

Garfield County Board of Commissioners Record

Burwell, Garfield County, Nebraska

The Garfield County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Garfield County Courthouse in Burwell, Nebraska pursuant to public notice posted in three public places. Chairman Krause called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with the following present: Commissioners, Krause, Zulkoski and Hurlburt.

Motion made by Hurlburt to approve the agenda, second by Zulkoski. Roll call vote: Aye, all; Nay, none.

Motion made by Hurlburt to approve & adopt minutes of last County Commissioners meeting held March 26, 2024, second by Zulkoski. Roll call vote: Aye, all; Nay, none.

In unfinished business the matter of FEMA Disaster DR4420 was discussed. Road Superintendent Kinney that projects 1 through 7 have been received and now finishing up the administrative costs for submission.

At 1:32 p.m., Chairman Krause recessed the regular meeting and opened the Board of Equalization. Tammy Hitchcock, County Treasurer, presented a Form 457 motor vehicle tax exemption for Kamp Kaleo. Kali Bolli, County Assessor, presented with tax list correction 585 for all centrally assessed in Garfield County and tax list correction 586 for all real estate located in Garfield County. Motion made by Krause to approve tax list correction number 585, second by Zulkoski. Roll call vote: aye, all; Nay, none. Motion made by Hurlburt to approve tax list correction number 586, second by Zulkoski. Roll call vote: Aye, all; Nay, none. Motion made by Zulkoski to approve Form 457 as presented, second by Hurlburt. Roll call vote: Aye, all; Nay, none. At 1:36 p.m. Chairman Krause reconvened the regular meeting.

Motion made by Krause to approve amendment #3 for professional services/consultant agreement between Garfield County and Olsson, second by Hurlburt. Roll call vote: Aye, all; Nay, none. This agreement was extended to March 31, 2024.

The Sheriff quarterly report was reviewed as presented.

The District Court month end report for March was reviewed as presented.

The County Treasurer presented a change in pledged collateral, revenue listing and disbursement report. All were reviewed, as presented.

Discussion was held on a request made by Kenneth Ferris asking for a possible special permit to drive his utility vehicle on the highway to travel to town for snow removal. He had recently been stopped by local law enforcement for traveling on the highway, which is not legal. Nothing the County Board can do as that is not a licensed motor vehicle and Nebraska State laws do not permit such a use.

At 2:00 p.m., Chairman Krause recessed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing for the one- and six-year road plan. Road Superintendent, Gary Kinney, presented the proposed projects with an end date of December 31, 2029. With not comments from the public, Chairman Krause closed the public hearing at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting. Resolution 2024-8; one- and six-year road plan. Motion made by Krause to approve resolution 2024-8, second by Hurlburt. Roll call vote: Aye, all; Nay, none.

Sheriff, Korey Johnson presented with a concern for the potential liability with the upcoming Concrete Cares of Nebraska fundraiser due to the path of travel and possible alcohol use while operating atv's. The concerns raised prompted discussion as to how far does the County go to allow the event to continue with potential issues. It was suggested that Sheriff Johnson contact the event organizer and relay that if there are any damages or other issues with the event that require law enforcement action, that the event may not be allowed to be held in Garfield County. The County understands that this is a charitable event, but the laws also need to be enforced.

Discussion was held about the law enforcement operations and the potential for consolidating with the City of Burwell. Discussion on finances and wage proposals for hiring new officers was held. Motion made by Krause that it is the intent of Garfield County to continue to work with the City of Burwell for consolidating law enforcement and authorize the Sheriff's Department, County Clerk and Commissioner Hurlburt to continue working as a committee along with City Administrator Jeff Pohl, second by Hurlburt. Roll call vote: Aye, all; Nay, none.

Motion made by Krause to approve the employee reimbursement agreement. Motion died due to lack of second.

Motion made by Hurlburt to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing employee policy and procedure, second by Zulkoski. At 3:00 p.m., Chairman Krause cleared the room for the closed session. Those in attendance of the closed session were members of the Board, County Attorney Sikyta and County Clerk Koenigsberg. Motion made by Hurlburt to come out of the closed session at 4:06 p.m., second by Zulkoski. At 4:06 p.m., Chairman Krause reconvened the regular meeting. Motion made by Zulkoski to begin performance and evaluation reviews of all County departments, beginning on April 23 with the Weed Department, and scheduling all other departments in subsequent board meetings, second by Hurlburt. Roll call vote: aye, all; Nay, none.

With no further business, Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Attest: _____
Keri L. Koenigsberg,
Garfield County Clerk

Attest: _____
Scott L. Krause,
Chairman of the Board