

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Madison, Nebraska

August 4, 2009

The Board of Equalization of Madison County, Nebraska met at 9:00 A.M.

Advance notice of meeting was published in the Thursday, July 30, 2009 edition of The Norfolk Daily News. A copy of said notice was mailed to each Board member. An affidavit of acknowledgment of receipt of notice of meeting as published was executed. Chairman Lee Klein called the meeting to order and notified the public of the location of the information regarding the Open Meeting Act posted in the meeting room.

Present: Commissioners Jerry McCallum, Rick Uhlir, and Lee Klein, Deputy County Assessor Judy Bickley, and County Clerk Nancy Scheer.

Motion made by Uhlir and seconded by McCallum to approve the agenda for the meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Uhlir and seconded by Klein to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2009 and July 21, 2009 meetings. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Chairman Klein opened a public hearing at 9:02 A.M. to consider the following motor vehicle exemption applications:

Community Concern of Norfolk, Inc. 307 Prospect Avenue, Norfolk	2004 Chevrolet Sport Van
Faith Regional Health Services, P.O. Box 869, Norfolk	1994 Dodge Ram Van, 1996 Ford Pickup, 1997 Dodge Grand Caravan, 1997 Dodge Ram Van (2), 1997 Chevrolet Tilt Cab, 1998 Chevrolet Pickup, 1998 Dodge Caravan, 2000 Dodge Stratus, 2000 Plymouth Neon, 2001 Plymouth Neon (2), 2001 Dodge Neon (4), 2001 Chevrolet Silverado, 2001 Pontiac Van, 2003 Dodge Stratus, 2003 Chevrolet Venture Van, 2004 Chevrolet Pickup, 2005 Chevrolet Van, 2005 Chevrolet Venture Van, 2006 Chevrolet Uplander, 2006 Circle D Flatbed Trailer, 2007 Chevrolet Uplander (3), 2007 Chevrolet Malibu, 2008 Chevrolet Malibu (4)
Lutheran High Northeast, P.O. Box 2454, Norfolk	1986 Chevrolet Bus, 1999 Chevrolet Cavalier, 1996 Bluebird Bus, 1998 Dodge Van, 1999 Chevrolet Van, 2006 Honda Accord
Mosaic, 105 East Norfolk Avenue, Suite 200, Norfolk	2010 Chevrolet Impala (2)
Norfolk Catholic High Schools, 2300 Madison Avenue, Norfolk	2006 International Bus
Northeast Baptist Association, 714 South 8th Street, Norfolk	2001 Buick 4 Door Sedan

County Treasurer Donna Primrose reported that the exemption applications were all renewals. No one appeared at the hearing to offer verbal testimony. Chairman Klein closed the hearing at 9:03 A.M.

After discussion, it was moved by McCallum and seconded by Uhlir to approve the motor vehicle exemption applications as submitted. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Deputy County Assessor Judy Bickley reported that the following individuals requested extension of the homestead exemption filing deadline: Donald Brandenburg, Karen Bunik, and Denis and Jeannine Kerkman. She explained that the deadline to submit homestead exemption applications is June 30th; however, applicants can submit a letter on or before July 20th requesting an extension of the filing deadline.

After discussion, it was moved by McCallum and seconded by Uhlir to approve the extension of the homestead exemption filing deadline for Donald Brandenburg, Karen Bunik, and Denis and Jeannine Kerkman. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Deputy County Assessor Judy Bickley submitted the following tax list corrections:

- #2515: Ernest Klein Credit Shelter Trust, c/o Elkhorn Valley Trust Department, P.O. Box 187, Norfolk
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$73.84 for personal property added to the 2006 tax rolls due to irrigation equipment listed on 2009 personal property return
- #2516: Ernest Klein Credit Shelter Trust, c/o Elkhorn Valley Trust Department, P.O. Box 187, Norfolk
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$54.32 for personal property added to the 2007 tax rolls due to irrigation equipment listed on 2009 personal property return
- #2517: Ernest Klein Credit Shelter Trust, c/o Elkhorn Valley Trust Department, P.O. Box 187, Norfolk
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$31.30 for personal property added to the 2008 tax rolls due irrigation equipment listed on 2009 personal property return
- #2518: Kerry and Barbara Werner, 84453 539th Avenue, Meadow Grove
Deduction from the tax rolls in the amount of \$162.00 for reduction to the 2008 real estate taxes for 1.05 acres owned by Carhart Lumber Company that was added to this parcel in error for 2008
- #2519: Carhart Lumber Company, P.O. Box 430, Wayne
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$163.64 for 2008 real estate taxes for 1.05 acres that was erroneously added to a parcel owned by Kerry and Barbara Werner
- #2520: John and Stephanie Rabbass, 1700 East Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$4.58 for acceleration of 2009 personal property taxes due to sale of equipment in October 2009

After discussion, it was moved by Uhlir and seconded by McCallum to approve tax list corrections #2515 through #2520. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board of Equalization adjourned at 9:07 A.M.

County Clerk

Chairman

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Madison, Nebraska

August 4, 2009

The Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska met in regular session at 9:30 A.M.

