environment  
EBI Project Site  
Updates from Jon Cannon and Governor Pillen

**Unfinished Business** - None

**Tower Air Conditioner/Emergency Manager Vehicle-** Present was Allen Wilshusen to discuss the air conditioner located at the tower on Wausa Rd., that quit working. A new air conditioner has been installed. The cost of the new air conditioner will be paid with PET Region Funds. The Board discussed the process of what was required under the County Purchasing Act to purchase a vehicle for the Emergency Manager.

**Canine (K-9) Fund/Payment of K-9** –The Sheriff’s Department has received the new K-9, Dusty. The Sheriff will have an invoice for the dog to be paid at the next meeting. Also discussed was the Sheriff’s Department receiving the 1<sup>st</sup> payment of \$20,000.00 from the Paul Aschwege Estate. The next installment will be paid out in January, 2025. The 2024-2025 Budget amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

**Resolution 2024-14-Transfer Canine Funds from General to New Canine Fund-**Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss the transfer of Canine Funds in the General Fund Budget to a designated Canine Fund. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-14-Transfer of Canine Funds from General to New Canine Fund (2430), and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Budget-**The Board reviewed the revenue side of the budget. Also reviewed were the past revenues, expenditures and tax asking. A new account will be added to the budget for the bridge and street buyback. This item was discussed with the Highway Superintendent.

**Assessor Three Year Plan** –County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs, was present to discuss the Assessor’s Three-Year Plan with the Board.

**JPH Postcard Printing**–The County Assessor and County Clerk are in favor of going with CSG for the printing and mailing of the JPH postcards. MIPS and NACO will be partnering with CSG this year for printing and mailing the JPH postcards. Urbanski made a motion to approve using CSG to print and mail the JPH postcards and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Legislative Update** – Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman had the opportunity to speak with Senator Fred Meyer regarding the Governor calling a special session to cut taxes. She relayed her conversation with Senator Meyer to the Board. Also discussed was the Governor’s report received by email this morning and the impact on Howard County.

**Service Proposal-Finalize and Monetize Historic Tax Credits-** Board reviewed a Limited Scope Consulting Services Agreement between Howard County and CBRE to prepare Nebraska Historic Tax Credit Part 4 for filing with the NESHPO and NEDOR. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Limited Scope Consulting Services Agreement between Howard County and CBRE, not to exceed \$8,750.00, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 7/23/2024, and the minutes dated 7/9/2024 and 7/11/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 7/23/2024, General-\$230,209.07, Roads-\$78,656.70, for a total of \$308,865.77, and minutes dated 7/9/2024, and minutes dated 7/11/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be August 13, 2024.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

Howard COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

August 1, 2024, St. Paul, Nebraska

The Howard County Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Nebraska, met in special session at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Gary Rasmussen, Kathy Hirschman, and Jessie Urbanski. Also present is County Clerk Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held. Notice of the special meeting was posted at the US Post Office, Citizens Bank and Trust, Homestead Bank, the 2nd Floor of the Courthouse and in the Clerk's office, the convened meeting was open to the public. Copies of the agenda are kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss the appointment of a Deputy Howard County Attorney. Board Chair Kathy Hirschman stated to the Board that Howard County Attorney, David Schroeder, gave his permission in writing for the Board to appoint Heather Sikyta as Deputy Howard County Attorney in his absence. Following discussion, Rasmussen made a motion to approve appointing Heather Sikyta as Deputy Howard County Attorney in Mr. Schroeder's absence and approve her secretary helping out in the Howard County Attorney's office as needed and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the special meeting at 8:09 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2024

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 13, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th day of August, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 7th day of August, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items:

**Executive Session-Personnel-Roads**-This agenda item remained in open session. Thomsen presented applications for road workers to the Board to review. Hirschman made a motion to have Urbanski meet with Thomsen to set up interviews and bring a recommendation back to the Board and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Wing Repairs-Bridge on Kimball Rd. South of Hwy 92**- Thomsen received an estimate from Husker Steel to have Norfolk Contracting repair the wing on a bridge located ½ mile south of Hwy 92 on Kimball Road for \$68,821.00. The work would be done at the same time the bridge repairs are scheduled on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also discussed was whether these two bridges would qualify for FEMA. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the estimate for repair work on the bridge located on Kimball Road South of Hwy 92 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Isaiah Graham-Minimum Maintenance Road**- Isaiah Graham was present to discuss and receive clarification on the placement of a driveway on land he recently acquired, located in 25-14-10. As well as to discuss an easement and minimum maintenance road. Both, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen were present during the discussion.

**Mail** –

Central District Meeting-Registration  
Correspondence from Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission  
Legislative Update (Special Session)  
Verizon Tower  
Opioid Settlement Payments  
Broadband Updates  
Courthouse Front Steps Correspondence

**Unfinished Business** - None

**Open Bids-County Roads Building-** Those present during the opening of the bids were Stacy Spotanski, Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson Tim Aitken and Rob Schultz. Others present were Mid Plains Construction Company, Justin Moran - Chief Construction, Mathew McCarty – McCarty Construction, and Tanner Hackel – Hackel Construction. Base Bids received were:

