

June 11, 2024
Commissioners Meeting
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Colfax County, Nebraska was held in the Commissioners Room of the County Courthouse, Schuyler, Nebraska on the 11th day of June 2024. The County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. Present were: Carl Grotelueschen, Jim Mejsrik and Terry V. Wendt, County Commissioners, Rita M. Mundil, County Clerk and Bruce J. Prenda, County Attorney. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by posting written notice in at least three different public places as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice. The availability of the proposed agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Board. Copies of the Open Meetings Act were posted and available to the public. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was officially convened and open to the public.

The Chairman stated a copy of the Open Meeting Act statute is posted and available to the public.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejsrik to approve the agenda. Voting YES: Grotelueschen, Mejsrik and Wendt. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wendt; second Grotelueschen to approve the minutes of 5/28/2024. Voting YES: Mejsrik, Wendt and Grotelueschen. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

The General Assistance Clerk provided a report on her department's activities, no need for an executive session.

The Clerk provided the Board with a copy of her monthly fees, STOP Revenue received and NIRMA/NIRMA II 2024-2025 Billing Statement. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension sent correspondence regarding base salary increases for Extension Assistants.

The Board received the District Court Clerk's monthly fee report.

The Sheriff submitted his monthly report to the Board, which will be filed.

The Board reviewed the Internal Controls of the following offices: Attorney, Clerk, Clerk of District Court, Road Department, Planning and Zoning, Sheriff, Treasurer, Veterans' Aid Service and Noxious Weed.

The Vet Service Officer provided his May monthly report and June 4, 2024, claim reimbursements of services for Colfax County Veterans which will all be placed on file.

The Board received the Public Defender's report for May.

The Treasurer provided a written report on the bank reconciliation for the Homestead and Pinnacle Bank checking accounts, as well as the credit card accounts, dating back to July 2022. They identified funds that were not properly allocated and found discrepancies in transfers between bank accounts. After completing the reconciliations, an unaccounted amount of \$642.71 remained. All funds now have the correct amounts, and no funds or entities are missing money. State Auditor Jeff Schreier advised depositing the unaccounted amount into the General Fund which will be done in June.

Hope Freshour and Roberta Miksch from Columbus Area United Way presented information on the Columbus-Region Transit Feasibility Study. They discussed survey results, initial option and the next steps to be taken.

The Board provided an opportunity for County employees to attend an "Agenda-less meeting".

Recessed at 9:25 a.m. to resume at 9:30 a.m.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejsrik to approve Minda McKitrick/District Court Clerk as the signatory for 2024 Child Support documents that are signed by the Board so they can be completed online. Voting YES: Wendt, Grotelueschen and Mejsrik. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Wendt to recommend approval for a special designated liquor permit to Miretta Vineyards & Winery Inc. for an event held July 19, 2024, at the Colfax County Fairgrounds. Voting YES: Grotelueschen, Mejsrik and Wendt. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejsrik to recommend approval for a special designated liquor permit to CK Grill & Bar for events held June 22, 2024, and August 24, 2024, at the Colfax County Fairgrounds. Voting YES: Mejsrik, Wendt and Grotelueschen. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejsrik to authorize the Chairman to sign the appointment of Mark Arps, Emergency Manager to the Governance Board of Emergency Management Regional group known as East Central

Region and Shawn Messerlie/Sheriff as alternate. Voting YES: Wendt, Grotelueschen and Mejschik. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

The Zoning Administrator provided a report on the permits that had been issued and discussed the extension of the Moratorium Resolution to study the current zoning regulations on wind energy conversion turbines. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2024. Motion Grotelueschen; second Wendt to extend Moratorium Resolution 1-23-2024(1) for an additional six months to study the current zoning regulations on wind energy conversion turbines. Voting YES: Grotelueschen, Mejschik and Wendt. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Public comment was made on the removal of corn stalks plugging culverts.