Advance notice of meeting was published in the Thursday, July 30, 2009 edition of The Norfolk Daily News. A copy of said notice was mailed to each Board member. An affidavit of acknowledgment of receipt of notice of meeting as published was executed. Chairman McCallum called the meeting to order and notified the public of the location of the information regarding the Open Meeting Act posted in the meeting room.

Present: Commissioners Jerry McCallum, Rick Uhlir, and Lee Klein, and County Clerk Nancy Scheer. County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson joined the meeting at 9:36 A.M. County Attorney Joseph Smith was intermittently present during the meeting.

Chairman McCallum read the following consent agenda items into the record:

- 1) Approval of minutes of the July 21, 2009 meeting
- 2) RESOLUTION #2009-46

WHEREAS, Check No. 09070029, dated July 7 2009, and drawn on the General Fund in the amount of eighty seven dollars and seventy two cents (\$87.72), was made payable to Courtesy Ford Lincoln Mercury, P.O. Box 467, Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-0467, and

WHEREAS, said check was not tendered, but remains in the possession of the Madison County Clerk,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Check No. 09070029, dated July 7, 2009, and drawn on the General Fund in the amount of eighty seven dollars and seventy two cents (\$87.72), is hereby cancelled.

- 3) Authorization to advertise for bids for a vibratory asphalt compactor for Road District #1 and set the bid date for August 18, 2009
- 4) Authorization to advertise for bids for Project No. C-59-744 (Victory Road Reconstruction)
- 5) Approval of contract with the City of Madison for the Public Defender's office space
- 6) Authorization for the Board Chairman to execute a Deed of Correction for the Nebraska Department of Roads for a tract of land in Section 36-24-3 sold to Madison County on July 11, 2009
- 7) Acknowledged receipt of preliminary levy allocation requests for the 2009-2010 fiscal year

Motion was made by Uhlir and seconded by Klein to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Uhlir to approve the regular agenda. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the fund balance report. No action was taken.

Pursuant to published legal notice to bidders in the July 23, 2009 and July 30, 2009 editions of The Norfolk Daily News, sealed bid for Project No. C-59-775 (Structure No. C005900935) were received from the following companies:

A & R Construction	Plainview, Nebraska
Castle Construction, Inc.	Columbus, Nebraska
Dobson Brothers Construction Company	Lincoln, Nebraska
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.	Wahoo, Nebraska
WAW Construction Inc.	Stromsburg, Nebraska

After review of the bids and verification of the bid extensions, County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson recommended award of a contract to the low bidder, M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc. Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Uhlir to award a contract to M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc. for Project No. C-59-775 (Structure No. C005900935). Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Budget committee members Richard Johnson and Nancy Scheer presented a summary of the preliminary budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. They submitted a spreadsheet reflecting the current fund balances and a comparison to the fund balances from the prior fiscal year. They reported that the report also reflects the amount of funds spent from the Inheritance Tax Fund during the prior ten years.

Budget committee members presented a report listing the General Fund office functions and explained that the report reflected the budget allocation from the prior fiscal year, the budget request for the current fiscal year, and the dollar amount and percentage of change from the prior fiscal year. They reported that offices that exceeded the 2% limitation requested by the County Board submitted explanations of their requested increase that could be reviewed by the Board members. They reported that the County Board, Miscellaneous General, and Capital Acquisitions office functions in General Fund would be completed for the August 18, 2009 meeting. In addition, they stated that the budget for County Relief office function in General Fund has not been submitted. Budget committee members also reviewed a report listing miscellaneous funding requests.

No action was taken.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Lora Young, Convention and Visitors Board (CVB) member Linda Haack, Great American Comedy Festival Board members Dennis Collins and Ann Ausedemore, and County Attorney Joseph Smith were present to discuss a request for payment of the Great American Comedy Festival expenses with Visitors Promotion and/or Visitors Improvement funds. Lora Young reported that the CVB Board held a special meeting and the following motion was considered: Advance a one time grant for \$40,000 to the Great American Comedy Festival with the following stipulations: 1) The Festival repay the monies advanced within 8 years; and 2) Before any future grants for monies to ensure an event may continue for the following year, the event producers must provide a proposed pay-back schedule for the funds to be advanced, and they must produce letters of support for the event from a majority of the County Commissioners. She explained that two members of

the CVB Board voted to approve the motion, two members of the CVB Board voted to disapprove the motion, and one member abstained based upon the advise of the County Attorney. In addition, she reported that another motion was unanimously approved to forward to the County Commissioners that all the members of the Advisory Committee support the Great American Comedy Festival. Lora Young explained that since there was a tie vote at the Visitors Board special meeting, the Great American Comedy Festival is requesting the Commissioners to approve a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the Madison County Visitors Promotion and Visitors Improvement Funds.