McCarty Construction-\$2,195,750.00

Chief Construction-\$2,498,000.00

Hackel Construction-\$2,397,256.00

Mid Plains Construction-\$1,924,000.00

Following a discussion, Urbanski made a motion to table this item until the next Board Meeting on August 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-15-Annual Certification Of Program Compliance** – Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-15-Annual Certification of Program Compliance and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Bridge and Street Buyback-**Urbanski made a motion to approve the annual certification of the Bridge and Street Buyback, Street-\$232,637.59 and Bridge-\$495,532.06, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Amend Levy Request-Ag Society/Resolution 2024-16-Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision-**Urbanski made a motion to approve the Preliminary Levy Allocation Request received from the Howard County Ag Society on August 1, 2024, in the amount of \$49,329.13 and deny the late request received on August 9, 2024 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-16-Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Health Insurance Renewal -Svoboda Benefits Solutions-** Chad Svoboda and Kevin From with Svoboda Benefits Solutions were present along with several department heads to discuss the renewal of the health insurance policy for County Employees. Urbanski made a motion to approve the amendment of the Principal Dental Plan effective October 1, 2024, which will match the out of network benefit of the medical plan and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Region 3 Agreement-** Urbanski made a motion to approve the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Agreement as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Contryman & Associates-Engagement Letter-Budget-** Urbanski made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter with Contryman & Associates to assist the County with the 2024-2025 Budget and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**SDL-The County Cage-Kersten Kucera-** Rasmussen made a motion to approve the SDL Application received from Kersten Kucera on behalf of the County Cage for an event scheduled for September 14, 2024, at the Howard County Fairgrounds, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Budget-**The Board reviewed the budget.

**JEO Bill** –A billing invoice dated July 30, 2024, was received from JEO in the amount of \$4,432.50, for Project # R241612.00. None of the Board was aware of any contracts the County had with JEO. Urbanski made a motion to deny the claim to JEO and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski stated he would contact JEO regarding the billing invoice.

**New National Opioids Settlement-Kroger-**Urbanski made a motion to approve the New National Opioids Settlement-Kroger and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Lease Copier Contract-Clerk** – The five-year lease on the copier located in the book room of the Clerk’s Office will be up in January 2025. A proposal was received from the Capital Business Services to buyout the current lease and provide a new copier with the same features currently used with a decrease in monthly payments. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Capital Business Services Five Year Lease and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Interlocal Agreement-County/City-** Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman had met with St. Paul Police Chief, Dan Howard to review the interlocal agreement between the County/City for dispatch services. It was agreed that the City pay the County \$3,334.89 per month effective October 1, 2024, for dispatch services. This is an annual agreement. Urbanski made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement in the amount of \$3,334.89 monthly, effective October 1, 2024, and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Equitable Sharing Agreement-Sheriff’s Dept.-** Rasmussen made a motion approve the Equitable Sharing Agreement as completed by the Sheriff’s Department and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Executive Session-Personnel-Sheriff Hoff-**Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel at 12:16 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session at 12:16 p.m. to discuss personnel. Those present were Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Deputy, Malik Bear Heels, Deputy Trev Sharman, and Deputy Paul Tartaglia. Rasmussen made a motion to come out of executive session at 12:31 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve backpay for Deputy Bear Heels from March 12, 2024 through June 15, 2024 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 8/13/2024, and the minutes dated 7/23/2024, BOE Minutes 7/23/2024 and Special Meeting Minutes 8/1/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and

seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 8/13/2024, General-\$58,464.86, Roads-\$138,211.13, Canine-\$468.95, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$92,227.18, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$943.73, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$240.00 for a total of \$289,845.85, and minutes dated 7/23/2024, and 8/1/2024, and the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be August 27, 2024.

Dated this 13th day of August, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:           Brenda Klanecky  
                          Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 27, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of August, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th day of August, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items: Bridge repairs on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue east of highway 11 have started. The roads department is working on general maintenance jobs. Several roads were discussed.

**Road Applications**- Applicants were interviewed. Ms. Thomsen recommended that Lynn Brennick be offered employment with the road's department. Urbanski made a motion to approve offering employment to Lynn Brennick and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mail** – NIRMA Conference  
Update from NACO  
City of St. Paul Correspondence-Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan  
FEMA Declaration-August 20, 2024

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**County Roads Building**- Those present were Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson, and Rob Schultz. Rasmussen made a motion to accept the low bid from Mid Plains Construction in the amount of \$1,924,000.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Kathy Hirschman thanked the Roads Building Committee for their time on this project.

**Financial Information-Brad Slaughter-Northland Securities** –Brad Slaughter was present to discuss financing on the County Roads Building. Discussed were current interest rates, amount to be financed, length of a loan, etc. The Board was under the general consensus that additional funding would not be needed until near the end of the project. No action was taken.

**Surplus Equipment Sheriff's Department**-The Sheriff presented a letter to the Board stating that the St. Paul Police Department is interested in the wiring of the old camera equipment from the patrol units which are going to be sold at auction. They are willing to remove all of the old equipment from the units

in payment for the camera equipment. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve excess equipment be removed from surplus patrol units by the St. Paul Police Department as payment for the old camera equipment. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Set Date for Joint Public Hearing-Motion** -The Clerk is aware of only one political subdivision that may need to do a Joint Public Hearing. Urbanski made a motion to approve and seconded by Rasmussen to set the joint public hearing date for September 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., if needed. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Health Insurance Renewal -Svoboda Benefits Solutions** – Chad Svoboda and Kevin From with Svoboda Benefit Solutions Inc. were present to go over the health insurance renewal. There will be a 19% increase in premium for the same coverage that employees currently have. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the renewal of the Medica Insurance with the same coverage and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Svoboda and Mr. From would like to come out and visit with all County employees to make sure their policies are up to date. Dates will be set up with the County Clerk.

**County Inventories**- The Board reviewed the inventories of all the County departments. Urbanski made a motion to approve the inventories as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Budget**-The Board reviewed the budget.

**Set Budget Date and Time**- The Board discussed when to hold the public hearing for the budget. Rasmussen made a motion to set the public hearing for the budget on September 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 8/27/2024, and the minutes dated 8/13/2024, and BOE Minutes 8/13/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the payroll and claims dated 8/27/2024, General-\$254,669.03, and Roads-\$85,901.32, for a total of \$340,570.35, and minutes dated 8/13/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be September 10, 2024.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 10, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 10th day of September, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 4th day of September, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Absent. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky. Urbanski joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss a contract with Jon Kuck. After review, the Commissioners agreed to a change to shorten the contract to twelve months. Ms. Thomsen will revise and bring before the Commissioners at the September 24, 2024 meeting. Ms. Thomsen presented a list to the Commissioners of the top ten road projects. The list as well as several other roads were discussed including work to be done, priority, time frames and erosion control.

**Mail** –

Emergency Manager Correspondence  
Donation from Hornady for the Canine (K-9) Fund  
Emails regarding Historic Tax Credits-Howard County  
Correspondence from NIRMA  
Legislative Updates-NACO  
Health Insurance Renewal Miscellaneous Documents

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Port of Franssen-Scott Franssen-Admin. Subdivision-** Present was the Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith. Ms. Klinginsmith presented the Port of Franssen Administrative Subdivision to the Board. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Port of Franssen Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Gorecki Subdivision-Michael Gorecki-Admin. Subdivision** –Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the Gorecki Administrative Subdivision with the Board. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Gorecki Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Lumen Fiber Optic Update**-The Clerk received an update from Doug Cramer who has been working with Lumen regarding fiber optic for the courthouse. Lumen is now requesting \$35,000.00 up front from the County to install the fiber optic to the courthouse. Mr. Cramer canceled installing the fiber optic to the courthouse.

**Resignation of Evelyn Dvorak from the Tourism Board** -The Howard County Tourism Committee, at their June 3, 2024, meeting, accepted the resignation of Evelyn Dvorak with regrets. Urbanski made a motion to accept the resignation of Evelyn Dvorak from the Howard County Tourism Committee with regrets and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. It was noted that Mrs. Dvorak was one of the individuals who started the Howard County Tourism Committee. The County would like to thank her for her service in starting the Tourism Committee as well as serving on the Committee for twenty-five years.

**Appoint Roger Goettsche to Tourism Board** -Urbanski made a motion to appoint Roger Goettsche to replace Evelyn Dvorak on the Howard County Tourism Committee and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Real Estate Inventory**- The Board reviewed the real estate inventory of all the County properties. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the real estate inventory as presented with one correction and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Roads Maintenance Building** -Janet Thomsen and Kathy Hirschman provided updates to the Board. The Road Committee met out at the site on September 4, 2024. They are moving the building further to the north than what was noted on the plans. Howard Greeley Public Power has been contacted and working with the Committee. An application for a building permit has been picked up from the City of St. Paul as the location of the building is within the one-mile jurisdiction of the City of St. Paul.

**Budget**-The Board discussed the budget. Ms. Hirschman had spoken with the accountant. The Budget Hearing may need to be moved to September 30, 2024. Urbanski made a motion to approve a Budget Hearing meeting on September 30, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. if needed, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**ARPA Funds**- Reviewed previous expenditures paid out of the ARPA Fund. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 9/10/2024, the minutes dated 8/27/2024, Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 9/10/2024, General-\$92,648.20, Roads-\$96,549.49, Tourism Promotion Fund-\$900.00, ROD Preservation & Modernization-\$6,125.00, Hwy Safety Fees/Stop Fund-\$1,625.80, Canine Fund-\$2,800.00, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$832.23, for a total of \$211,348.44, minutes dated 8/27/2024, and the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be September 24, 2024.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky

Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 24, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 24th day of September, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th day of September, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- Chairman Hirschman stated that now is the time to mow county road right of ways and that she appreciates all those that have.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Jon Kuck were present to discuss a contract with Jon Kuck. After review of changes made after the last meeting, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Agreement with Jon Kuck and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Executive Session** -Urbanski made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:42 a.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into Executive Session at 8:42 a.m. to discuss personnel. Those present in Executive Session were Rasmussen, Hirschman, Urbanski, Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson and Ray Hurt. Urbanski made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Ms. Thomsen gave a Road's update to the Commissioners on Hardy and 14<sup>th</sup>, Wausa and 12<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> and Denton as well as the Bridge updates. Discussion on various other Howard County Roads also took place. Repairs on the bridge located on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue have been completed. The crew has begun work on the bridge located on Kimball Road. Ms. Thomson placed a Notice in the Phonograph Herald regarding landowners mowing road ditches. Ms. Thomson stated that Howard County had 24 bridges eligible for the County Bridge Match.

### **Mail** –

Correspondence from NDEE regarding Mamot Feed Lot

McKinsey Subdivisions Opioid Settlement Distribution

NIRMA Conference-October, 2024

Invitation-Contryman Associates

Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes

NACO Conference in December

Invitation to Contryman's

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**County Government Day-October 21, 2024-Chuck Schmid**-Chuck Schmid was present to discuss setting the date for County Government Day on October 21, 2024. Rasmussen made a motion to approve holding County Government Day on October 21, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Emergency Manager Updates** –Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present along with Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith to update the Board on 911 signage. Currently, seventeen hundred 911 signs would be needed for the rural areas. The estimated cost is \$54,816.00. Mr. Wilshusen will check into a grant. Also discussed, was who would install, maintenance and repairs. Mr. Wilshusen also spoke about an EMPG Grant he has applied for, security cameras, an active shooter exercise to be held at Centura Schools, Code Red and badges for new employees.

