



# Box Butte County Board Minutes



Box Butte County Commissioners met in regular session 9:00 a.m., December 20, 2021, in the County Board Room, second floor of the County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Ave., Alliance, NE. 2021 L 31 of meeting was published in Alliance Times Herald, December 8, 2021. Agenda was emailed to board members and posted on the county's website: boxbuttecounty.us December 17 2021. Chairperson Lore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call: Steve Burke, Mike McGinnis, 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. Steve Burke moved to accept and sign December 6, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. With no elected officials reports, the Board acknowledged office reports from Extension and Building and Grounds offices. Board reports were heard and correspondence was acknowledged with NIRMA requesting a plan for finalized roof and vehicle repairs from the July 2021 hail storm. Steve Burke moved to table a Box Butte General Hospital Tort Claim until May, seconded by Susan Lore. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

Mike McGinnis moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:15 a.m., seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. Mike McGinnis moved allowing Chairperson Lore to sign the four corrections County Assessor Michelle Robinson presented, correcting three homestead exemptions and one personal property adjustment, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. Susan Lore moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:20 a.m., seconded by Mike McGinnis. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

County Assessor Robinson provided an update of county vehicles that the Assessor's office drives for property reviews and reported on recent vehicle repairs. No action taken.

Nebraska Strong Recovery Project Coordinator Carolyn Annen thanked the Board for their partnership working with the community during the Covid 19 pandemic and that the NE Strong Recovery Project grant was coming to an end. No action taken.

Steve Burke moved to approve and enter into an employment agreement with Enet Somers-Dehaney as Public Defender for the County of Box Butte, seconded by Susan Lore. Burke, yes; McGinnis, no; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

With two letters of interest received for the open positions on the Box Butte County Extension Board, Mike McGinnis moved to appoint Heath Solberg and Annette Wood to the Extension Board, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

Mike McGinnis moved to sign Resolution 2021-19 authorizing Box Butte County Commissioners and Box Butte County Clerk to execute documents required to receive USDA financial assistance for applications affecting the Box Butte County Sheriff's Office, seconded by Steve Burke. Deputy Sheriff JD Sutphen had provided information during the December 6, 2021 board meeting for officer webcams and computers with the possibility of grants from USDA. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. MC Schaaf Engineer Don Dye provided preliminary plans for the proposed West Otoe Road project. Susan Lore moved to table decisions on the proposed West Otoe Road project to the January 18, 2022 meeting, allowing the Board to study the plans, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. The Board set the 1&6 year road plan hearing for 1:30 p.m., February 22, 2022. Steve Burke moved to allow for bids of 40,000 ton of crushed rock out of the Jespersen pit, with bids to be opened 10:00 a.m., January 27, 2022, in the Commissioner Board Room and approval or rejection of bids during the February 2, 2022 board meeting, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried. The Board also discussed locking in oil costs for 10 miles of oil to be used in 2022. Mike McGinnis moved to approve



# Box Butte County Board Minutes



the 2021 Road Department Safety Manual, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

BOOK **O** PAGE **2021 - 31**

Mobius Communications had provided information regarding an update mitigating the risk of a security exploit. Mike McGinnis moved allowing Mobius Communications to do the upgrade with an approximate cost of \$160.00, seconded by Steve Burke. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

Jim Gardner, CPA with Gardner, Loutzenhiser and Ryan, P.C. provided the county's 2020-2021 audit to the Board. Mr. Gardner stated the county had a positive audit. Steve Burke moved to accept the audit report as presented, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

Elected salary resolution discussion continued, with the Board needing to fix the salaries prior to January 15, 2022 (23- 1114). Police Chief Lukens was present to discuss county attorney's salary, with County Sheriff Mowry offering 5% of the sheriff's base salary towards the county attorney's salary study. Base salaries were discussed along with cost of living increases and benefit package. No action taken. Salary resolution will be added to the January 5, 2022 board meeting.

Susan Lore called recess at 11:47 a.m.

Susan Lore resumed the meeting at 11:51 a.m., with roll call: Burke, McGinnis, Lore present.

Following review of the monthly claims, Steve Burke moved to approve and sign monthly claims, seconded by Mike McGinnis. Burke, yes; McGinnis, yes; Lore, yes. Motion carried.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairperson Lore adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson