

Greeley County Commissioner Minutes

June 27, 2023

The Greeley County Board of Commissioners convened in an open and public session at 9:30 a.m. on the 27th day of June 2023 in the Board Room, Greeley County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Cedar Valley News.

Answering present at Roll Call were Jordan Foltz, Joe Leslie, and Dennis Wadsworth. Also present were County Attorney Cindy Bassett and County Clerk Mindy Grossart. Chairman Foltz noted that the open public meetings act information is posted as required by law and available for public distribution if requested. Everyone present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Wadsworth to waive the reading and approve the county board minutes from the June 13, 2023, meeting, seconded by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

County payroll and vendor claims were reviewed by the board. Motion made by Wadsworth to approve payroll and claims, second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. GENERAL FUND: Salaries, 28,995.21, EFTPS Matching SS, 2,218.13, Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Matching County Retirement, 1,903.23, Blue Cross Blue Shield, 14,691.16, ROAD FUND: Salaries, 10,741.67, EFTPS Matching SS., 821.73, Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Matching County Retirement, 725.05.

Jim Bjorklund applied for a permit to cross under the county roadway from the NW ¼ of S-34 T-19 R-10 to the SW ¼ of S-34 T-19 R-10 with a water line. Leslie moved to approve the permit to cross under the county roadway, second by Wadsworth. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried.

The Board reviewed an Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Law Enforcement Services by and among The County of Adams and the County of Greeley for persons taken into emergency protective custody. The Tenth Judicial District increased Court Appointed Attorney pay from \$95 to \$115, and the Mental Health Board Member pay will also increase from \$95 to \$115. Leslie moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Law Enforcement Services between Adams County and Greeley County, seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried.

Motion made by Leslie to open a Public Hearing at 9:45 a.m. on the possible vacation of a portion of 804th Road, beginning at the east right-of-way line of 508th Avenue and extending east approximately 1 mile to 509th Avenue, also described as the section line between S-2, T-17N, R-9W, and S- 35, T-18N, R-9W, seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried. No testimony in favor of or opposition to the vacation of a portion of 804th Road. Motion made by Wadsworth to close the public hearing at 9:50 a.m., seconded by Leslie. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried. After discussion, Wadsworth moved to approve Resolution 2023-8, seconded by Leslie. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried.

Next, the Board opened sealed material bids for Structure No. C003903305 replacement, materials shall be delivered to the site by September 15, 2023. Three bids were received: Ace/Eaton Metals \$97,501, Midwest Service & Sales \$97,728.40 and Contech \$168,441. Motion made by Wadsworth to accept the bid from Ace/Eaton for \$97,501, seconded by Leslie. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried.

Carol Trumler, Planning & Zoning Administrator presented an Administrative Subdivision to the Board. Subdivision Name: Cedar Line Acres, Maynard Schmidt – owner, Weston Schmidt – developer. They plan to subdivide 5 acres for a house site in the SE ¼ of S-31 T-18 R-11. Motion made by Leslie to approve Cedar Line Acres Subdivision, seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried.

Gerri Behnk, Assessor met with the Board to discuss the Assessor fiscal year budget. The budget that was adopted did not include the total amount of reappraisal contracted with Lake Mac Assessment. After discussion, Leslie moved to transfer \$9,700 budget expenditure authority from General Miscellaneous to the Assessor budget, seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried.

Leslie moved to enter the Board of Equalization at 10:15 a.m., seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Gerri Behnk, Assessor presented Tax List Correction 1272 for review. Property id 010000206 actual valuation \$501,919, consolidated tax 4,846.50 estate auction- accelerated taxes on personal property. Motion made by Foltz to approve tax correction 1272, seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried. Gerri also presented overvalued, undervalued or omitted real property on the following parcel #'s 390631600 removed a bin current value \$85,940, proposed value \$75,095. 390114500 removed bin/building \$673,360, proposed value \$663,175. 390608300 improvement was listed on wrong parcel \$22,550, proposed value \$21,150. 390608200 added improvements \$69,660, proposed value \$71,200. 390141000 lowered values on grain harvestors current value \$782,525, proposed value \$774,420. Wadsworth moved to approve the over/under tax corrections, seconded by Leslie. Roll Call: All yes, motion carried. Motion made by Wadsworth to adjourn Board of Equalization at 10:20 a.m., seconded by Leslie.

Sheriff Paul Deaver updated the Board on the computer & scanners that were installed in the law enforcement vehicles by Applied Connective Technologies.

Public Comment: Peggy Petersen presented a list of questions to the County Board regarding health studies, landscape, excessive stipulations, censoring real estate in Greeley County, she estimates the wind project would generate \$400,000 of tax revenue. She also stated the biggest benefactors would be the taxpayers that own property in the Central Valley School District since the wind farms are located. Peggy asked for a yes vote for the wind farm. Bill Spelic referenced the news article published in the March 16, 2023, newspaper. He feels the wind project is all about the money and is concerned about the subsidies funded by taxpayers. Bill also pointed out on the Greeley Wind II application that the timeframe listed is perpetuity. He also noted all of us taxpayers fund the government subsidies. Bill thinks there are better ways of doing this that there is no need for wind towers. He asked the Commissioners to vote no on the wind farm and stand up for the citizens of Greeley County. Don Dugan expressed concerns about Next Era not being a Nebraska based company and that they are foreign owned company. He thinks there are better options for renewable energy. Don also stated that his family has 600 acres near the wind project and is concerned about ariel spraying timely. He explained that wind energy is inefficient, the turbines are not being recycled they are being buried and the taxpayers are the ones paying for the subsidies. Butch Hughes would like to see a list of advantages of the wind farm, he can only see the disadvantages. He stated the 21 landowners are the only ones that are going to benefit. Butch explained Greeley County will not get to use any of the energy it will all be going to the southwest power pool. He stated it's a bridge to nowhere, and expressed concerns about the expense, decommissioning and liability. Kristy Barnes is concerned about the young people in the county. She had family up over the weekend and they were discussing children with autism and their sensitivity to sounds. Kristy thinks there needs to be a three-mile setback from schools.

Wadsworth moved to enter the executive session at 10:36 a.m. to discuss possible litigation, second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Wadsworth moved to exit the executive session at 11:43 a.m., second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Chairman Foltz, Vice Chairman Leslie, Commissioner Wadsworth, County Attorney Cindy Basset were present for the executive session.

Beth Ferrel, Legal Counsel with the Nebraska Association of County Officials gave an update to the Greeley County Board

Motion by Leslie to adjourn at 11:51 a.m., second by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Dated this 3rd day of July 2023.

Jordan Foltz, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mindy A. Grossart
Greeley County Clerk