**Special Designated License-The County Cage-Kersten Kucera**- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Special Designated License for the County Cage for Kersten Kucera on October 19, 2024, at the Howard County Fairgrounds Annex Building from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Special Designated License-Bootlegger Inc.-Tiffany Fousek**- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Special Designated License for Bootlegger Inc. for Tiffany Fousek on October 12, 2024, at the Howard County Fairgrounds Annex Building from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sanctuary Jurisdictions for Immigrants** - Commissioner Urbanski spoke to the commissioners regarding Sanctuary Jurisdictions for Immigrants. This topic had come to the attention of the commissioners that Howard County has been listed as a Sanctuary County for Immigrants by the Center for Immigration Studies. Mr. Urbanski is working with Lincoln County, Nebraska, to get Howard County officially removed from of the list. Sheriff Hoff is helping the county to get off of this list. The commissioners wanted it noted in the minutes that Howard County is not designated as a Sanctuary County for Immigrants and never has been.

**Roads Maintenance Building** – The commissioners reviewed the building contract. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the contract as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Commissioners looked at color samples for the outside of the building. Urbanski made a motion to approve Polar White for the roof and trim and Fox Gray for the walls of the building and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Budget** –The budget was reviewed. The budget hearing is set for September 30, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

**ARPA Funds-** The Chairman estimated the remaining balance in the ARPA funds account s \$148,514.80. The remaining balance will need to be designated by December 31, 2024.

**911 Center Expansion-**Chief Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton and Sergeant, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the possibility of dispatching for two additional counties (Nance and Merrick). Currently, Ms. Paxton is looking into costs and other information to see if this is a possibility. They are looking at a consulting service to put all of this information together. Discussed were additional work stations in the current building as well as additional equipment. The commissioners agreed that Ms. Paxton continue to pursue this issue. Ms. Paxton will keep the commissioners updated on this subject.

**Planning and Zoning Update Blasé-**This item was removed from the agenda due to not being received in time to appear on the agenda.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 9/24/2024, and the minutes dated 9/10/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 9/10/2024, General-\$235,090.08, Roads-\$70,090.42, for a total of \$305,180.50, and minutes dated 9/10/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be October 8, 2024.

Dated this 24th day of September, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

A meeting of the Howard County Commissioners was convened in open and public session on September 30, 2024 in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given on the 25th of September 2024, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the Courthouse, mailed to each Commissioner and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Commissioner Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Also present is the County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** -The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Hearing-Adopt 2024-2025 Budget** - Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing to adopt the 2024-2025 budget at 8:32 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The County Clerk provided 3 copies for public inspection.

**Public Comment** – None. No members of the public were present

A review of the prior year to current year comparisons was done by Commissioner Hirschman.

Commissioner Hirschman commended the Elected Officials for their hard work in maintaining their budgets and maintaining their quality of services.

After further discussion, Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:25 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Rasmussen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Hirschman opened the Special Hearing to Adopt the 2024-2025 Budget/Set Tax Levy/1% Restricted Funds at 9:30 a.m.

**Resolution 2024-17-Approve 2024-2025 Budget** - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adopt the 2024-2025 fiscal year Budget by Resolution 2024-17. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-18-Approve 2024-2025 Property Tax Request and Final Tax Rate**- Commissioner Hirschman stated the property tax request for 2024-2025 is in the amount of \$2,483,323.04. The final tax rate will be 0.153609 per \$100.00 of assessed value. Copy of Resolution 2024-18 is on file in the Clerk's office for review. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-18, the 2024-2025 Property Tax Request in the amount of \$2,483,323.04 and the final tax rate of 0.153609 per \$100.00 of

assessed value and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Approve 1% Restricted Funds**- Motion was made by Rasmussen and second by Urbanski to approve the 1% restricted funds for the County Budget. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The hearing notice was published in the Phonograph Herald paper on September 25, 2024.

**Contryman Associates PC.-Representation Letter** - Rasmussen made a motion to approve Chairman, Kathy Hirschman and County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky signing the Contryman's Representation Letter as presented and Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board motion was made by Rasmussen and second by Urbanski to adjourn at 9:46 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Dated this 30th day of September 2024.

Kathy Hirschman, Chairman  
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

October 8, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 8th day of October, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 2nd day of October, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss updates on the roads and bridges. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been completed. The bridge on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been opened up. They are waiting on materials to install guard rails on the bridge. Bridge repairs on Kimball Road are completed. Waiting for equipment to be removed by the company so dirt work can be completed. Ms. Thomsen is in the process of ordering a front mount grader mulcher out of Canada. The price is less than what was previously quoted. The Roads Dept. is working with FEMA. Status of various roads, bridges and ditches were discussed.

**Windshield Claim-Max Mageria** – Ms. Thomsen received a windshield claim from Max Mageria on September 18, 2024. The estimate for a new pickup windshield was \$846.56. The County truck he was following on September 16, 2024, was loaded with clay from the landfill. Ms. Thomsen recommended the claim be denied. Rasmussen made a motion to deny the windshield claim and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Bridge Inspection Contract** – Ms. Thomsen presented an Agreement for Professional Services with Oak Creek Engineering to do routine bridge inspections. Oak Creek Engineering is charging the same rate as last year. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Agreement for Professional Services with Oak Creek Engineering as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Mail** –

NIRMA Conference-October, 2024

Invitation-Contryman Associates

Letter from Medica

NACO Conference in December

**Unfinished Business** – None.

### **Planning & Zoning Discussion re: Blasé Farm Feedlots/Vet Processing Facility-**

Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the Vet Processing Facility located on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Planning and Zoning Board reviewed the Vet Processing Facility. They are recommending that the owner work on having better fly control. Ms. Klinginsmith updated the Board on the number of cattle kept in the pens and the dates. The amount of dust in the air was another complaint. Howard County is an ag community and with harvest and dry conditions, this can be expected. The Planning and Zoning Board is requesting a quarterly report from the owner starting in December 2024. The property is zoned industrial and animal clinics are allowed. The Planning and Zoning Board does not feel that this is a feedlot. Commissioner Urbanski asked to check into 300 head rule. Ms. Klinginsmith also updated the Board regarding the Blasé Farm Feedlots. The feedlots located at Denton Road and Hwy 92 are currently being worked on. That possibly two of the pens may be abandoned. Also discussed was cleaning the manure out of the ditches.

**County Roads Building** – Ms. Hirschman provided the Board with updates on the building project. The groundbreaking should take place soon. Janet Thomsen is working on the building permit with Matt Helzer.

**Special Mitigation Funding**- The Board received a letter from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources on September 25, 2024, regarding special mitigation funding opportunity for flood-prone properties in Nebraska. One property in Howard County might be eligible. Ms. Klinginsmith contacted the property owner. After review, it was determined they would not be eligible. Others were contacted that might be eligible but they did not meet the criteria.

**Approve signing Howard County Med Center license renewal letter**- Urbanski made a motion to approve the signing of the Howard County Med Center license renewal letter and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Setting of Tax Levies-Resolution 2024-19** – Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-19 regarding the setting of tax levies in the county as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**NACO Election Procedure** – The County Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman is designated as the voting delegate for Howard County. Hirschman made a motion to appoint Jessie Urbanski to be the alternate voting delegate for Howard County at the NACO Officers election held during the NACO Conference and Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Nebraska Historic Tax Credit** –The Clerk received paperwork from Attorney, David Levy who is working on submitting the Historic Tax Credit documents to the Nebraska Department of Revenue. Urbanski made a motion to approve Kathy Hirschman to sign the Power of Attorney to allow David Levy to represent Howard County on the tax credit proceedings with the Nebraska Department of Revenue and also a change order form dated in 2021, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve changing the change order date to November 15, 2021 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**National 4-H Week-** Jennifer Ostendorf was present to talk about 4-H with the Board. She talked about current activities and how they are working to get new members. Hirschman thanked Ms. Ostendorf for all she does to promote 4-H.

**Approval for Sealed Bids-2013 Dodge Charger-Sheriff's Dept.**-Sheriff Hoff was unable to attend the meeting as he was at a conference. Two of the vehicles, the 2003 Ford Ambulance and 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe, listed as surplus have been consigned with Big Iron, previously approved by the Board. The Sheriff would like to sell the third vehicle a 2013 Dodge Charger, by sealed bid. Rasmussen made a motion to sell the 2013 Dodge Charger by sealed bid and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Maximus-Certificate of Cost Allocation Plan** - The Countywide Cost Allocation Plan by Maximus based on actual costs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, for fiscal year 2025, was presented to the Board. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Cost Allocation Plan as presented and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Uncollected Distress Warrants** – Treasurer, Sara Roy presented the Uncollected Distress Warrants to the Board. Informational only, no action required by the Board.

**First Concord** - The Clerk had received a renewal from First Concord for the Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Deductible Buy Down Plan. The Clerk is currently waiting for additional information on this item. Urbanski made a motion to table the First Concord item until the next meeting and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 10/8/2024, and the minutes dated 9/24/2024 and 9/30/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the claims dated 10/8/2024, General-\$82,604.20, Roads-\$89,458.15, Canine Cost-\$5,122.82, Hwy Safety Fees-\$27.00, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$1,434.73, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$1,297.99 for a total of \$435,519.89, (a claim in the amount of \$255,575.00 to Norfolk Contracting is approved and will be paid when funds are approved to be transferred into the account at the next meeting), and minutes dated 9/24/2024 and 9/30/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be October 22, 2024.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

October 22, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 22nd day of October, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 16th day of October, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** – None.

**Extension Update** – Doug Anderson was unable to meet with the Board today and is re-scheduled for the next meeting.

**Mail** –

NIRMA Denial Letter Max Mageria

Update from Rich Greene-Historic Tax Credits

Surplus Vehicle to Weed Dept.

EMPG Grant-Emergency Manager

NACO Conference in December

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Public Hearing-Daniel & Shannon Bergman-Conditional Use Permit**- Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing for the conditional use permit application for Daniel and Shannon Bergman at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the conditional use permit application. The conditional use permit is to allow one or two RV's to be used as living quarters during the construction of their home for up to three years. The Planning and Zoning Board approved two RV's for up to one year while the home is being built by a roll call vote of 5-2. The Board questioned if a building permit was applied for, (the building permit would not be approved until the conditional use permit is approved) and if they approved the conditional use permit, when would it expire?

