



Box Butte County Board Minutes



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Box Butte County Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting, at 9:00 a.m., November 4, 2019, in the Commissioner Board Room located on the second floor of the Box Butte County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Avenue, Alliance, NE. Notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on October 23, 2019, with agenda information emailed to board members and posted on the county website October 31, 2019. Chairman Hashman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., following an opening prayer. Roll call: Mike McGinnis, Susan Lore and Doug Hashman present. Motion carried. Judy Messersmith, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. County Attorney Terry Curtiss, present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Hashman acknowledged the open meeting act posted on the North wall of the County Board Room. Mike McGinnis moved to accept the agenda with the timely amendment, adding Alliance City Manager to the agenda, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried. No public comment on agenda items.

Added to the agenda was Alliance City Manager, Jeff Sprock. Mr. Sprock was present to inform the Board of the City's willingness to partner with the County in order to replace curbs, street gutter, lighting and sidewalk in the 500 block of Box Butte Avenue. County Attorney Curtiss will provide an updated memo of understanding to the City for their approval. Ideal time frame for sidewalk replacement and new lighting would be next spring/early summer, and County Attorney stated that this project would need to be put out for bids.

Doug Hashman moved to table action on courthouse financing resolution and documents until November 18, 2019 meeting, allowing for County Attorney Curtiss to review documents, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Susan Lore described the condition of the stain glass dome at the top of the courthouse, stating that repairs are needed and that the ideal time to repair the stained glass is during the renovation of the courthouse building. Valerie Keenan, owner of Stained Glass Visions had provided her opinion and estimated costs for repair. Chairman Hashman suggested that Berggren Architects be contacted prior to any decisions made for glass repair. No action taken. The stain glass dome will be a November 18, 2019 agenda item.

Mobius Communication representatives Joni Jespersen and Tanya Mayer discussed with the Board the recent opportunity for another grant to extend fiber within rural Nebraska. The pre-application due date is December 6, 2019. Doug Hashman made a motion to offer support for Mobius' grant request application, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Mobius will request the entire \$75,000.00 available from the internet enhancement fund. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried.

Mike McGinnis moved to approve October 7, 2019 minutes as written, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, abstain. Motion carried. Doug Hashman moved to approve October 21, 2019 minutes as written, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis, abstain, Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried.

Mike McGinnis moved to accept and sign Clerk of District Court October monthly report, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence was read and acknowledged and the Commissioners reported on meetings they had recently attended.

County Treasurer Val Bell discussed with the Board options the County could take as part of the Kmart bankruptcy in order to collect \$1,600.00 owed to the County. Mike McGinnis moved to end taking collection steps as soon as possible, as contracted attorney fees will soon be more than the \$1,600.00 owed to the county, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis,



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yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried. County Attorney Curtiss will contact attorney Vic Covalt to take steps to close the file.

The Board and County Attorney discussed Mike Stodden’s proposal for DHHS space rent. The County is currently renting space from Mr. Stodden at 411 Black Hills Avenue. Mr. Stodden is requesting an increase in rent each year beginning with the 2020 fiscal year. The Board will review Mr. Stodden’s request during the January 21, 2020 board meeting. No action taken.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. Ms. Keegan updated the Board on FEMA projects. Installation for new 911 signs were discussed, with Road Superintendent Keegan

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providing history on how the signs were initially installed by the county’s road department. Another option for new E911 signs to be installed was to offer a contract for installation. No action taken.

Mike McGinnis moved to enter into executive session at 11:42 a.m., to discuss a payroll issue, with Commissioners McGinnis, Lore, Hashman and County Attorney Curtiss present, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried. Chairman Hashman requested for County Clerk Messersmith to join closed session at 11:54 a.m. Mike McGinnis moved to close the executive session at 12:00 p.m., that had been called to discuss a payroll issue, seconded by Susan Lore. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried. No action taken.

Commissioner McGinnis telephoned Veteran Service office employee Kami Wills, informing Ms. Wills that sick leave she had requested would need to be coded as vacation hours. The employee handbook states that sick leave will be considered for a non-work-related bona fide illness or injury. Sick leave may be granted for an employee taking care of an immediate family member that is ill.

Susan Lore moved to approve and sign monthly payroll, with the correction of sick hours to vacation hours for employee Kami Wills, seconded by Doug Hashman. McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes; Hashman, yes. Motion carried. **GENERAL:** Net Payroll 126,093.57; AFLAC 1,977.54; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp 570.12; Bank of the West 41,505.69; Box Butte County Treasurer 133.00; Box Butte County Treasurer 95,802.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance 222.18; NE Child Support Payment Center 708.06; Retirement Plans Division/Ameritas 23,892.12; St of NE Dept of Revenue 5,208.91; US Department of Education 364.86; Vision Care Direct 98.46. **ROAD:** Net Payroll 39,955.42; AFLAC 253.24; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp 178.22; Bank of the West 8,233.72; Box Butte County Treasurer 1,282.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance 6.80; NE Child Support Payment Center 1,660.00; Retirement Plans Division/Ameritas 2,504.76; St of NE Dept of Revenue 1,738.67; Vision Care Direct 3.80.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Hashman adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Chairman

Attest: _____
County Clerk