Dennis Collins, an Executive Board member of the Great American Comedy Festival, reported that through a variety of circumstances, the Comedy Festival lost more than \$40,000 this year even though the festival broke even last year. He explained that the Great American Comedy Festival is a non-profit corporation and no one personally guaranteed the event. He reported that the Madison County Visitors' Bureau has been very generous and helpful in the past. Mr. Collins stated that there are some really terrific people serving on the Festival Board and to not have Visitors' Bureau funds used for the festival sends the wrong message about volunteering. He stated that no one serving on the festival board gets a dollar for their services. He stated that very classy people are brought to the festival and for a variety of reasons too much money was paid for the star of the festival. He stated that, in his opinion, everyone in charge learned a lesson. He explained that receipt of the funding would allow the festival to be held again and they have every intention of repaying the funds. He also stated that, in his opinion, he doubts if the festival could continue if the funding requested was disapproved. Mr. Collins stated that the radio stations, hotels, and many others were in support of the Comedy Festival and people came from all around, including South Dakota, Iowa, and Omaha; however, not enough people attended the Saturday night show. He stated that he realizes that there are differences of opinions about whether the funding request should be approved; but approving this request would be a good message to people who volunteer for these types of events that the Visitors' Bureau and the county supports the festival.

Anne Ausdemore, a member of the Great American Comedy Festival Executive and Planning Committees, stated that some people might ask how such a debt could be incurred. She explained that the Comedy Festival is unlike any other festival that people are familiar with. She stated that other festivals, such as the Chicken Show in Wayne, or the Livestock Show in Wisner, have a very predictable plan and set of activities, such as carnivals and beer gardens. She explained that if you attend any community festival in northeast Nebraska, the events are all essentially the same by following the same format and same number of days, so it is very easy to plan activities. Ms. Ausdemore reported that the Great American Comedy Festival is unlike any other event in Nebraska or the Midwest region. She stated that there is a similar festival in Chicago that is planned by people with lots of money and there are people all over that plan Comedy Festivals, but none are held in the Midwest. She stated that they were unsure when they started this event exactly how it would go. She reported that the committee was very inspired both years by people coming from all over. She stated that the Board's issue today is determining how this will affect Madison County's economy and the hospitality industry and if the \$40,000 would be a good investment. Ms. Ausdemore stated that the committee is confident that the funding can be a good investment and will enable the committee to take an unknown event and turn it into an event that everyone can be very proud of because it is unique. She stated that there are festivals all over the area; however, this is a festival that is sure to continue bringing in people from all over. She reported that they had people coming from Burwell, Omaha, Lincoln, and parts beyond. She stated that she is confident that the comedy will bring in the people because it is bringing recognition from the United States in terms of comic talent that it brings in. She stated that the event needs to be fostered locally and with the funding request approved, the Comedy Festival will continue to grow. Ms. Ausdemore reported that she took part in planning the first Chicken Show in Wayne and she questioned who would have given that event a chance of blossoming into an event that is known nationwide. She explained that most people locally would question why some people from California would plan their entire vacation around a trip to the Chicken Show, but some people that like the show do this every year. She reported that there are as many people from out-of-town and out-of-state as from the City of Wayne that attend the Chicken Show and that is what the Comedy Festival will be in future years. She stated that Norfolk has the Johnny Carson name in its hometown and since the festival is affiliated with Norfolk she is confident that they can make this festival grow with the support of the County Board.

Dennis Houston, President of the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, stated that a bid percentage of the Chamber members live outside the Norfolk community in the surrounding counties. He stated that the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce looks at the Comedy Festival as a regional event and his hope is that the festival becomes a national event. He stated that, in his opinion, the event has a great foundation. He stated that for economic reasons, the festival could put more people in motel rooms if the scope was expanded and the event was marketed to other surrounding states. Mr. Houston stated that on a personal note, this festival is the type of event that caught the attention of his family when they were considering relocation to the Norfolk community. He stated that the festival coordinators are trying to capitalize on the Johnny Carson childhood and his claim to fame. He explained that these are the kinds of things, from an economic development standpoint, that a community steps up to the plate and tries to build it bigger. He reported that when new businesses are looking are relocating they are always asking what events and activities are available for their employees. He stated that the current business model for the Comedy Festival is not ideal, otherwise they wouldn't be before the County Board asking for funds. He stated that there are two choices, either fix it or let it die and in his opinion, it would be unfortunate to let the event die. Mr. Houston stated that he has been approached by many people who tell him that the Norfolk area has a reputation for having many festivals that only happen one or two years and then die for lack of interest. He stated that, in his opinion, the Comedy Festival is one of the events that could become a regional event for all the communities around Norfolk and also bring in people nationwide. He asked the Board members for their support to keep the Comedy Festival alive. He explained that the Festival Committee is analyzing the scope of the event, the length of the event, and bringing in a national sponsor that could underwrite a large portion of the event.

Convention and Visitors Board member Linda Haack stated that she voted against the funding request. She explained that the Comedy Festival is a wonderful event and brings many people into the community. She reported that the reason she voted against the funding request is because she didn't believe that the Visitors' Promotion funds should be used as a bailout, but should be used to promote tourism. She also explained that she felt that it would also set a precedent for all the festivals in the area to come to the CVB Committee and ask for a loan if their events lost money. She reiterated that it is her opinion that the CVB funds should not be used for this purpose.

Chairman McCallum questioned what would happen if the Comedy Festival lost another \$40,000 next year. He stated that the economic crunch may not have hit the Midwest yet and he questioned how the Visitors' Bureau would recover when there may be no chance to get the \$40,000 funding returned. He stated that the Visitors' Bureau might be broke if they continue to loan out funds.