The Highway Superintendent submitted a letter of resignation, with his last day being June 25th. Mark Arps, the former Highway Superintendent, stated that he will fill the position until a new hire is made. Road and bridge projects were discussed, and it was decided to advertise the Highway Superintendent position in all local newspapers, on the County website, and through NACO. Interviews for the Weed Superintendent/Road employee position were conducted, and it was recommended to hire Justin Stutzman for the full-time role.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejschik to accept the letter of resignation of Justin Laudenklos, Colfax County Highway Superintendent with an effective date of June 25, 2024. Voting YES: Mejschik, Wendt and Grotelueschen. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wendt; second Mejschik to approve the appointment of Mark Arps as Colfax County Highway Superintendent with an effective date of June 26, 2024.

Discussion was held on the Motion. The Commissioners expressed an interest in each Commissioner speaking individually with Mark Arps about the responsibilities of and expectations for the position.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejschik to postpone further consideration of the pending Motion to approve the appointment of Mark Arps as Colfax County Highway Superintendent with an effective date of June 26, 2024, until the June 25th meeting. Voting YES: Wendt, Grotelueschen and Mejschik. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wendt; second Mejschik to approve the appointment of Justin Stutzman as Colfax County Weed Superintendent with an effective date of June 10, 2024. Voting YES: Grotelueschen, Mejschik and Wendt. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

The clerk summarized the day's agenda and action taken.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Wendt to adjourn BOC at 10:50 a.m. and to meet again June 25, 2024. Voting YES: Mejschik, Wendt and Grotelueschen. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

A meeting of the Board of Equalization of Colfax County, Nebraska was held in the Commissioners Room of the County Courthouse, Schuyler, Nebraska on the 11th day of June 2024. The County Board of Equalization met at 10:50 a.m. Present were: Carl Grotelueschen, Jim Mejschik, and Terry V. Wendt, County Commissioners, Rita M. Mundil, County Clerk, Bill White, County Assessor and Bruce J. Prenda, County Attorney. Notice of this meeting was given in advance by posting written notice in at least three different public places as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice. The availability of the proposed agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the board. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted and available to the public. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was officially convened and open to the public.

The practice and procedures of the County Assessor's office were made available for all hearings.

The Board confirmed that the hearings on form 422, completed by taxpayers and filed with the clerk, will be conducted on June 25th and July 9th. The final day for equalization hearings is July 25th. Additional dates will be determined at the June 25th meeting.

No Under/Over Values were presented by the Assessor.

The Board reviewed the Clarkson Christian Daycare Foundation's request to waive the late-filing penalty for Form 451 (Exemption Application for Tax Exemption of Real and Personal Property by Qualifying Organizations) in consideration of Section 77-202.01(2).

At the Exemption Application hearing on May 28, 2024, the Board found that good cause existed for consideration of the late-filed application based on the applicant's reliance on advice of counsel, statutory conditional permission, and proper notice. The Board granted the waiver and the Assessor, following examination of the application, recommended approval of the exemption to the Board. The Board considered the recommendation and the Foundation's mission and article of incorporation; curriculum; rates; educational, religious, and charitable association; facilities; and other aspects of the organization and approved Form 451 for Clarkson Christian Daycare Foundation, granting tax exempt status for real and personal properties.

The Board discussed and considered the request to waive the late-filing penalty imposed by Section 77-202.01(2).

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejstrik to DENY the request to waive the penalty fee for late filing. Voting YES: Grotelueschen, Mejstrik and Wendt. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Grotelueschen; second Mejstrik to adjourn BOE at 11:35 a.m. and to meet again June 25, 2024. Voting YES: Mejstrik, Wendt and Grotelueschen. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

I, Rita M. Mundil, duly elected and qualified County Clerk of said county, do hereby state that the above minutes were recorded by me, are true and correct to my knowledge, are recorded in the Commissioners Records and were completed for public inspection and publication on the 12th day of June 2024.


Rita M. Mundil, County Clerk