Klinginsmith stated if the conditional use permit was approved today, the permit would expire October 22, 2025. A third RV was on the property and it has been removed. An outhouse on the property is

permitted. The Bergman's could renew the permit. Rasmussen made a motion to close public hearing at 9:24 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Daniel and Shannon Bergman to allow two RV's to be used as living quarters for up to one year while the home is being built and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Appoint Replacement Safety Committee Position** – Rasmussen made a motion to approve Alexandria Ferebee to replace Cariena Birchard on the Safety Committee and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-20 Correct Tax Levy Amounts**- Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-20 to correct the tax levy amounts previously approved in Resolution 2024-19 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-21-Transfer Bridge Buyback Funds**- Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-21 authorizing the Clerk and Treasurer to transfer \$495,532.06 from the General Fund to the Highway Bridge Buyback Program Fund and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-22-Transfer Street Buyback Funds** – Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-22 authorizing the Clerk and Treasurer to Transfer \$232,637.59 from the General Fund to the Highway Street Buyback Program Fund and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-23-Transfer General Fund to Road Fund If Needed** – Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-23 to transfer up to \$450,000.00 to the Roads Fund if needed and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**County Roads Building** –Chairman Hirschman stated that the Building Committee had met and had two change orders on the new building. The first change order was to change from a seamless roof to a tack down roof. The cost savings is \$16,400.00. The second change order is to change the overhead doors from chain and hoist to electric doors for an additional cost of \$16,308.00. The changes amounted to a small decrease.

**Resolution 2024-24- First Concord Agreement**- Urbanski made a motion to table the First Concord Agreement and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2024-25-Year End Certification County Hwy. Supt.**— Urbanski made a motion to approve 2024-25 Year End Certification of County Hwy Superintendent, Janet Thomsen as Resolution 2024-25. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 10/22/2024, and the minutes dated 10/8/2024. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the payroll and claims dated 10/22/2024, General-\$238,958.90 Roads-\$74,780.50, and Covid American Rescue Plan-\$127,181.41 for a total of \$440,920.81, (a claim in the amount of \$255,575.00 to Norfolk Contracting was approved at the October 8, 2024, meeting), and minutes dated 10/8/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be November 12, 2024.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:           Brenda Klanecky  
                          Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

Howard COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

November 5, 2024, St. Paul, Nebraska

The Howard County Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Nebraska, met in special session at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Gary Rasmussen, Kathy Hirschman, and Jessie Urbanski. Also present is County Clerk Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held. Notice of the special meeting was posted at the US Post Office, Citizens Bank and Trust, Homestead Bank, the 2nd Floor of the Courthouse and in the Clerk's office, the convened meeting was open to the public. Copies of the agenda are kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

The purpose of the special meeting is to correct the tax levy request for Centura Schools due to a budget error. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-26 to correct the tax levy request for Centura Schools for the Special Building Fund to \$0.053132, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The Village of Boelus tax levy request was previously approved by Resolution 2024-19 and corrected by Resolution 2024-20. The County Clerk was notified of an error in the tax levy request for the Village of Boelus on November 5, 2024. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-27 to correct the tax levy request for Village of Boelus to \$0.255846 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the special meeting at 12:11 p.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned.

Dated this 5th day of November, 2024

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Commissioners  
ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 12, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Absent. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: the Road's Department has almost completed hauling clay for the new road's maintenance building. They are also hauling the last of the gravel. The Bridge Match Program was discussed. One proposal per County. They will pay up to \$500,000.00, on projects. The County is checking into applying on the bridge located at 12<sup>th</sup> and Rose Avenues as well as a bridge located on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west of Highway 11. Both bridges would be replaced with box culverts. Both bridges have ratings below legal limits. Another bridge located on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Hardy and Inman Avenues was also discussed. Hirschman stated we would have buyback funds available for the County portion. Various other roads were also discussed. Thomsen stated she has a phone call scheduled with FEMA tomorrow for the June flooding.

**Mail** –

NMC Correspondence

Big Iron Settlement Sheet-2015 Chevy Tahoe-\$5900.00 and 2003 Ford Ambulance-\$5100.00.

NACO Conference

Hamilton Communications Monthly Report

NIRMA Meeting Minutes and Copy of Dividend Check in the amount of \$7333.00.

2025 NACO Events Email

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Extension Update** – Doug Anderson was present to discuss updates. Mr. Anderson stated he is retiring and his position has opened up this week. The process was explained to the Board. Mr. Anderson recommended Justin Wells for extension board representative. This would be his second term. Board members are allowed to serve two terms. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Justin Wells for

extension board representative and seconded by Hirschman. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Contryman Associates-Letter of Understanding of Services**-The letter to be signed for Contryman Associates was reviewed by the Board. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the signing of the letter of understanding of services for the audit and seconded by Hirschman. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Burial Application** –The Board reviewed a county burial application for Kenneth Pflapsen. The Clerk contacted his daughter to see if she was coming to the meeting. Current financial information was obtained. Rasmussen made a motion to deny the burial application and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**County Roads Building-Change Order**- Updates on the building project were discussed. The change order is for the County to do the crushed concrete which would take \$41,500.00 off the cost of the building project. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the change order to have the County take care of the crushed concrete which would subtract \$41,500.00 off the cost of the building project and seconded by Hirschman. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Region 26-Wausa Tower**- Those present to discuss the tower were Howard County Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen, Region 26 Coordinator, Alma Beland, Sherman County Sheriff, Joel Bergman and Sherman County Commissioner, Tom Bandur. Region 26 has had problems with communication in the Ashton and Rockville areas. Platte Valley did a coverage study on the Wausa tower to see if installing equipment on the tower would provide better coverage and if there was room on the tower for Region 26 equipment. Platte Valley stated installing equipment on the tower would take care of the coverage issue and there was room on the tower. Mr. Wilshusen stated fire Chiefs in the County were in agreement that this would help with communication coverage between the counties for mutual aid calls. The question presented was what all is currently on the tower. The commissioners would like to have Platte Valley check what other equipment is on the tower. It was agreed between the Howard and Sherman County that there would be no charge to Sherman County as it was a mutual benefit. Rasmussen made a motion to approve Region 26 communications equipment for Sherman County (the equipment will be paid for by Sherman County) to be installed on the Wausa Tower and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**2009 Ford Pickup-Surplus Transfer to Weed Dept.** – The Weed Department expressed an interest in the 2009 Ford Pickup which had previously been placed in surplus in July 2024. Approximately \$2,000.00 was spent on repairs for the 2009 pickup. Rasmussen made a motion to transfer the 2009 Ford Pickup from surplus to the Weed Department and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 11/12/2024, and the minutes dated 10/22/2024 and special minutes dated 11/5/2024, and Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to approve the claims dated 11/12/2024, General-\$102,804.00 Roads-\$175,283.68, Canine Fund-\$2,190.20, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$2,850.00, Inheritance Tax Fund- \$178,370.94, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$838.25 and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$3,027.30, for a total of \$465,364.38, minutes dated 10/22/2024 and special minutes