Lori Young responded that, if the funding request is approved, her plan is similar to what she did with the Car Show. She stated that the Car Show was upside down several years ago and she helped them out with the restrictions that the Car Show organizers had to listen to her and be on a budget. Chairman McCallum stated that the \$40,000 was not the total loss on the Comedy Festival and Lori Young responded that the loss was approximately \$74,000.

Dennis Collins reported that the Festival Committee has some money and one of the big items would be the person that is in charge and he doesn't get paid. He stated that they hope to get a sponsor for future comedy events, but they don't know how successful that would be. He explained that they are eliminating the big items that got the festival in trouble. He stated that, in his opinion, the Comedy Festival would be just as successful on a smaller budget. Lora Young stated that, in her opinion, they

could do the same show and make some money if the headliners were people like Tom Cotter, who everyone in the audience loved this year, even though no one knew him. She reported that he cost \$3,500 compared to \$40,000 paid for the headliner comedian. She stated that the Comedy Festival Committee could make some changes to make the event more successful and to build in some safe cushions moving forward. In addition, she stated that the only way to get the debts paid off is to the Comedy Festival again. Chairman McCallum stated that he definitely supports the Comedy Festival, but it is difficult to be in favor of an event that loses money.

Lori Young stated that, as the Director of Convention and Visitors Bureau, she does not make the full decision when it comes to this amount of money and that is why the request was submitted to the Advisory Committee and then subsequently came to the County Commissioners. Chairman McCallum questioned what happens if the Comedy Festival loses a large amount of money next year and someone sues the festival, is the county responsible for paying the debt. Lora Young responded that the county would not be responsible. Chairman McCallum stated that the Board is asked to make a decision regarding the CVB funds and he questioned how this affects the county. Lora Young responded that she never signs a contract and she never commits the CVB funds. County Attorney Joseph Smith explained that the Comedy Festival is organized as a 501c(3) and as he understands it, the Comedy Festival Committee signs the contracts and no one personally guarantees the contract.

Commissioner Uhlir questioned what happens if the County Board decides not to approve the funding request and County Attorney Joseph Smith responded that the Comedy Festival has the debt and at some point, the corporation may get sued and it may not remain solvent. Commissioner Klein stated that Visitors' Promotion funds are strictly pass-through funds and the only responsibility that he sees for the Commissioners is to appoint members to serve on the Advisory Board. He questioned if the committee members tried to negotiate with the individuals who were owed a debt. County Attorney Joseph Smith stated that one of the issues is that the corporation may not only get sued, but whether the festival would be able to continue next year. Commissioner Klein stated that he enjoyed the Comedy Festival and, in his opinion, the area needs these types of events.

Lora Young stated that the Comedy Festival Committee starts out with nothing and is forced to build up funds before any money is spent. He stated that hopefully they could move forward with a fundraiser with a company out of Omaha, who would only get paid if they bring in money. She reported that the company would hopefully have better leads on getting a national sponsor than what the local committee has been able to generate.

Chairman McCallum stated that the Visitors' Bureau guarantees the Comedy Festival nothing as far as re-paying any debts and the Festival Committee could create half a million dollars of debts. Dennis Collins responded that the committee does not view the situation like Chairman McCallum explained. He explained that last year was not a great economic time and the festival broke even and the headliner cost \$20,000 and he was terrific. He stated that no one attending the meeting booked the headliner this year that cost \$40,000 and the committee members are angry because the committee members donate hundreds of hours and are really good people. Dennis Collins stated that he would be disappointed if he couldn't help all the people who spent many hours volunteering for this festival. He explained that, in his opinion, the Comedy Festival could be done in a way that is much more economical. He stated that no one serving on the Festival Committee would deliberately incur half a million dollars worth of debt.

Lora Young stated that no one that is involved with the Comedy Festival would sign a contract that would have the potential to be in the same situation. County Attorney Joseph Smith questioned if the 501c(3) organization would be the contracting agency and Lora Young responded affirmative. She stated that no one would want to step forward and be the Chairman of the 501c(3) with the potential of having a loss with their name on the contract. She explained that she purposely doesn't sign any of the contracts. Chairman McCallum questioned what position the Visitors' Bureau budget would be in next year if \$40,000 is loaned to the Comedy Festival and how much money would be available to help other events. Lora Young responded that since she has been prudent and has not spent all the money the last several years, there is a reserve of funds. Chairman McCallum questioned what reserve of funds is available and Lora Young responded that there is a balance of approximately \$100,000 in the two funds. Lora Young explained that she plans to write an initial check for \$10,000 and provide \$5,000 each month up to the total of \$40,000 because she doesn't want to quickly deplete the budgets. She also explained that she doesn't want to get into the situation like several years ago when checks were being written and there was no money available. County Attorney Joseph Smith questioned if there was a \$10,000 funding request for the Car Show and Lora Young responded that the Car Show received \$2,000 in funding from the Visitors' Board.

