

Box Butte County Commissioners met in regular session 9:00 a.m., September 20, 2021, in the County Board Room, second floor of the County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Ave., Alliance, NE. Notice of meeting was published in Alliance Times Herald, August 18, 2021. Agenda was emailed to board members and posted on the county's website: boxbuttecounty.us September 17, 2021. Chairperson Lore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., following an opening prayer. Roll call: Steve Burke, Mike McGinnis and Susan Lore present. Judy Messersmith, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. County Attorney Terry Curtiss present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairperson Lore acknowledged that this meeting will follow the open meeting act posted on the North wall of the County Board Room. Mike McGinnis moved to accept the agenda as printed, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. No public comments on agenda items.

Mike McGinnis moved to accept and sign regular meeting minutes 2021-21, budget hearing minutes 2021-22 and special budget meeting minutes 2021-23, seconded by Susan Lore. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. With no elected officials and office reports and no correspondence, Commissioners reported on board meetings they had recently attended.

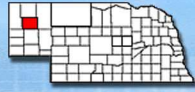
Box Butte County Sheriff Tammy Mowry and Chief Jailer Kressa Hansen discussed with the Board and plumbing contractor Jake Weber the repairs that need to be completed in the county jail. Mr. Weber stated that repairs could be completed in 2 weeks if the toilet and shower ordered are available. Ms. Hansen said that the ordered products have been delivered and are at the jail. County Attorney Curtiss informed Mr. Weber that the jail plumbing needs to be finished with fixtures installed and be able to utilize the hallway. Without this completion, the County is continuing to house prisoners in nearby detention centers. The Board informed Mr. Weber that repairs to the jail cells and hallway have a completion date of October 8, 2021, and that Mr. Weber needs to remove the storage container, located on county property next to the jail, as soon as possible. Sheriff Mowry informed Mr. Weber that he will need to communicate with the sheriff with progress reports. Added to the October 6, 2021 agenda will be further discussion on the condition of the cast iron sewer lines running towards the basketball courts.

Sheriff Mowry discussed with the Board the need for an emergency circumstance involving a dispatcher. Due to the lack of qualified dispatchers, a long time employee has been working more hours and not allowed to take vacation. The Box Butte County Handbook reads that "if the maximum amount of vacation hours are reached, there will be no additional accruals of vacation until the employee's balance drops below the maximum." County Attorney Curtiss stated that this is an emergency circumstance only affecting one person at this time. Steve Burke moved to correct vacation in this case alone (jail dispatch employee) and allow for vacation accrual to increase beyond the maximum level until December 31, 2021, if the employee is still at the maximum allowed number of hours, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. The former handbook committee will meet at 9:00 a.m., September 23, 2021 for a comprehensive review of policy with an update on the October 6, 2021 agenda.

Mobius Communication representatives Joni Jespersen and Tanya Mayer spoke to the Board explaining the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act (NBBP) LB388 that Governor Ricketts had signed. This is to expand broadband in Nebraska. Two plans expanding fiber along West Otoe Road were presented, plan A connecting additional 10 miles and plan B connecting 17 miles from CR68 west on Otoe Road. Mike McGinnis moved to partner with Mobius for plan B, expanding additional 17 miles, at a cost of \$425,000, with the county to contribute \$50,000 from the COVID ARP funds, and authorize the Chairperson to provide a letter of support, seconded by Susan Lore. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report, informing the Board that the road department will return to 8 hour work days beginning October 18, 2021.

Mike McGinnis moved allowing NACO benefit services to provide the opportunity for employees to enroll in MASA (Medical Transportation Solutions) insurance at the employee's cost, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. The Board may consider looking at including the cost of this insurance in the employee's benefit package following this budget year.



Carolyn Annen and Don Lease with Nebraska Strong Recovery Project provided information on National Recovery Month. A National Hunger & Homeless Proclamation will be on the November 3, 2021 agenda.

Mike McGinnis moved allowing Chairperson Lore to sign Resolution 2021-15, striking three personal property taxes that appear uncollectible from the distress warrants, seconded by Susan Lore. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

County Treasurer Val Bell provided the Board with the 2020 real estate tax remaining report and 2020 personal tax remaining report, as required. No action taken.

Mike McGinnis moved to sign Resolution 2021-16 to issue tax sale certificates on delinquent parcels, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. County Treasurer Bell stated that there is only one parcel available for tax sale.

County Treasurer Val Bell provided information she had obtained from Alliance Eagles Club #136 regarding the options and costs for an employee appreciation & safety meeting dinner. Mike McGinnis moved to have the dinner on November 6, 2021, 6 P.M., at the Eagles Club, not to exceed \$27.00 per plate for county employees. Guests will be required to pay for their meal, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

Brett Lauder came before the Board for discussion on what is expected and the duties of a County Weed Superintendent. County Attorney Curtiss informed Mr. Lauder that a County Weed Superintendent would require certification and what duties are expected and required. No action taken.

Mike McGinnis had discussed with the State of Nebraska, disposal procedures of the former City of Alliance transit buses, and stated the 2010 Supreme Bus VIN#9266 will be leased to the Village of Hemingford with similar lease that the County and City of Alliance had used. With the 2012 Veteran Office Ford Flex having been totaled by NIRMA due to the recent hail storm, the 2012 Dodge Sport Van VIN#4980 will be used by the Veteran’s office and added to the county fleet insurance. The remaining 3 vehicles will be auctioned, as approved during the August 4, 2021 board meeting.

Prior to approving monthly claims, the Board discussed a claim for Triangle Electric in the amount of \$3,764.75, that the Board concluded should be returned to Triangle Electric as it should be sent to the 911 Board. Also, discussing the \$16,226.00 remaining claim to Bruce Furniture for labor and additional carpet, Commissioner McGinnis stated he will visit with the manager at Bruce Furniture. Steve Burke moved to approve monthly claims with the exception of the \$3,764.75 Triangle Electric invoice and the \$16,226.00 Bruce Furniture invoice, seconded by Susan Lore. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairperson Lore adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Attest: _____
Chairperson County Clerk