dated 11/5/2024, and Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be November 26, 2024.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 26, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present for road discussion. The work plan timeline was discussed.

**Executive Session Personnel**- Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session at 8:32 a.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated to those in attendance that the Board was going into executive session at 8:32 a.m. to discuss personnel. Those present in executive session are Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt and Jerry Thompson. Rasmussen made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:29 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

**Mail** –

Mid-American Benefits, LLC

Union Bank & Trust

Hall County Comprehensive Development Plan

NIRMA Board

NACO Misc. Information

Comprehensive Youth Service Plan

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**County Credit Card-Janet Thomsen** – The current county credit card has a \$1,000.00, credit limit. Ms. Thomsen asked if this amount could be raised to \$2,000.00? Urbanski made a motion to raise the credit limit from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman,

Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Also discussed was a county credit card policy. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

**Update on Comp Plan-Planning and Zoning-** Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith stated a town hall meeting between Marvin Planning and Associates and the public has been scheduled for January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the St. Paul Library Community Room, with a snow date of January 21, 2025.

**Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit for Private Airstrip Field** –Rasmussen made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss a conditional use permit for a private airstrip at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the Lowell Poland application of a conditional use permit for a private airstrip. Mr. Poland owns three lots in the Rolling Hills Subdivision located in the SE ¼ of Section 14-T14N-R9W. A signed consent from Mr. Poland and Howard Greeley RPPD was received on October 17, 2024. The Nebraska Department of Transportation and Dan Vech have no concerns. Also discussed was the difference between a private and a personal use airstrip. The Board agreed that the term “private use” be added to the CUP application prior to approval. Rasmussen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:46 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Lowell Poland as presented with the additional verbiage of “private use”, and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Update on Blasé Feedlot-** Those present for the discussion were Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen, Planning and Zoning members, Jeff Christensen and Daryl Anderson, Jim Gdanitz, and attorneys, Brandon Connick and Gunner Buchhammer of Smith, Johnson, Allen, Connick & Hansen. The Planning and Zoning Board had voted 8-0 to revoke all farm feedlots owned by Adam Blasé, Allen Blasé, Eric Blasé and Lisa Blase due to non-compliance with NDEE as outlined in a letter dated November 21, 2024. Several items were discussed among those present.

**Executive Session-Possible Litigation-** Rasmussen made a motion to go into executive session for possible litigation at 10:26 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation at 10:26 a.m. Others present in executive session were Cherri Klinginsmith. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:44 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken. Discussion regarding the Blasé Feedlot continued. Hirschman stated to those in attendance that after further review there really isn't a planning and zoning rule that has been broken, however, the Blasé owners do need to comply with NDEE. She also stated that the county would enforce that the manure would be cleaned out of the right of way ditches. Mr. Gdanitz stated that he had several of the ditches already cleaned out and would continue to clean them all.

**Change Meeting Date for first meeting in November 2025-** The meeting date falls on Veteran's Day. The courthouse is closed for Veteran's Day. Rasmussen made a motion to change the meeting date to November 12, 2025 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**ARPA-Updates**-Board Chair Hirschman and County Clerk Klanecky participated in a webinar on November 25, 2024. ARPA Funds are required to be obligated by December 31, 2024. Hirschman recommended to the Board that remaining ARPA funds be used to pay for the county road building by December 31, 2024. This will make the reporting to the IRS simpler. The County Clerk agreed. Urbanski made a motion to approve spending all of the remaining ARPA funds by December 31, 2024 and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**County Building Updates**- Hirschman and Janet Thomsen stated that the footings will be poured today or tomorrow. Also, after the recent rain, a ditch was cleaned out to prevent standing water.

**Oath of Office-Date**- The oath of office is set for January 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**Windows Update and Review**- During the replacement of the courthouse windows, there was damage to the concrete and lawn. Urbanski will contact Aaron Rasmussen.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 11/26/2024, and the minutes dated 11/12/2024. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 11/26/2024, General-\$254,775.82 and Roads-\$93,533.26 for a total of \$348,309.08, and minutes dated 11/12/2024. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be December 10, 2024.

Dated this 26th day of November, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:           Brenda Klanecky  
                          Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

December 10, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 4th day of December, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: gravel is being hauled by full-time employees. Ms. Thomsen provided the Commissioners with a new list of road projects the Roads Department will be working on. The next project will be on Twin Forks Lane to work on ditches for drainage. The Roads Department is readying equipment for snow. Also discussed was the new mulcher purchased and trying it out before spring.

