

Box Butte County Commissioners met in regular session 9:00 a.m., June 6, 2022, in the County Board Room, second floor of the County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Ave., Alliance, NE. Notice of meeting and change of meeting date was published in Alliance Times Herald, May 25, 2022. Agenda was emailed on June 3, 2022, to board members and posted on the county's website: boxbuttecounty.us

Chairperson Burke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call: Patricia Johnston, Mike McGinnis and Steve Burke present. Judy Messersmith, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. County Attorney Terry Curtiss in attendance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairperson Burke acknowledged that this meeting will follow the open meeting act posted on the North wall of the County Board Room.

Johnston moved to accept the agenda as printed, seconded by Burke. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. No public comment on agenda items. Johnston moved, seconded by Burke to approve and sign May 18, 2022 minutes. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. McGinnis moved to accept and sign monthly elected officials' reports from County Sheriff, Clerk of District Court, County Clerk/Register of Deeds, seconded by Burke. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Other elected official's reports included County Attorney Curtiss presenting a proposal for new phone system in the County Attorney's office and Veteran's office, as the present system has not been working correctly. The County Attorney office and Veteran's office will pay for the phone system out of their current budget. Burke moved, seconded by Johnston to replace the current phone system at a cost of \$9,355.26. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Correspondence was acknowledged and available for public view and board members had not attended any committee meetings recently.

Burke moved to approve monthly payroll as presented, seconded by McGinnis. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. **GENERAL:** Net Payroll \$124,166.05; **ROAD:** Net Payroll \$40,301.54.

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:25 a.m., seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Johnston moved allowing Chairman Burke to sign the correction book as County Assessor Michelle Robinson presented, correcting one personal property, seconded by Burke. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Dates were set for the Board to hear property valuation protests. Date and times will be advertised for hearings set to begin July 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.; July 6, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.; July 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.; and July 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., with decisions to be made by the Board on July 18, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:35 a.m., seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Box Butte County Fair representative, Alina Schoeneman, came before the Board to request a special designated liquor license for the Box Butte County Fair, event dates August 10, 11,12,13,14, 2022. The fair board is requesting an extended area for the Saturday, August 13, 2022 concert and an extended area for the demolition derby to be held Sunday, August 14, 2022. County Attorney Curtiss suggested that the Board table the decision for a special designated liquor license allowing time to contact the Sheriff's office. The fair board provided drawings for the extended areas and informed the Board that fair board members and volunteers would be monitoring the beer garden at all times. Burke moved to approve the issuance of a special designated license as requested, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

USDA Wildlife District Supervisor, Jerry Feist and Wildlife Services Specialist Tim Brewer were present to discuss the wildlife services that have been provided to the county during the past year and to request additional funding for the 2022-23 fiscal year budget. An additional \$2,000.00 has been requested for services in the county. Mr. Feist is also seeking funding for benefits to be provided to Tim Brewer in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Feist will attend Sheridan County Board meeting to request the funding of benefits for Mr. Brewer also. The Board mentioned that they could see the increase request for services, but wanted to see what Sheridan County proposed for benefit costs. Burke moved to table the wildlife services agreement until the June 21, 2022 board meeting, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.



Mr. Kenneth Foster had requested to be on the agenda to discuss transportation on the veteran's service vehicles. Mr. Foster had received a letter from the Veteran's Service Officer and wanted to deny all accusations regarding his riding the veteran's service vehicles. Chairman Burke informed Mr. Foster that he will follow up with the Veteran's Office regarding these accusations. No action taken.

Murphy Tractor representative Mike Bateman was present to inform the Board that the state bid for motor graders will end on June 23, 2022 and at that time the state bid of \$288,065.00 will no longer be available and he anticipates motor graders to increase \$70,000.00 after that deadline. Chairman Burke did not feel any more discussion should take place as ARPA funds have not been received by the county at this time. Commissioner Johnston stated that ARPA funds have already been spent on one new road grader. Discussion will continue at the June 21, 2022 meeting. Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report.

With LB644 requirements that will impact counties in Nebraska, Burke moved to designate "The State Print Shop" as the vendor for the county if needed, utilizing their ability to connect the Assessor's data through the MIPS program used by the Box Butte County Assessor's office, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Box Butte County Assessor Michelle Robinson spoke to the Board regarding the Assessor office budget. Due to her paying GIS (\$13,420.90) twice in the fiscal year, the Assessor budget will be short on operating funds. Ms. Robinson informed the Board she will not be including the Maintenance Agreement-GIS budget line 2 2544 in next fiscal year's budget request. Burke moved to recognize this situation and allow for the Assessor to use personal services funds to finish the fiscal year this time, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Requests to the ARPA Committee for funds included body cams for Box Butte County Deputies and Jailers, updates to the District Court bench, and an additional \$50,000.00 to Mobius to extend broadband another 5 miles. Johnston moved to approve ARPA funds up to \$30,000.00 for law enforcement body cams; additional \$50,000.00 funding for broadband and remodeling to District Court judge's bench not to exceed the \$39,070.00 estimate, seconded by Burke. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. A proposal from Jack's Heating, Cooling, Stoves and Fireplaces for HVAC system to be installed in the Slagle building had expired, and a current proposal will be brought back for consideration during the June 21, 2022 board meeting.

Burke made a motion to sign Weed Superintendent Contracts, with updates provided by County Attorney Curtiss, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Burke to table Power Tech Service Agreement, allowing for review with Region 23 Emergency Management during budget preparation, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to approve and sign Resolution 2022-03 transferring funds in the amount of \$89,329.00 from Public Defender budget to District Court budget, due to the absence of a Public Defender, allowing for court appointed attorneys, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to approve and sign claims/invoices minus the \$30,340.00 invoice from Emergency Plumbing Weber Boys LLC, as the plumbing work has not been completed, seconded by Johnston. Johnston, yes; McGinnis, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. **GENERAL:** AFLAC 2,493.45; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp \$476.06; Bank of the West 39,921.77; Box Butte County Treasurer 87,780.00; Family Support Registry 25.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance 213.44; MASA Global Building 153.00; Retirement Plans Division/Ameritas 23,210.58; State of Nebraska Dept of Revenue 5,430.44; Independent Eye Care Professionals 68.88; **ROAD:** AFLAC 237.90; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp 176.24; Bank of the West 7,984.17; Box Butte County Treasurer 1,858.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance 4.08; MASA Global Building



37.50; NE Child Support Payment Center 1,517.00; Retirement Plans Division/Ameritas 2,408.61; State of Nebraska Dept of Revenue 1,819.81. **COURTHOUSE BOND FUND:** BOKF,NA 10,055.00. Total 185,870.93

Budget updates included the correction for jail janitorial supplies to be included in the building and grounds janitorial supply line. Budget Consultant Caleb Johnson has requested for preliminary budgets to be submitted to him by June 17, 2022. At this time, the Board is allowing officials to figure a 3% raise for employees beginning January 2023 and asks that operating expenses be kept at current amounts or minimal increase. No action taken.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Attest: _____

Chairperson

County Clerk