

## BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING

Madison, Nebraska

August 11, 2015

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

Advance notice of meeting was published in the Thursday, August 6, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News and posted on the Madison County website. 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 Jim Prauner called the meeting to order and notified the public of the location of the Open Meeting Act information posted in the meeting room.

Present: Commissioners Christian Ohl, Jim Prauner, and Ron Schmidt, County Assessor Jeff Hackerott, and County Clerk Nancy Scheer.

Motion was made by Ohl and seconded by Schmidt to approve the agenda for the meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ohl and seconded by Schmidt to approve the minutes of the meetings held on July 14, 2015, July 16, 2015, and July 21, 2015. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

County Assessor Hackerott reported that letters were received from Fred Alfs, Hugh Hinrichs, Ann Kasik who is the power-of-attorney for Rita Dreger, Maynard Lee, Patricia Macumber, Leo and Patricia Reznicek, and Robert and MaryAnn Stueckrath requesting extensions of the homestead exemption filing deadline. Hugh Hinrichs appeared at the meeting to offer verbal testimony.

County Assessor Jeff Hackerott reported that two of the applicants qualify for an extension of the filing deadline. Commissioner Schmidt asked what the basis is for extending the filing deadline and Mr. Hackerott responded that the State Statute provides that the only reason to approve an extension of the filing deadline is if the applicant has a medical condition that prevents the submission of the application by the filing deadline. Commissioner Schmidt asked if the application deadline would be extended if the accountant has a medical condition preventing the filing of the homestead application and Mr. Hackerott responded that the Nebraska Department of Revenue advised that the medical condition must be for the applicant, not the accountant. Mr. Hackerott explained that Hugh Hinrichs and Rita Dreger both had medical conditions that prevented them from filing the homestead exemption application by the deadline and the other requests are not related to medical conditions of the applicants. He stated that this is the first time he has received a request for an extension of the homestead exemption filing deadline because the tax preparer had a medical condition. He said that most of the applicants had a short term illness that spans the time frame for filing.

Commissioner Ohl asked if the applicants were asking for renewal of a homestead exemption or if they were new applicants. Mr. Hackerott responded that some of the applicants filed in previous years. He explained that the other stipulation for approval of extending the filing deadline is that the applicant could not have applied for an extension the previous year. He stated that it curtails applicants from filing late annually. Commissioner Schmidt requested that the applicants who aren't approved will know the reason why the deadline could not be extended.

Hugh Hinrichs reported that in April he got sick with a heart condition and was laid off from work. He said that when his doctor approved him to return to work on a part time basis, his job was no longer available. He reported that he was in the Courthouse in April to get his car licensed, but he didn't have the necessary papers to file for homestead exemption. He said he has been sick on and off since April. Commissioner Schmidt explained that if an extension is approved for Mr. Hinrichs, he can't file late next year.

After discussion, a motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Ohl to approve extensions of the homestead exemption filing deadline for Hugh Hinrichs and Rita Dreger based upon medical conditions that prevented them from filing prior to the deadline. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

During discussion on the motion, Chairman Prauner asked if the County ever granted extensions in the past that were not related to medical conditions. He asked if any changes were made to the guidelines that must be considered by the Board when considering the requested extensions. Mr. Hackerott responded that the only criteria that the Board can consider are medical conditions that prevent the applicant from meeting the filing deadline and that forgetting to file is not a criteria that can be considered.

Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Ohl to deny the requests for extension of the homestead exemption filing deadline for Fred Alfs, Maynard Lee, Patricia Macumber, Leo and Patricia Reznicek, and Robert and MaryAnn Stueckrath based upon nonconformance with Section 77-3514 Nebraska Revised Statutes requiring the applicants to have a medical condition preventing them from submitting the application by the deadline. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

County Assessor Jeff Hackerott submitted the following tax list correction:

- #3066: D & L Towing LLC, 1310 South Elkhorn Street, Norfolk  
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$91.34 for acceleration of 2014 personal property taxes due to closing of the business in July 2015
- #3067: Gary and Patricia Tillotson, 800 Kelland Drive, Norfolk  
Deduction from the tax rolls in the amount of \$71.76 for correction to the 2014 real estate taxes due to removal of concrete
- #3068: David and Rita Motacek, P.O. Box 184, Battle Creek  
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$191.22 for correction to the 2013 real estate taxes due to lowering of the homestead exemption from 100% to 85% by the Nebraska Department of Revenue

- #3069: Donald Volk, Gerald Volk, and Nickii Volk, 83785 550th Avenue, Norfolk  
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$419.62 for correction to the 2013 real estate taxes due to lowering of the homestead exemption from 100% to 40% by the Nebraska Department of Revenue
- #3070: Custom Feed Service Corporation, P.O. Box 862, Norfolk  
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$2,949.66 for correction of 2014 personal property taxes after submission of the 2014 depreciation schedule
- #3071: Trendy by Nate & Ashley, Nate Belitz and Ashley Hahne, 112 North 2nd Street, Norfolk  
Addition to the tax rolls in the amount of \$27.46 for acceleration of 2014 personal property taxes due to closing of the business in February 2015

After discussion, it was moved by Ohl and seconded by Schmidt to approve the tax list correction as submitted. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the County Assessor's 3-Year Plan of Assessment. No action was taken.

The Board of Equalization adjourned at 9:17 A.M.

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County Clerk Nancy Scheer

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Jim Prauner, Chairman  
County Board of Equalization

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## COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Madison, Nebraska

August 11, 2015

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, August 6, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News and posted on the Madison County website. 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.