Commissioner Klein stated that the Advisory Board should make this decision. County Attorney Joseph Smith responded that the Commissioners are stuck with making this decision. He explained that the Visitors' Board is an Advisory Board under the County Commissioners. He reported that there are five members on the Visitors' Board and one member had a conflict that was causing a lot of controversy and he advised this member that if there is an issue of a conflict she should not vote. He stated that this member abstained from voting on the funding request so the result was a tie vote. Lora Young stated that the Advisory Board member who abstained would have voted in favor of the motion that would have eliminated the need to come before the Commissioners. County Attorney Joseph Smith stated that the Advisory Board member who abstained did the right thing by abstaining. Commissioner Klein stated that it is difficult to say that a member has a conflict when the statutes requires that an Advisory Board member must be a representative of a hospitality business. He stated that everything could then have the potential to be a conflict of interest. He agreed that the Comedy Festival is an asset to the area. He reiterated that he attended the Comedy Festival and it was really great. He stated that he didn't want to see the Comedy Festival die, but there are certainly other approaches to take.

Lora Young stated that when this funding request came up she looked at her budget to see if the Visitors' budget could handle it. She stated that as the Convention and Visitors' Bureau Director she is not thrilled about it, but in her opinion, it must happen. She stated that the Comedy Festival Board knows her opinion and she also wants the Commissioners to know.

Chairman McCallum stated that his concern is what this funding request would do to the Visitors' Bureau budget because he didn't want one particular event to use all the money so no other events could be supported. He stated that as far as the promotion of Madison County, the Board of Commissioners supports everything. Lora Young stated that she doesn't see anything that she has done in the past changing as far as ads being placed, marketing completed, and the other communities that get funds from the yearly budget. Chairman McCallum stated that this is one of the most controversial decisions he has been involved in. He stated that he wants to make sure that the Visitors' Bureau represents other events besides the Comedy Festival and his hope is that the Village of Meadow Grove doesn't come to the Visitors' Bureau requesting \$40,000 to put on a festival. Lora Young responded that the Village of Meadow Grove receives funding for their festival.

After discussion, motion was made by Klein and seconded by Uhlir to allow the Convention and Visitors' Bureau to advance a one time grant for \$40,000 to the Great American Comedy Festival with the stipulation that the Comedy Festival repay the monies advanced within 8 years and that the event producers must provide a proposed pay-back schedule before any future funds are advanced to ensure that the event may continue for the following year. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Extension Educator Lee Sherry appeared before the Board to discuss the County Extension office budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Also present during the discussion were Extension Board President Terry Radenslaben, County Treasurer Donna Primrose, County Attorney Joseph Smith, Clerk of the District Court Marjorie Schaffer, Chief Deputy Sheriff Michael Prather, Chief Jail Deputy Terry Howell, and Sheriff Office Manager Virginia Mason.

Extension Educator Lee Sherry requested that the Board recess into executive session since she wanted to discuss a personnel issue. Chairman McCallum questioned if any individual person had to be mentioned or if job positions could be used during the discussion. Lee Sherry responded that no names must be mentioned; therefore, Chairman McCallum stated that the matter would be discussed in open session.

Lee Sherry stated that the Extension Office did not receive from the budget memo regarding the 2% limitation on county budgets and salaries before the Extension Board met and adopted the budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. She stated that she was informed that the budget would be limited to a 2% increase and the total Extension Office budget increase was 2%, but the personnel costs increased more than 2%. She respectively requested that the Board accept the personnel cost increase above 2%.

Chairman McCallum explained that all elected officials met and discussed the health insurance increase of 18% and agreed to change the insurance plan from \$500 deductible to \$1,500 deductible, with the county to implement a program to buy-down the deductible to \$500 through December 31st and after January 1st change the deductible buy-down to \$750. He reported that due to the change in health insurance benefits and the increasing costs of county operations, the officials agreed to limit the salary increases to 2% for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. He stated that the Board couldn't let one office give more than a 2% increase and then limit all other offices to 2% increases. In addition, he explained that later this year the elected officials plan to meet again to discuss various personnel topics. Extension Educator Lee Sherry requested to be included in the meetings and Chairman McCallum responded that only elected officials are meeting to discuss personnel issues. Lee Sherry responded that her staff would not have anyone voicing an opinion on personnel issues. Chairman McCallum responded that the other appointed officials including Planning and Zoning Administrator or Veterans' Service Officer were not involved in the meeting.

Extension Board President Terry Radenslaben stated that if the Extension Board would have know earlier of the decision to limit budget and salary increases to 2%, they would have stayed within the limit. Chairman McCallum stated that the Extension Board could change the personnel costs in the budget. He explained that the elected officials would like to meet and discuss job descriptions and employee evaluations. He stated that years ago the elected officials adopted a pay scale and through the years some of the elected officials veered away from it. Lee Sherry stated that she completed employee evaluations and they also have job descriptions. Chairman McCallum stated that the Extension Office is on the right track; however, not all the offices have job descriptions for their staff. He stated that because of the economic times and the health insurance increases, the elected officials agreed to 2% salary increases. Commissioner Klein stated that many counties froze their wages. Chairman McCallum stated that if the county continues to offer expensive health care benefits, it couldn't afford to give exuberant wage increases. He stated that another option that was discussed was requiring employees to pay a portion of the health insurance premiums. Lee Sherry stated that that the Board should consider this option. Chairman McCallum stated that he is concerned about how all employees could have a large enough salary increase to pay the costs of health insurance. He stated that some employees would not be able to afford additional deductions from their paychecks.

Clerk of the District Court Marjorie Schaffer stated that another option discussed is offering health insurance only to the county employees and not including coverage for spouses and other family members. She stated that the insurance costs are just too high. Chairman McCallum stated that several officials and employees thanked him for the 2% increase. He concluded that the 2% salary increase would be implemented in all departments.

Lee Sherry questioned if the 2% salary increase could be adjusted if the employee was underpaid at the time of hiring. Chairman McCallum stated that to be fair to all employees, the 2% would be given to everyone. Lee Sherry questioned if the Extension Office could be informed in a timelier manner in the future. She stated that notification at a late date put the Extension Board in a bind. Terry Radenslaben stated that if the Extension Board members would have known the budget restrictions, they would not be attending this meeting.

Commissioner Klein questioned what the proposed salary increases were and Terry Radenslaben responded that the proposal was to increase one salary 7.4% and increase the other two salaries 2.5%. Chairman McCallum stated that the elected officials must decide if they want to complete a study on job descriptions and employee evaluations. He explained that the Board couldn't force concepts onto officials that don't want to do something. He reiterated that the Board wants to limit salary increases to 2% for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. He stated that Hall County implemented a salary schedule and lost several employees because some employee's wages were reduced. Lee Sherry stated that she is aware of what the competition pays and the Extension Office is paying less than the competition. Chairman McCallum questioned if the competition was private or government businesses and Lee Sherry responded that they researched both. Chairman McCallum stated that he has worked for the government many years and the government never seems to compare with the private sector. He explained that the benefits are very good, but you don't get rich working for the government.

Commissioner Uhlir stated that all the employees in his road department would receive a 2% salary increase. Chairman McCallum stated that the Board would check all salary claims in October to make sure that the raises are limited to 2%. He reiterated that all the elected officials agreed upon a 2% salary increase.

Chairman McCallum stated that he would meet with the elected officials to inquire is appointed officials should be involved in the meetings. He stated that appointed officials are not elected by the public and, in his opinion, people that are elected by the public should be making these decisions.

Commissioner Uhlir stated that the Extension Office must be informed of decisions that affect their office. Chairman McCallum stated that he called Lee Sherry and told her of the decision agreed upon by the elected officials. Lee Sherry responded that Chairman McCallum didn't tell her about the limitation on salaries. She stated that she would like to attend and listen at the elected officials meeting, even if she couldn't have any input. Chairman McCallum stated that documentation would be made of decisions at future meetings. Lee Sherry responded that this would be very acceptable. She stated that they want to do things correctly; however, they wanted to reward an employee that was working above and beyond.

No further action was taken.

The following claims were audited:

	GENERAL FUND	
Total Net Payroll		107,317.86
Ronald Albin	Legal Services, County Court	1,778.13
Alltel	Telephone Services, County Extension	92.47

Alltel	Telephone Services, County Sheriff	1,280.99
American Family Life Assurance Company	Insurance Premiums	520.39
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Employee Share Retirement	6,815.61
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Employer Share Retirement	10,014.48
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Insurance Premiums	356.66
Antelope County Sheriff	Service Fees, County Court	18.50
Aramark Correctional Services	Supplies, Meals, County Jail	383.22
AS Central Services	Telephone Services, Planning and Zoning	43.62
AS Central Services	Telephone Services, County Sheriff	262.29
AS Central Services	Telephone Services, County Jail	441.71
AS Central Services	Telephone Services, Veterans' Service Office	55.99
BHS	Services, Juvenile Diversion	437.50
BI Inc.	Monitoring Services, Juvenile Diversion	1,639.51
Big Red Printing	Supplies, District Court	88.77
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, Planning and Zoning	17.11
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, Veterans' Service Office	18.18
Bessie Bove	Prior Service Benefits	12.00
Brogan & Gray, P.C., L.L.O.	Legal Services, District Court	10,488.11
Brogan & Stafford, P.C.	Legal Services, County Court	1,690.25
Cabela's Marketing and Brand Management Inc.	Equipment, County Jail	82.19
Cableone	Internet Services, County Sheriff	1,271.40
Capital One Bank	Registration, County Attorney	725.00
Carney Law, P.C.	Legal Services, District Court	436.50
Central Restaurant Products	Supplies, County Jail	248.92
Central United Life Insurance Company	Insurance Premiums	37.20
Century 21 Ringer Partners	Rent, County Relief	150.00
Champs Inc.	Maintenance Agreement, County Jail	2,166.00
City of Madison	Utilities, Courthouse	124.99
City of Madison	Utilities, County Jail	708.27
Clerk of the Supreme Court	Court Costs, District Court	172.00
Colonial Life and Accident Insurance	Insurance Premiums	154.67
Connecting Point	Equipment, Supplies, County Sheriff	187.94
Connecting Point	Supplies, County Jail	104.00
Connecting Point	Equipment, Probation	2,204.00
Constellation Energy	Gas Service, Planning and Zoning	5.10
Constellation Energy	Gas Service, Veterans' Service Office	3.83
Copple, Rockey & McKeever, P.C., L.L.O.	Legal Services, County Court	297.28
Credit Bureau Services	Garnish of Wages	216.06
Credit Management Services	Garnish of Wages	120.01
Crown Point Apartments	Rent, County Relief	210.00
Cummins Central Power, L.L.C.	Maintenance Agreement, County Jail	2,039.23
DDSS, Inc.	Services, County Attorney	139.60
DDSS, Inc.	Services, Courthouse	1,181.20
Dent Specialists	Repairs, County Sheriff	132.17
Douglas County Sheriff	Service Fees, District Court	19.16
Eakes Office Plus	Copier Maintenance, District Court	241.49
Eakes Office Plus	Supplies, County Sheriff	27.98
Eakes Office Plus	Supplies, County Jail	167.00
Eakes Office Plus	Supplies, Equipment, Probation	901.58
Elite Office Products	Copier Maintenance, County Court	92.05
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department	Administrative Costs, County Relief	6,934.51
Enviromaster Inc.	Supplies, County Jail	42.00
First Concord Benefits Group	Flexible Benefit Plan	2,218.31
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Company	Supplies, Probation	66.05
Francotyp-Postalia Inc.	Equipment Rental, County Sheriff	397.15
Carla Frisch	Mileage, County Extension	97.02
Frontier	Telephone Services, Public Defender	276.74
Frontier	Telephone Services, Courthouse	1,357.58
Dan Fullner	Mileage, Mental Health	74.80
Gall's Inc.	Supplies, County Sheriff	97.98
Gall's Inc.	Uniforms, County Jail	1,501.55
General Reporting Service	Transcripts, District Court	52.14
Goodwin Tucker	Repairs, County Jail	143.40
Gordy's Towing & Repair	Repairs, County Sheriff	92.79
Group Link, Inc.	Insurance Premiums	274.92
Hall County Court	Copies, Law Enforcement	2.00
Hartford Life Insurance Company	Deferred Compensation	175.00
Heartland Fire Protection	Services, County Jail	45.00
Holt County Sheriff	Service Fees, District Court	6.50
Home For Funerals	County Burial, County Relief	1,650.00
Jeffrey Hrouda	Legal Services, District Court	2,496.84
Independent Housing	Rent, County Relief	25.00
Jack's Uniforms	Uniforms, County Sheriff	77.38
Jewell, Collins, DeLay & Flood	Legal Services, County Court	1,901.10
Pam Kesting	Mileage, Meals, County Extension	245.45
Kay Knapp	Mileage, Meals, County Extension	178.49
Kevin LaVey	Witness Fees, County Court	20.00
Leisure Lodge	Rent, County Relief	125.00
Louderback Drug	Prescriptions, County Jail	1,146.03

Madison County Clerk	Tax Deposit	36,153.08
Madison County Court	Transcript, Public Defender	32.50
Madison County Sheriff Inmate Fund	Supplies, Uniforms, County Jail	91.60
Madison County Sheriff	Service Fees, Mental Health	136.87
Madison County Sheriff	Court Costs, District Court	1,058.24
Madison County Sheriff	Court Costs, County Court	2,571.24
Madison County Veterans' Service Office	Veterans' Aid Costs	2,000.00
Madison County Veterinary Clinic	Impound Fees, Services, County Sheriff	65.00
Madison National Life	Insurance Premiums	125.31
Maintenance Engineering LTD	Supplies, County Jail	428.04
Christal McDonald	Court Reporting, Mental Health	100.00
Menards	Supplies, County Sheriff	68.34
Menards	Supplies, County Jail	979.41
Midwest Plumbing & Heating	Repairs, County Jail	557.61
NACO Planning & Zoning	Registration, Planning and Zoning	35.00
Nebraska Child Support Payment Center	Garnish of Wages	759.69
Nebraska Public Power District	Utilities, Planning and Zoning	109.44
Nebraska Public Power District	Utilities, Veterans' Service Office	79.09
Sarah Nelson	Mileage, County Extension	232.10
NMG LLC	Medical Services, County Jail	1,387.00
Norfolk Daily News	Publication Costs, County Extension	5.14
Norfolk Daily News	Publication Costs, Courthouse	629.09
Northeast Community College	Lease, Operating Costs, County Extension	3,679.35
Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services	Board of Prisoners, Juvenile Diversion	13,453.75
Northeast Research & Extension Center	Telephone Services, Supplies, Postage, County Extension	851.27
Valorie Olson	Court Reporting, Mental Health	100.00
Sherry Peterson	Mileage, Juvenile Diversion	434.09
Charlotte Poncelow	Prior Service Benefits	69.24
Quill Corporation	Supplies, County Court	428.40
Qwest	Telephone Services, District Judge	125.08
Qwest	Telephone Services, Probation	123.24
Reynoldson's	Fuel, County Sheriff	250.35
Rodeway Inn	Lodging, County Extension	110.84
Shell Fleet Plus	Fuel, Planning and Zoning	180.10
Lee Sherry	Mileage, Meals, County Extension	273.29
Shopko	Supplies, Planning and Zoning	66.96
Stanton County Court	Copies, Law Enforcement	2.50
Stanton County Sheriff	Service Fees, District Court	21.00
Stericycle Inc.	Services, County Jail	70.00
Stratton Law, P.C.	Legal Services, County Court	2,587.19
Dale Taylor	Interpreting Services, Public Defender	483.75
U.S. Cellular	Telephone Services, Law Enforcement	126.58
David Uher	Legal Services, County Court	3,050.30
United Bank of Iowa	Copier Maintenance, Probation	422.40
U.S. Bank Corporate Payment System	Car Washes, Fuel, County Sheriff	78.34
Voigt Locksmith	Supplies, County Sheriff	1.25
Western Office Products Plus	Supplies, District Court	217.37
Western Office Products Plus	Supplies, County Sheriff	6.19
Western Office Products Plus	Supplies, Probation	912.94
Western Office Products Plus	Supplies, Veterans' Service Office	16.95

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Total Net Payroll		27,587.70
American Family Life Assurance Company	Insurance Premiums	318.89
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Employees Share Retirement	1,627.98
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Employers Share Retirement	2,442.06
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Insurance Premiums	114.32
AS Central Services	Data Processing Costs, District #2	24.48
Asphalt and Concrete Materials Company	Asphaltic Materials, District #1	2,135.84
Battle Creek Farmers Cooperative	Fuel, District #3	6,507.45
Battle Creek Municipal Light & Power	Utilities, District #3	117.90
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, District #1, #2, #3	98.01
Bomgaars	Supplies, District #1, #2	419.17
Carhart Lumber Company	Supplies, District #3	4.29
Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation	Equipment Lease, District #2	1,913.64
City of Madison	Utilities, District #1	373.74
City of Newman Grove	Utilities, District #1	50.00
Colonial Life and Accident Insurance	Insurance Premiums	121.80
Constellation Energy	Gas Service, District #2, #3	71.46
Cornhusker Auto Center	Parts, District #1	64.40
Dinkel Implement Company	Equipment Rental, District #1	5,749.38
Eastern Nebraska Telephone	Telephone Services, District #3	88.25
Eisenmann Supplies Inc.	Parts, District #1	9.38

Filter Care of Nebraska	Services, District #1, #2	164.95
First Concord Benefits Group	Flexible Benefit Plan	555.60
Flinn Paving Company Inc.	Contract Services, District #2	135,451.54
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Company	Supplies, District #3	163.61
Freudenburg Tools	Tools, District #1	53.80
Frontier	Telephone Services, District #1, #3	233.15
GI Trailer	Repairs, District #1	449.77
Group Link, Inc.	Insurance Premiums	12.42
Hotsy Equipment Company	Parts, District #1	155.18
Husker Steel Inc.	Bridge Materials, District #3	11,571.84
Jebro Inc.	Asphaltic Materials, District #3	19,456.83
Johnson Engineering	Engineering Services, District #1, #2, #3	650.00
K & C Grain	Gravel, District #2	2,455.02
Kayton International Inc.	Parts, District #3	148.06
Kelly Supply Company	Parts, District #2	31.31
Ervin Klentz	Prior Service Benefits, District #2	13.00
Linweld Inc.	Supplies, District #1, #3	162.53
Madison County Clerk	Tax Deposit	8,469.09
Madison National Life	Insurance Premiums	36.89
Matteo Sand & Gravel Co. Inc.	Gravel, District #1, #2, #3	5,450.79
Menards	Supplies, District #1	28.55
NAPA Auto Parts of Norfolk	Parts, District #1, #2, #3	828.96
Nebraska Public Power District	Utilities, District #2, #3	246.54
NMC Exchange LLC	Repairs, District #1, #2, #3	529.80
Powerplan	Equipment Rental, District #2	2,500.00
Prime Sanitation	Garbage Service, District #2	53.75
Road Builders Machinery and Supplies Co. Inc.	Repairs, District #2	673.60
Telebeep Wireless	Internet Services, District #2, #3	141.96
Transamerica Life Assurance Company	Insurance Premiums	44.57
Truck Center of Norfolk	Repairs, District #3	2,938.74
U.S. Cellular	Telephone Service, District #1, #2, #3	242.34

FEDERAL AID SECONDARY FUND

Johnson Engineering Company	Engineering Services	1,625.00
Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc.	Engineering Services	14,865.00
Norfolk Construction Co. Inc.	Bridge Materials	5,620.00

DRUG TESTING FUND

Nebraska Public Health Environment Lab	Drug Test	84.00
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LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATING FUND

Davis Distributors, Inc.	Supplies	256.16
Madison County Sheriff	Subscription, Supplies	289.73

DRUG COURT FUND

Pam Wells	Meals	131.12
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NOXIOUS WEED FUND

Total Net Payroll		1,714.29
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Employee Share Retirement	63.76
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Employer Share Retirement	95.63
Madison County Clerk	Tax Deposit	523.76

911 EMERGENCY FUND

Frontier	Telephone Service	160.41
Qwest	Telephone Service	1,109.34

Motion was made by Uhlir and seconded by Klein to approve the claims as audited and authorize the County Clerk to issue checks for payment of said claims. Roll call vote: Ayes, McCallum, Uhlir, and Klein. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 11:22 A.M. to Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at 9:30 A.M.

County Clerk

Chairman