



Box Butte County Board Minutes



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Box Butte County Commissioners met via Zoom, at 9:00 a.m., May 18, 2020. Notice of meeting was published in The Ledger on May 7, 2020. Agenda and zoom information emailed to board members and posted on the county website May 15, 2020. Chairman McGinnis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., following an opening prayer. Roll call: Doug Hashman, Susan Lore and Mike McGinnis present via Zoom. Judy Messersmith, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting via zoom. County Attorney Terry Curtiss, present via zoom. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman McGinnis acknowledged that this meeting will follow the open meeting act that is posted on the North wall of the Commissioner Board Room. Doug Hashman moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Susan Lore. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried. No public comment on agenda items. Susan Lore moved to approve May 4, 2020 minutes, seconded by Doug Hashman. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried. Mike McGinnis moved to accept and sign Clerk of District Court and County Clerk/Register of Deeds monthly reports, seconded by Susan Lore. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried. Correspondence had been emailed to the Board and members reported on meetings they had attended by Zoom meetings.

Susan Lore moved to reopen the county buildings on Monday, June 1, 2020, installing hand sanitizers at office doorways and to continue practicing social distancing, seconded by Doug Hashman. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried.

Doug Hashman moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:18 a.m., seconded by Susan Lore. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried. The Board and County Attorney discussed protest hearings and the need to follow COVID-19 social distancing. With the courthouse building to unlock the doors on June 1st, the Board decided to set in person hearing dates. County Clerk Messersmith will advertise hearing dates beginning 1:30 p.m., June 22, 2020; 1:30 p.m., June 30, 2020; 9:00 a.m., July 1, 2020; and 1:30 p.m., July 6, 2020. Decisions on property protest hearings will be made July 20, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. and July 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Mike McGinnis moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:52 a.m., seconded by Susan Lore. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. Chairman McGinnis discussed with Barb using crushed concrete instead of white rock on projects. Ms. Keegan stated that Kim Rosanne could possibly be back in the pits to crush rock in July. As a follow up from last meeting, both Road Superintendent Keegan and Commissioner Hashman had met with Jim Ford and reported that a culvert had been moved. Ms. Keegan stated that she had recently been notified that the County would be receiving \$10,367.82 in disaster payments.

Board members and Road Superintendent discussed the NE State ROW near the current Jefferson Road project between Highway 385 and Highway 2 near Berea. Ms. Keegan stated that there is money in the road budget to add the approach going South. Doug Hashman moved to add an apron on the South, and drop the patch on the West side, seconded by Susan Lore. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried.

Susan Lore moved to accept Public Defender Jon Worthman's letter of resignation, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman McGinnis informed Commissioners Lore and Hashman that he had been in contact with Attorney Joel Burke and that Mr. Burke is interested in meeting with the Board. Added to the June 3, 2020 agenda will be an interview with Mr. Joel Burke for Public Defender position.

Included in correspondence packet was a commercial lease agreement between SLM Enterprises LLC and Box Butte County for DHHS space rental at 411 Black Hills Avenue, Alliance, NE. The Board acknowledged that there had not been an increase in rent for some time and the proposed lease had a 4% increase for the first year, followed by 3% increases for the next two years. The Board requested that County Clerk Messersmith contact Mike Stodden in order to



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have a lease agreement follow fiscal year dates. Doug Hashman moved to accept the lease agreement for 411 Black Hills Avenue, to follow fiscal year budgets, seconded by Susan Lore. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried.

Willdan Construction Field Engineer Chris Barton provided updates and progress reports on courthouse renovations. Hail guards are in production now and the roofing company will be correcting a problem that includes a wrong downspout. Commissioner Lore asked about the window shades, with Maintenance Supervisor Jeane Warfield stating that some of the roll up shades have been installed.

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County Clerk Messersmith informed the Board that she had been in contact with Budget Consultant Caleb Johnson. Mr. Johnson will be sending preliminary budget forms to all offices within the next few days, asking that he receive the preliminary requests by June 15, 2020 and a copy be sent to the County Clerk’s office.

Doug Hashman moved for Chairman McGinnis to sign monthly claims, with the exception of Commissioner Lore’s conflict claim, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Hashman, yes; Lore, yes; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried.

Doug Hashman moved to approve Commissioner Lore’s conflict claim in the amount of \$1,103.53, as Katelman Company Restoration had required payment in order to restore the courthouse lobby antique ceiling fixture, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Hashman, yes; Lore, abstain; McGinnis, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman McGinnis adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Chairman

Attest: _____
County Clerk