Following a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Chairman Christian Ohl called the meeting to order and notified the public of the copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room.

Present: Commissioners Christian Ohl, Jim Prauner and Ron Schmidt, County Clerk Nancy Scheer, County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson, County Weed Superintendent Don Svitak, and road foremen Don Eucker and Jeff Schroeder. Zoning Administrator Heather McWhorter was present until 9:56 A.M. Norfolk Daily News reporter Jerry Guenther, US92 reporter John Kipper, and WJAG reporter Susan Risinger were present until 11:40 A.M.

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Prauner to remove item #9 for authorization to advertise for bids for repairs to the South portion of the County Jail roof and Item #12 for approval of the final plat for Evergreen Hill 2nd Addition, Phase 2, from the consent agenda for discussion. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

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

- 1) Approval of minutes of the July 28, 2015 meeting
- 2) Re-appointment of John Klein to serve a three year term on the Board of Adjustment with said term to expire in August, 2018
- 3) Approval of amendment to the Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance contract to reflect eligibility for employees working a minimum of 30 hours per week on a regular calendar year basis
- 4)

### RESOLUTION #2015-29

WHEREAS, Madison County did adopt and file its One an Six Year Plan as required by law, which plan included asphaltic concrete overlays on various roads in the county; and

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that certain other roads are in need of asphaltic concrete overlays and that the roads on the One Year Plan require other work prior to the overlays being completed; and

WHEREAS, it would be a more efficient use of county funds to change the One Year Plan to include different roads for overlay;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby amends the Madison County 2015 One Year Plan as follows:

1. The East three miles of Project No. C-59-405 839th Road from 549th Avenue to 552nd Avenue is changed from the Six Year Plan to the One Year Plan
2. Project No. C-59-869—553 ½ Avenue between 829th and 830th Roads is hereby added to the One Year Plan
3. Project No. C-59-870—Skyline Drive from Husker Drive to U.S. Hwy. 81 is hereby added to the One Year Plan

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Highway Superintendent is hereby directed to send the required documentation to the Nebraska Board of Classifications and Standards as required by law.

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Prauner to approve the consent agenda as amended. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Prauner to approve the regular agenda as amended. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Pursuant to published legal notice in the Saturday, August 1, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News, Chairman Ohl opened a public hearing at 9:33 A.M. to receive citizens' comments regarding the application of Wendell and Amanda Lewis to build a house on less than 40 acres on property owned by Larry Moenning in Section 28-23-2, which is located approximately 3 miles South and 2 miles East of the City of Battle Creek.

Zoning Administrator Heather McWhorter reported that the property is zoned as AG-1 Agriculture Intensive and the Lewis family would like to build a house on the tract which consists of about 10 acres of property that has access to an improved county road. She stated that the property is currently owned by Larry and Julie Moenning, so the Board must also take action on Mandy's Lot Split. She recommended approval of the conditional use permit and read the proposed stipulations of the permit. She reported that the application was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission.

Wendell Lewis spoke in support of the conditional use permit application and explained that he and his wife, Mandy, intend to build a house on the property. He reported that the parcel is located about 100 yards away from where his wife grew up and their dream has been to get their children back out to the country and provide the same living conditions that Mandy's parents provided for their family.

Commissioner Prauner asked if a new driveway would be installed and Mr. Lewis responded that an existing lane would be used and their house would be built by an evergreen shelterbelt. Commissioner Schmidt asked if there is good sight distance in both directions from the existing driveway and Mr. Lewis responded that the sight distance is good.

No one testified in opposition to the conditional use permit.

Chairman Ohl closed the hearing at 9:36 A.M.

The following resolution was introduced for consideration:

#### RESOLUTION #2015-30

A RESOLUTION GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN LAND LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF MADISON, NEBRASKA UNDER AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE MADISON COUNTY ZONING AND SUBDIVISION RESOLUTION AND LEGISLATIVE BILL 186 (1978)

WHEREAS, a recommendation has been received from the Madison County Joint Planning Commission, and WHEREAS, notice of public hearing was published in the August 1, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News, and a public hearing was held by law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska, hereby grants a Conditional Use Permit to Wendell and Amanda Lewis to construct a house on less than 40 acres as per Section 402: AG1 Intensive Agriculture District, 2003 Madison County Zoning and Subdivision Resolution, on the following described land:

A tract of land lying wholly in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28, Township 23 North, Range 2 West of the 6th P.M.,  
Madison County, Nebraska

This Conditional Use Permit shall be subject to the following conditions in addition to those established with the Madison County Zoning and Subdivision regulations:

1. This Conditional Use Permit is permanent and may be transferred between owners.
2. This Conditional use Permit allows a single family home on less than 40 acres.
3. With the passage of this permit, the applicant and/or residence builder realizes that the new residence is going to be subject to livestock odors, dust and general nuisances. This does not, however, mean that the applicant is giving up the right to be protected by Madison County and the State of Nebraska.
4. The applicant should be aware it is his responsibility to remove any Nebraska Noxious Weeds found on the property at any time after the approval of this application by the County Board of Commissioners.
5. A copy of the signed permit must be recorded with the County Register of Deeds office by applicant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon taking effect of this Resolution, the above Conditional Use Permit shall be entered and shown on the Official Zoning Map of Madison County, previously adopted by reference, and said zoning map is hereby reincorporated as a part of the Madison County, Nebraska Zoning and Subdivision Resolution as amended.