**County Roads Building Update**-All of the I Beams have been delivered, footings poured and the exterior doors have been delivered.

**Mail** –

Correspondence from Sonderup Trust Fund

ARPA Funds Calculations

Correspondence from Citizens Bank & Trust

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Celeste Penner-5 Year Community Plan** –Celeste Heavilin Penner was present to discuss and go through the 5 Year Community Plan. Hirschman stated she would like to thank the members of the coalition, Connie Holmes and Celeste Heavilin Penner, Sheriff Mike Hoff, Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen and County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky for their input to the 5 Year Community Plan. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the 5 Year Community Plan as presented and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the Plan and seconded by Urbanski. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Crime Commission Grant Application FY2025-26**-Celeste Heavilin Penner presented the Crime Commission Grant Application for FY 2025-26. The amount to be requested is \$36,485.00. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Crime Commission Grant Application for FY2025-26 in the amount of \$36,485.00, as presented and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the application and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Hirschman left the meeting to attend another meeting at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Urbanski took over leading the meeting.

**Interlocal Agreement (Tower Usage Agreement)** –The Board reviewed an agreement prepared by Region 26. Region 26 and Howard County are the parties to the agreement. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Interlocal Tower Usage Agreement between Region 26 and Howard County as presented and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the agreement and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Capital I Industries-Change in Claim Amount-** A claim in the amount of \$47,700.00, was previously approved on November 12, 2024, and was mailed to Canada. On November 15, 2024, the Canadian Postal Service went on strike. Capital I Industries contacted the Roads Department regarding the check. They requested the payment be made electronically. They agreed that the \$50.00 wire fee could be deducted from the \$47,700.00 original balance. On December 8, 2024, the Roads Department received an email from Capital I Industries stating they are not responsible for the \$50.00 wire fee and that the County would need to pay the \$50.00 wire fee plus the original claim amount of \$47,700.00. Urbanski made a motion to approve paying the \$50.00 wire fee along with the claim amount of \$47,700.00 for the mulcher and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 12/10/2024, and the minutes dated 11/26/2024, and Clerk, District Court Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 12/10/2024, General-\$93,854.30, Roads-\$89,200.47, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$5,000.00, Tourism Promotion Fund-\$3,000.00, ROD Preservation & Modernization Fund-\$17.41, Canine Fund-\$580.00, Covid American Rescue Plan-\$244,314.73, Inheritance Tax Fund- \$65,847.27, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$838.25, less the amount of a previously approved Claims in the amount of \$48,417.13, for a total of \$502,652.43, minutes dated 11/26/2024, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and Clerk, District Court Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff Reports. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be December 26, 2024.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

December 26, 2024

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th day of December, 2024. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Gary Rasmussen, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Chairman Hirschman stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

**Public Comment**- None.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss underground permits. Ms. Thomsen will check into updating the current underground permit application. The NIRMA insurance coverage on the Road's Department equipment was discussed. The Clerk will get additional information from NIRMA. Ms. Thomsen also stated she was checking into a different company to provide random drug and alcohol testing.

**Mail** –

New Requirement for Open Meetings Notices  
Letter from State of Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects  
Letter from NDEE  
Letter from Regional Planning Commission of Hall County NE  
Copy of NIRMA Check and Receipt-Totaled Vehicle  
Invoice from Mid Plains Construction Co.  
Information from Elaine Menzel regarding holidays  
Letter from CASA  
Safety Short from NIRMA  
NIRMA Assist Letter  
New County Board Member Orientation  
County Chair Workshop

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**ARPA Account Closed** –Deputy Treasurer, Mykenna Sorgenfrei presented a Deposit Slip from Citizens Bank & Trust in the amount of \$987,713.28, dated December 17, 2024, to zero out the ARPA Fund. The account has been closed. All monies have been spent.

**NIRMA Insurance Renewal**- The Board wanted clarification on what is covered under the blanket policy. The Clerk was unable to obtain the information prior to the meeting due to the holidays. This will be brought up at a future meeting.

**Crime Commission Enhancement Grant-Connie Holmes** – Connie Holmes was present to discuss the Enhancement Grant. This grant is to support the school interventionist wages and payroll taxes paid to Livewell in the amount of \$14,766.00. Livewell employs the school interventionist. This grant would start on July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. This money is the result of leftover grant funds which were forfeited or not used. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Nebraska Crime Commission FY2026 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid (EB) Application and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Howard County Ag Society-Possible Snow Removal**-Jerry Thompson was present on behalf of the Howard County Ag Society to discuss possible snow removal by the County from Hwy 281 to the first building at the fairgrounds known as the extension building. The school is using the building for girl's wrestling practice. Urbanski made a motion to approve the County clearing the snow from Hwy 281 to the Extension Building at the fairgrounds when needed and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Executive Session-Employee Evaluations-** Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Rasmussen to go into executive session to discuss employee evaluations at 9:36 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session to discuss employee evaluations at 9:36 a.m. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:41 a.m. and seconded by Rasmussen. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 12/26/2024, and the minutes dated 12/10/2024. Motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 12/26/2024, General-\$238,891.04 and Roads-\$73,73669, for a total of \$312,627.73, minutes dated 12/10/2024, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, Hirschman stated that she would like to thank Gary Rasmussen for his 12 years of service as a County Commissioner. She also wished him a happy retirement.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Roll Call: Rasmussen, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be January 14, 2025.

Dated this 26th day of December, 2024.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk