

(ALL MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING)

August 1, 2023

The Brown County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 1, 2023, at 1:15 PM., in the Brown County Courthouse meeting room with members Chairman Buddy Small, Dennis Bauer and Jeremiah Dailey present. Also present were Brown County Clerk (BCC) Travis Hobbs, Brown County Treasurer (BCT) Bruce Mitchell and Brown County Attorney (BCA) Andy Taylor.

Chairman Small acknowledged the Open Meeting Act posted near the entrance to the Meeting Room.

Those in attendance rose and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Small moved to approve minutes from the July 18, 2023, Commissioner meeting as written and officially recorded in Commissioner Book 23. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: Small Aye, Dailey Aye and Bauer Abstain, motion carried.

BCT Mitchell discussed the Ambulance Building bond and interest payment schedule. An interest payment of \$6,480.22 is due and will include a wire transfer fee of \$20.00 for a total of \$6,500.22. Discussion included which account should be used to make the payment from. BCA Taylor stated that he was working for a solution to not have to tax a levy to pay the bonds as the paperwork states and should have an answer by the next commissioner meeting. The consensus was that the first interest payment would be taken from the Ambulance Fund if wiring the money immediately was possible out of that fund, if not it would come from the General Fund.

Brown County Highway Superintendent (BCHS) Kenneth Turpin gave a road department report.

The Public Hearing for the Isolated Lands Easement was opened at 1:30 PM. Grant Kobes made comments regarding his intention for use of the property and need for the easement. BCA Andy Taylor spoke to the purpose of the hearing was to determine if the land was isolated, asking for input from the audience to whether there was any evidence that the land is isolated or not isolated. Todd Flynn representing Greg and Gale Wales made a comment relating to a possible agreement, Attorney Carlton Wiggam of the Nebraska Attorney General's office representing the Nebraska Game and Parks was in attendance. Greg Vilwok directed comments to Attorney Wiggam pertaining to the initial sale of the property and the lack of advertising or selling the property without access. Mr. Kobes further stated the requirements that he met his burden to declare his land isolated.

Small moved to find that the Grant Kobes property is an isolated land pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 39-1716. Bauer seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

The Public Hearing was closed at 2:06 PM.

BCT Mitchell returned with information for the Board, after discussion with Brown County Budget preparer Caleb Johnson, the payment for the Ambulance Building could be directly wired from the Ambulance Fund if BCA Andy Taylor deems it legally sound to proceed that way. BCA Andy Taylor stated that it met legal requirements.

Bauer moved BCT Mitchell make the interest payment of \$6,480.22 and the \$20.00 wire fee for a total of \$6,500.22 out of the Ambulance Fund. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

BCHS Turpin presented the Board with his proposed budget for the 2023 – 2024 budget year and his request to order a new motor grader that won't be received until the 2024 – 2025 budget year. The cost of the new motor grader will be \$411,200.00.

Small moved to authorize BCHS Turpin to order a 140-15AWD Caterpillar motor grader, machine model 4835952_WT_MG. Bauer seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

BCHS Turpin discussed the use of Ponderosa Road while Long Pine Creek Bridge on Hwy 20 is closed. An individual had approached Turpin with concerns of increased traffic. BCHS Turpin wanted to increase signage on both the road and bridge. The Board unanimously gave their support of increased signage.

The Board discussed the application & certificate for payment request #2 & #3 and the Certificate of Substantial Completion relative to the Meadville Avenue resurfacing project provided by Miller & Associates.

Bauer moved to approve the application and payment request for #2, \$34,155.00 and approve the application and payment request for #3, \$251,421.85 and authorize Chairman Small to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion. Small seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

The Board discussed the application for tuition reimbursement of Zach Welch, Legal Assistant for Brown County Attorney's office and part time Deputy Sheriff.

Bauer moved to approve the application as presented. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

The Board acknowledged the receipt of the budget requests from Brown County Ag Society and Brown County Rural Fire Boards.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Central Nebraska Economic Development District and Zelle HR Solutions.

Small moved to approve payment of the claims. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

Public comments were made.

Small moved to go into executive session to discuss salaries and avoid any harm to any person's reputation. Bauer seconded. Roll call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Small restated the reason for executive session.

The Board entered executive session at 2:51 PM.

The Board came out of executive session at 3:38 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Brown County Commissioners will be Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 1:15 PM, Brown County Courthouse, Ainsworth, Nebraska.

This meeting's public notice was published in the Ainsworth Star-Journal, aired on KBRB Radio, and posted at the Brown County Clerk's office, where all agendas and minutes are kept current for public inspection at any time.