Motion was made by Prauner and seconded by Schmidt that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Pursuant to published legal notice in the Saturday, August 1, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News, Chairman Ohl opened a public hearing at 9:40 A.M. to receive citizens' comments regarding the application of Troika Communications to operate a construction company on property in Section 28-21-4, which is located approximately 1½ miles North of the City of Newman Grove.

Zoning Administrator Heather McWhorter reported that the applicant, Jared Adams for Troika Communications, has indicated that although in the past they primarily built cell towers, they are now primarily constructing agricultural structures, such as grain bins. She explained that Mr. Adams is requesting a conditional use permit to operate the construction business, and once that is approved, they will apply for a building permit to construct a building for storing machinery and equipment for the construction business. She stated that an easement will be granted by Eugene Felber, who is the neighbor to the North of Mr. Adams, which will allow the existing driveway to link up to the current road entrance. Ms. McWhorter reported that the property is zoned as Agricultural Transitional and the proposed construction building fronts Highway 45. She stated that the application is consistent with the Madison County Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning and Subdivision regulations. She read the stipulations proposed for the conditional use permit and stated that the application was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission.

The applicant, Jared Adams, reported that they plan to construct a building on this property located North of Newman Grove that has highway frontage and operate a construction business.

No one testified in opposition to the conditional use permit.

Commissioner Prauner asked how many people are employed by Troika Communications and Mr. Adams responded that he employs 4 full-time people and about 15 part-time people. Commissioner Prauner explained that there were problems with a construction company located close to Norfolk who had employees that hung out at the business location until late hours making loud noises. He asked if there was anyone in the neighborhood that would complain about getting materials in and out of the property. Mr. Adams responded that Eugene Felber operates the same type of business. Commissioner Prauner asked if trucks would be coming in and out of the property unloading construction materials and Mr. Adams responded that a majority of bins are delivered to each work site and that the majority of his deliveries would come to the shop during early or mid-morning. Commissioner Prauner stated that people complained about the business by Norfolk blocking the road when materials were delivered. Mr. Adams explained that Mr. Felber has a commercial driveway to get trucks in and out of the property.

Chairman Ohl closed the hearing at 9:42 A.M.

The following resolution was introduced for consideration:

RESOLUTION #2015-31

A RESOLUTION GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN LAND LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF MADISON, NEBRASKA UNDER AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE MADISON COUNTY ZONING AND SUBDIVISION RESOLUTION AND LEGISLATIVE BILL 186 (1978)

WHEREAS, a recommendation has been received from the Madison County Joint Planning Commission and WHEREAS, notice of public hearing was published in the August 1, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News, and a public hearing was held by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska, hereby grants a Conditional Use Permit to Troika Communications to operate a construction company on the following described land:

E ½ of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 28, Township 21 North, Range 4 West of the 6th P.M., Madison County, Nebraska

This Conditional Use Permit shall be subject to the following conditions in addition to those established with the Madison County Zoning and Subdivision regulations:

1. The area of the property used for storage of equipment, supplies, etc., must be surrounded by a fence.
2. The east part of the yard facing Highway 45 must be planted with trees no less than 4' in height at the time of planting or must be screened by an opaque fence.
3. All chemicals including fuels and explosives must be stored as to state and federal regulations.
4. No fuels may be stored using a below ground storage tank.
5. Buildings for storage, vehicle maintenance and offices may be built outside of any fenced storage area provided nothing is stored outside the buildings.
6. A sign not exceeding six square feet may be posted by the entrance to the facility.
7. This Conditional Use Permit is for a period of five years. If there are no complaints or problems with the facility at the closure of this permit, the permit shall be renewed by the Zoning Administrator for an additional 15 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon taking effect of this Resolution, the above Conditional Use Permit shall be entered and shown on the Official Zoning Map of Madison County, previously adopted by reference, and said zoning map is hereby reincorporated as a part of the Madison County, Nebraska Zoning and Subdivision Resolution as amended.

Motion was made by Prauner and seconded by Schmidt that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Pursuant to published legal notice in the Saturday, August 1, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News, Chairman Ohl opened a public hearing at 9:43 A.M. to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Madison County Zoning Regulations to increase the lot density requirements of the Rural Residential Zoning District.

Zoning Administrator Heather McWhorter reported that the current regulations state that the density may be no more than 15 dwellings per total quarter section and that a request was received to increase this number to 25 per quarter section in order to approve a plat which is scheduled for consideration at today's meeting. She reported that the proposed amendment received unanimous approval by the Planning Commission.

Richard Johnson stated that he represents Evergreen Hill Golf, Inc. for this proposed amendment. He reported that the corporation would like eight more residential lots in the area of the golf course and that there are currently five lots with three existing houses. He reported that the current density requirements of the Zoning Regulations would prohibit the addition of these eight lots, so he asked the Planning Commission to increase the density requirements. He explained that in the current situation, there isn't a better use for the land.

No one testified in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Zoning Regulations.

Commissioner Prauner asked if any complaints were received about traffic on the County road. He reported that one call was received by the Battle Creek Police Department about people speeding on the County road. He said that if more traffic is anticipated on this road due to more houses, a traffic study may need to be conducted to determine if the speed limit needs to be adjusted. He said that some of the home owners have children that play close to the road. Mr. Johnson stated that he could look at the traffic issue. Commissioner Schmidt said that dust may also become an issue with increased traffic.

Chairman Ohl asked why the number of lots was originally set at 15. Zoning Administrator Heather McWhorter responded that she was unsure why this number of lots was selected. She explained that there is a rural development located South of Battle Creek that is within the City's zoning jurisdiction that is classified as rural estates. She said that there was some discussion about changing the density requirements for all residential areas. She stated that if the classification is changed to rural estates, it would affect the entire County instead of limiting it to the Battle Creek jurisdiction, so it made more sense to change the definition of Rural Residential District.

Chairman Ohl closed the hearing at 9:45 A.M.

The following resolution was introduced for consideration:

RESOLUTION #2015-32

A RESOLUTION AMENDING BY REFERENCE CERTAIN LANGUAGE IN THE MADISON COUNTY ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY SECTIONS 23-114.01 THROUGH 223-114.05 AND 23-165 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF NEBRASKA, 1943.

WHEREAS; a recommendation has been received from the Madison County Joint Planning Commission and proper notice been given, and

WHEREAS; notice of public hearing was published in the August 1, 2015 edition of the Norfolk Daily News and a public hearing was held as provided by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska, hereby amends the Madison County Zoning and Subdivision Resolution by amending the following language into the Zoning Regulations, of Article 4, Section 405: Rural Residential, Area and Intensity Regulations 2 (a) with new text in *Italics* and removed text ~~stricken~~ as follows:

Area and Intensity Regulations.

1. In the RR Rural Residential District, the height of buildings, the minimum dimensions of lots and yards, and the minimum lot area per family permitted on any lot or tract, shall be as follows subject to the sanitary requirements, Section 605 of these Regulations:
2. Single Family Density and Minimum Lot Sizes
  - a. Three (3) acres excluding road R.O.W. and at a density of no more than ten (10) dwellings, total, per ¼ Section.
  - b. Minimum lot area shall be 10,000 square feet when meeting the requirements of a Conditional Use Permit and the density may be no more than ~~fifteen (15)~~ *twenty-five (25)* dwellings, total, per ¼ Section.

Motion was made by Prauner and seconded by Schmidt that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Pursuant to published legal notice in the Saturday, August 1, 2015 edition of The Norfolk Daily News, Chairman Ohl opened a public hearing at 9:49 A.M. to receive citizens' comments regarding adoption of an Energy Element into the Madison County Comprehensive Plan.

Zoning Administrator Heather McWhorter reported the LB 997 required that an Energy Element component be added to the County's Comprehensive Plan by January 1, 2015. She explained that the proposed Energy Element is a good representation of the County.

No public comments were received in support of or in opposition to the proposed Energy Element.

Commissioner Schmidt asked if the Energy Element could be changed after it's adopted and Ms. McWhorter responded that the Energy Element component could be amended in the future.

Chairman Ohl closed the hearing at 9:51 A.M.

The following resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION #2015-33

A RESOLUTION AMENDING BY REFERENCE CERTAIN LANGUAGE IN THE MADISON COUNTY ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY SECTIONS 23-114.01 THROUGH 223-114.05 AND 23-165 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF NEBRASKA, 1943.

WHEREAS; a recommendation has been received from the Madison County Joint Planning Commission and proper notice been given, and

WHEREAS; notice of public hearing was published in the August 1, 2015 edition of the Norfolk Daily News and a public hearing was held as provided by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska, hereby approves the addition of the MADISON COUNTY ENERGY ELEMENT to the Madison County Comprehensive Plan.

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Prauner that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board members discussed authorization to advertise for bids for repairs to the South portion of the County Jail roof. Commissioner Schmidt asked why the County isn't bidding the entire roof replacement as one project. County Clerk Nancy Scheer explained that she was asked to put the item on the agenda as listed.

Jail Maintenance Supervisor Al Brandl asked that the entire roof be replaced as one project. He reported that Captain Kotrous is requesting that the entire project be completed because there is some structural damage. County Clerk Nancy Scheer questioned if the amount included in the budget was for completion of the entire roof replacement and Commissioner Schmidt responded affirmative.

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Prauner to authorize advertisement of bids for repairs to the entire County Jail roof. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board considered approval of the final plat for Evergreen Hill 2nd Addition, Phase 2, located in Section 19-23-2, which is located approximately 2 miles of the City of Battle Creek.

County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson reported that this plat is the second phase of the North portion of Evergreen Hills. He explained that the plat includes 8 additional lots with a private road running up the middle to the South with a cul-de-sac at the end. He reported that the owner would like to vacant the far West lot of the first phase, which is Lot 1. He said that he would present this to the Board of Commissioners for approval at a later date. He explained that the lot isn't very good and is too close to the driving range, so the owner decided to remove the lot. He reported that the lots are a minimum of 3 acres and generally have 140' or 150' strip of conversation easement in the rear of the lots to leave the native grass in its current state.

Commissioner Schmidt asked if the County maintains the road along the North side of this subdivision and Mr. Johnson responded affirmative. Commissioner Schmidt asked if the County would have any responsibility for the road going to the cul-de-sac and Mr. Johnson responded no. Mr. Johnson explained that there are two Home Owners' Associations for the Evergreen Hills Subdivision, with the South 10 lots being governed by one Home Owners' Association and the lots on the North side governed by a different Home Owners' Association.

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Prauner to approve the final plat for Evergreen Hill 2nd Addition, Phase 2, located in Section 19-23-2. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Schmidt stated that there are new members on the Board of Commissioners and he requested that members of the Madison County Agricultural Society explain their budget request.

James Heller, President of the Madison County Agricultural Society, reported that the funds are used to put on the best fair that the Directors can at a very reasonable rate. He explained that a big part of the fair is the 4-H and FFA programs and expansion of these programs. He said that when speaking with 4-H representatives there are more youth becoming involved in these programs each year, so they are always looking at making this a focus of the fair. He said that they hope to expand the small pets building next year. Mr. Heller reported that when they started this budget year, the 4-H representatives didn't think the small pets building would be adequate; however, the bird flu eliminated all the bird entries. He stated that the Fair Board had the design plans for the building expansion, so they hope to go forward with the project during the upcoming budget year. He reported that a big expenditure this year was a new bathroom facility on the South end of the fairgrounds since the old facility was run down. He said that the Board of Directors feels that if the grounds are clean, the food is ample, the restroom facilities are good, and cool areas are provided for people, it's merrier for everyone attending. Mr. Heller reported that if there is a disaster similar to what Pilger experienced, there are over 100 camping sites that would accommodate families. He said that the fairgrounds are not used only one week during the year, but events are held in the facilities all year round. He reported that the Directors would like to keep doing that and working with the County and everyone in the area to have nice facilities to put on family functions, including birthday parties, wedding receptions, and family reunions. He reported that last week the Madison street dance was held at the fairgrounds and the Wrestling Foundation had a large gun show. He explained that they try to advance the Northeast Nebraska area and keep the rates reasonable.

Linda Haack, Treasurer of the Madison County Agricultural Society, presented copies of a list of the major projects completed during the last five years. Todd Volk, Vice-President of the Madison County Agricultural Society explained that the top priority is an updated drainage system. He said that they need to work with the City of Madison and maybe with the County. Mr. Heller explained that the existing drainage system is dilapidating and pressing down due to the heavy equipment from the carnival. Commissioner Prauner asked if water ponds in the area where the carnival sets up and Mrs. Haack responded that the biggest problem is by the west side of the 4-H building. Commissioner Prauner asked where the water should be draining and Mr. Heller responded that the water should drain to the South.

Chairman Ohl questioned if the small pet building is used frequently throughout the year and James Heller responded that an exotic animal auction is held at the fairgrounds; however, a bigger building is used because the larger area works better. Mr. Heller explained that the small pet building is used primarily during the one week of the fair. Todd Volk stated that the small pet building is the only building on the fairgrounds that has a single use other than for winter storage. He explained that if the building is expanded there may be more possibilities for use. Chairman Ohl asked if the need for the expansion is based upon the demand from the public and James Heller responded that the 4-H and FFA programs are expanding with more members who aren't living on farms and have small animals such as rabbits, guineas, chickens, and peacocks. Commissioner Schmidt stated that it's unique to have a problem of figuring out how to take care of the crowds when other fairs worry about getting a crowd. James Heller explained that the Fair Board wants to keep entry into the fair free for people to attend and see the 4-H and open class exhibits.

Chairman Ohl stated that one of the items listed as a future project is a new restroom and shower on the North end of the fairgrounds. He asked if this project would also provide protection for the campground. James Heller responded that the plan is to install a new bathroom facility on the North end of the grandstand because they are having issues with water and sewer problems because of the old structure. He explained that they would like to have additional showers at the fairgrounds so they plan to have a small restroom facility with more showers for use by the campgrounds on both the North and South.

Chairman Ohl expressed appreciation to the Agricultural Society Board members and stated that a great fair is put on each year and a lot of work is put into making a good fair. He thanked Board members for their hard work and investments that are being made. He said that the fair attendance is great and there is a great fair to show for the hard work invested.

No action was taken.

Ransom Roman, Trustee of the Sanitary District of the City of Norfolk, reported that the organization is responsible for open water drainage within the boundaries of the District. He explained that the boundaries are generally the City of Norfolk; but, they extend to a house located on the West side of Vulcraft on a County road where there is an open water drainage ditch and then the boundaries follow the North fork of the Elkhorn River out to the Madison County line. He reported that they maintain Corporation Gulch within the City of Norfolk and the North fork of the Elkhorn River.

Mr. Roman reviewed the breakdown of expenses for the last fiscal year, including County Treasurer's fees, engineering fees, insurance, professional fees, legal notices, office expenses, cleaning and maintenance, and operating expenses for contract jobs of mowing Corporation Gulch. He reported that last year the Sanitary District partnered with the City of Norfolk for the Park Avenue Gulch project which was repair of a storm sewer that went into the Gulch and fell apart. He reported that the City of Norfolk was responsible for the storm sewer and the Sanitary District was responsible for the Gulch bank work.

Mr. Ransom explained that the Board Trustees are paid \$750 per year for the elected position that they serve. He reported that when the Sanitary District was formed in the late 1800s or early 1900s, the fee for Trustees was set at \$750 annually and has not changed. He reported that other expenses include rental fees for storing the District's records, payroll taxes, and title expense. He explained that a majority of the expenses are for construction costs and this year they are replacing some concrete in the pilot ditch of Corporation Gulch. He said the pilot ditch has been in place for about 40 years, so repairs are necessary. He stated that the total budget is \$133,980 and the 5% increase is for rising costs of concrete and construction. He reported that the Trustees signed a two-year mowing contract, so these costs won't increase.

Commissioner Prauner asked if the 5% increase in property taxes was for construction costs and Mr. Roman confirmed that the increase is for construction costs. Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Board is trying to hold the budget increases to 2.5%. Mr. Roman responded that the difference between 2.5% and 5% increase is not much funding for the Sanitary District. He said that one additional load of concrete will use up the entire budget increase.

Commissioner Prauner asked how many members serve on the Board of Trustees and Mr. Roman responded that three people serve on the Board of Trustees with two Trustees elected during one election and one Trustee elected at the next election. He stated that he was elected in the 2014 election to serve another four year term. Commissioner Schmidt asked why the levy allocation was a County function when the Sanitary District is primarily located in the City of Norfolk. County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson responded that the County established the Sanitary District to maintain Corporation Gulch, which possibly was outside the City limits when the District was established.

Chairman Ohl expressed appreciation to Mr. Roman for his service on the Board of Trustees.

No action was taken.

Norfolk City Economic Development Director Courtney Dentlinger presented an update on economic development projects. She submitted a hand out showing the various aspects of economic development, including housing, business recruitment, business startups, business expansions, business retention, community marketing, infrastructure planning, and property listings. She explained that they use gears to show how all these aspects are different, but are very much inter-related when it comes to economic development in the community.

Mrs. Dentlinger thanked the County Board members for the partnership with the City of Norfolk in creating a joint department for economic development. She reported that some of the items that they work on are infrastructure planning and land acquisition. She reported that infrastructure entails items such as roads, which would include the 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska initiative. She stated that their office was instrumental in helping get the organization up and running until they were able to hire staff and they continue to partner on this project. She reported that natural gas has been an issue for some time in Northeast Nebraska and they have been working very closely with their partners at Black Hills Energy and they are very close to a solution on this issue. She explained that the existing industries are unable to expand without additional natural gas capacity and it would also be very difficult to recruit any additional industries into Northeast Nebraska without increasing the natural gas capacity.

Mrs. Dentlinger reported that another item that they are working on with respect to infrastructure and land is industrial site identification. She stated that trying to recruit additional industries has become highly competitive in the United States and abroad. She explained that industries want answers and a great deal of information in a very short period of time, so they have entered into a contract with Olson & Associates, which is an engineering firm, to help them identify the most appropriate sites for industrial development within Madison County. She stated that Commissioner Schmidt and County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson have been participating with this effort and they have a number of individuals from area utility companies, communities, and public works helping them to identify these sites. She stated that they will narrow down the list of sites and then after the sites are identified, they would like to obtain options on the properties, and enter into a master planning phase where they would plan out these sites by deciding what infrastructure needs to go to the sites and what the timeline would be so they could in turn market the sites to industries that are interested in coming to this area.

Mrs. Dentlinger explained that they do property listings as part of their marketing effort. She explained that they look for larger companies that may wish to locate in the area, existing companies that are looking to expand and want to find a new location, and startup companies that are looking for a location. She reported that on the Norfolk Area Economic Development website they have a list of properties that are available and they work with local realtors to compile the list or directly with property owners. She said that this service is offered for free to help match up companies with appropriate properties.

Mrs. Dentlinger reported that the main focus at the office is business retention, expansion, and startups. She stated that approximately 80% is the estimate for growth that comes in the community from existing businesses. She said that, although it is more exciting to look at new businesses that may come into the community, or recruiting additional businesses, they cannot forget to focus on the existing businesses and help them with their operations and help them expand. She said that this is important because they are members of the community and employing people; but, they also help the growth in the County. She explained that they conduct business retention and expansion visits each year by sending out letters to multiple businesses inviting them to participate in this effort and they have partners from other economic development organizations so they can visit with the companies in a confidential manner about how the business is going and what issues they are facing. Mrs. Dentlinger said that they are hopeful that they can identify some possibilities for expansion and line the businesses up with appropriate resources and programs that may help them get over the tipping point to proceed with the expansion. She said that if they come across any business that is struggling, they want to step in and help in any way that they can so the business doesn't close.

Mrs. Dentlinger reported that they started a new effort in the last several years called the Small Business Resource Team. She explained that small businesses have a lot of resources at their disposal because they are a member of different groups that offer resources; however, they have found that there is no one point of contact so the businesses did not know who to start with, so they were falling through the cracks. She reported that they started this effort with 11 other partners and their office serves as the first point of contact. She stated that if someone wants to start a business, or if someone has a business and wants to expand, there is one number that they can call so they can connect them with all the resource providers.

Mrs. Dentlinger explained that another item that they are looking at doing in the coming year is a retail leakage analysis. She stated that retail is very important from an economic development perspective because there is a lot of money that is leaving the region and going elsewhere. She reported that a lot of people are shopping elsewhere because they can't find everything that they need in the community. She explained that it is important to continue recruiting new retail stores to the community which will complement the existing businesses so that there will be additional opportunities for shopping with in the County and keeping some money circulating locally. She explained that this analysis will show the potential based upon the demographics and incomes that are in the area, what people are most likely buying, and then comparing that to what people are buying locally. She stated that the analysis will show where there is surplus, what the strengths are, and what other areas people are coming from to shop.

Mrs. Dentlinger presented a copy of the Norfolk Now magazine which is a publication that is put together in partnership with the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau and the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce. She stated that the magazine highlights the entire region and the Madison County Fair was highlighted on the cover of the Spring/Summer issue. She said that this magazine is used for a number of purposes including highlighting all the great things that are going on within the County and the region to help recruit businesses. She explained that any business that is looking to relocate needs to know that there will be things for their employees to do. She said that the magazine also helps with people attraction when they are talking to individuals about moving to this area and the magazine is also a great tool to highlight all the events that are going on in the area. In addition, she said that the magazine helps the Visitors Bureau attract visitors to the area by showing them all the great events and shopping, so they can get people to come to the area to spend money within the County. Mrs. Dentlinger reported that they are expanding on these efforts and in addition to the magazine and website, they are in the process of producing a series of videos that they will put on the website, YouTube, commercials, and social media.

Mrs. Dentlinger reported they are working on housing which is a problem throughout the County, region, and State. She reported that the housing shortage is very closely tied to the workforce shortage. She explained that they put together a task force to try and determine what the biggest hindrances are for getting more housing constructed, whether it is single family or multi-family dwellings. She reported that there are a myriad of factors affecting the housing shortage so there is no one solution; however, they are trying to find ways to mitigate the risk for builders so they will come in and build houses. She stated that she has heard from a number of employers who are trying to recruit people into the area that the potential employee will initially accept the job, come to the area, and can't find a place to live so they turn down the job offer. She stated that the end goal of all these efforts is to build up capital investments and property tax base in the County to help grow the area with really good jobs for the residents and increase the quality of life.

Commissioner Schmidt asked what is being done outside the City of Norfolk and in the small communities of Madison, Battle Creek, Newman Grove, Tilden, and Meadow Grove. Mrs. Dentlinger responded that one of the biggest reasons for creating the Small Business Resource Team was to determine how to impact the small communities in the County because they will likely have small businesses and this organization is a huge resource throughout the County. She explained that the business retention and expansion visits that are completed by their office is an opportunity for them to get out and meet with businesses in Madison County, not just in the City of Norfolk. She explained that in the most recent addition of Norfolk Now magazine they highlighted Eckert Fabrication located in Meadow Grove. She reported that they have visited ADM in Columbus and have been to Madison a number of times and also to Northeast Machine and Manufacturing in Battle Creek. She said that they recently met with the Tilden City Mayor and Council members to talk about economic development. In addition, she explained that the Norfolk City Mayor hosts a meeting for area Mayors ok economic development staff are invited to talk specifically about issues and ideas are shared, including work force and housing.

Commissioner Prauner stated that the biggest problem for economic development is retail sales to compete with on line ordering since some websites don't require payment of sales tax. Mrs. Dentlinger responded that they continue to watch legislation in front of Congress with respect to online sales tax because it is a big issue and makes it very difficult for retail businesses to be competitive.

Chairman Ohi thanked Mrs. Dentlinger for her efforts to continue supporting local businesses and to find ways to help them expand. He stated that Madison County has been blessed with great retail, restaurants, and hard-working individuals living in the community.

Mrs. Dentlinger reported that workforce is one of the most pressing issues facing the Northeast Nebraska area. She stated that across the nation there is relatively high unemployment; however, the opposite is occurring in the area. She stated that a lot of people don't realize that low unemployment can actually be a problem, not a blessing. She stated that normal unemployment rate should be 4%; however, the unemployment rate in the area is 2.2%. She stated that the rate is too low and they don't have a enough people looking for jobs, but at the same time not they have a lot of open jobs. She explained that they have a lot of employers who are trying to fill positions now and are able to find qualified candidates. She reported that according to the Department of Labor there are 500 open jobs at any given time within 25 miles of the City of Norfolk. She stated that they need to solve this problem long term, but this effort will take a very long time to turn around.

Mrs. Dentlinger reported that they put together a task force on this topic one year ago and every month they met with people from the community college, public schools, employers, government, and Department of Labor and tried to determine what is causing this problem, why there are so few people, so many open jobs, where the gaps are, and what could be done. She stated that they hoped to find that there are certain skill sets that were missing and that people could be found that would have the skills; however, what they found was that people could not be located to fill low skilled entry-level jobs all the way up to individuals making \$100,000+ annually. She stated that employers cannot find people in many different areas of jobs and the housing shortage is exasperating this problem when they are trying to recruit people to the area. She stated that at the same time that they have this workforce shortage, they have move out migration from the community with children who are graduating, moving away, and never returning. She explained that they want to change the message that they are giving these children and they want to tell the students that there are opportunities here, that there are jobs and great careers right in their own backyard; but, this will take a lot of effort and partnerships. Mrs. Dentlinger explained that they've had conversations with the schools all the way from kindergarten through post secondary and they want to get this message to students, but it needs to happen outside the classroom as well. She explained that parents are making a lot more decisions or helping and directing their children to a larger extent than they used to see. She stated that they need to help guide the students to the available jobs and help connect the dots from where their interests are to what the jobs are in this area so they can fill the jobs, grow the economy, and have a great quality of life. She reported that employers have 500+ open jobs that they can't fill, which is causing them to not expand, because if they can't fill their existing jobs they won't open up new jobs. She stated that the first question that she gets from site selectors when they call is if they locate a business in the area will they be able to find the employees they need. She said that it is a difficult argument to make when you have 2.2% unemployment.

Mrs. Dentlinger explained that the task force identified a number of efforts to determine what needs to happen to attack this problem in the best possible way across a number of audiences. She explained that no one has been coordinating the efforts of all the various organizations involved. She said that they are proposing that one person will work 40 hours per week focusing just on work force, building up talent pools over a period of time, helping to determine what the immediate needs are in the area, and helping to recruit people who specifically have a tie to the area. She explained that if you recruit people who have a tie to the community, it is easier to retain them, so that is why they want to focus on people who graduated from the area and still have family here and in the long term focus on the students who are still in school and help them find success locally. She reported that they found some very disturbing statistics that a lot of students aren't finding the right path and are obtaining a degree and can't find a job in that field, so they have spent four years of their life and accumulated a lot of debt without finding a job in their field. She stated that they don't want this end result for the children in the area, but they want to find jobs that match the skills and abilities of the children. She explained that they want to identify these opportunities and help connect applicants with the jobs, which will mean success for the children, population growth, and success for the area businesses.

Commissioner Schmidt stated that there is a Workforce Development Office located in Norfolk, but this office doesn't complete the functions proposed. He asked if there would be a possibility of getting a grant for an employee to be hired by the Workforce Development Office who could complete the tasks proposed. Mrs. Dentlinger responded that Workforce Development Office is a branch of the Department of Labor and it focuses on displaced and unemployed workers, but it does not focus on recruitment of additional workers into the community. She explained that the Governor has talked about what could be done at the State level and if the Nebraska Department of Economic Development could take on some of this role, but it's not happening yet and they can't wait for that to happen. She explained that there are grant dollars available, but unfortunately they all seem to be tied to displaced and unemployed workers. She stated that it is great that there are funds available to train the unemployed and get them back into the workforce, but it will only put a small dent in the program. She stated that they have not found federal funds available for workforce recruitment and the task force is a homegrown effort designed to solve their own problems. Mrs. Dentlinger reported that they have asked the schools, the college, the community of Norfolk, and a large number of area employers and businesses to come to the table and help fund this effort. She explained that it is a bare bones budget to have one person and funds for marketing and travel and they are currently at 80% of their funding goal to get someone hired to work on this issue.

Commissioner Schmidt reported that he examined the payroll records and estimated that between 30% and 40% of the County workforce in the next five years will be retirement age. He stated that about 25% of the current County workforce is retirement age with approximately 145 jobs. Mrs. Dentlinger stated that Madison County is not alone and that almost every employer that she talks to has about 20% of the employees near retirement age.

Commissioner Prauner asked what amount the economic development funding increased for this fiscal year. Mrs. Dentlinger responded that the agreement is tied to the consumer price index, so the County's portion of the funding decreased slightly for the upcoming fiscal year.

Roger Acklie asked about the status of the Madison Industrial Park and Mrs. Dentlinger responded that the master plan is completed. John Bomar explained that the site is ready for businesses to build.

Chairman Ohl said that he is encouraged by the cooperative efforts to recruit people back to the area. He said that Mrs. Dentlinger is a good example of someone who came back to the area and he expressed appreciation for her work.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Schmidt explained that there are many surplus property items located in the storage building located North of the Courthouse. He said that the Board needs to determine where to store these items between surplus property auctions. He reported that many of the items are blocking some files that employees need to access. He said that he talked to the Zoning Administrator about storing items in the Zoning Department building, but this may not be the ideal location. In addition, he said that he may have found a location to temporarily store items.

Commissioner Prauner asked if the items are heavy and he suggested that the items may be stored in the basement of the former DeLay Bank building. He said that if the items are big this may not be ideal to get downstairs and the basement may even be full.

Commissioner Schmidt said that he may have a place to temporarily store items; however, some of the items may need to be sorted to determine if some items need to be stored. He said that the surplus items consist of old copiers, chairs, desks, and computers.

No action was taken.

Budget committee members Richard Johnson and Nancy Scheer presented a summary of the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. They submitted a report listing the fund balances for each fund as of June 30, 2015 which reflected that the total cash on hand was approximately \$465,000 less than the prior year. They reviewed the Inheritance Tax Fund balances, annual collections, and interfund transfer amounts for the prior 15 years. They stated that the funds are regularly used to decrease the property tax requirement and the committee recommends that the fund balance be maintained at approximately \$2 million. Commissioner Schmidt proposed taking some extra funds from the Inheritance Tax Fund this year for property tax relief.

Budget committee members submitted a listing of the office functions in the General Fund and explained that the report includes all budgets that were not completed at the July 28, 2015 meeting, including Miscellaneous General and Capital Acquisition office functions. They explained that the report lists the budget amount appropriated from the prior year, the amount spent, the amount unspent during the prior fiscal year, the budget request for the current fiscal year, and the amount and percentage of change between the current and the previous fiscal years.

Commissioner Schmidt questioned the budget increase for the Re-Appraisal office function. County Assessor Jeff Hackerott responded that he has two budgets for operations in his office and he is shifting funds from the Assessor's budget to the Re-Appraisal budget. He explained that the Assessor's budget was reduced by \$35,380. Commissioner Schmidt asked why the funds are being shifted and Mr. Hackerott responded that the Nebraska Department of Revenue likes to look at the costs appropriated for administrative fees versus re-appraisal fees and the suggestion over the past several years has been to have as much funding as possible for re-appraisal functions and less for administration expenses.

Mr. Hackerott explained that this is the first year that he is trying to incrementally roll some of the funds from the Assessor's budget into the Re-Appraisal budget and his hope is to allocate more funds from the Re-Appraisal budget into actual re-appraisal work this fiscal year. Commissioner Schmidt asked what the percentage of increase is when combining both the Assessor and Re-Appraisal budgets and Mr. Hackerott responded that the total increase of the combined budgets is 1.97%. Chairman Ohl asked if the desire is to increase the amount of re-appraisal work that is being done and Mr. Hackerott responded affirmative. Commissioner Prauner asked why more than \$77,000 of funds were left in the Re-Appraisal budget and Mr. Hackerott responded that they are getting more comfortable with the re-appraisal process being used and he is hopeful to do a better job of allocating the funds between the two office functions in the future. Commissioner Schmidt asked if there will be any staff changes and Mr. Hackerott responded that he anticipates making some staffing changes by filling the lister position that has been vacant since late 2012 and also making some changes in the office.

Weed Superintendent Don Svitak reported that the increase in the Weed budget is for personnel changes. He explained that a full-time employee is being shared with the Zoning Department and next year that person will spend more time spraying and less time in the office, so the budget increase is funding for the wages. He stated that the Zoning budget has allocated funds for a full-time secretary. Chairman Ohl reported that he has reviewed the budget with Mr. Svitak and the Weed budget has been significantly lower than during the past 10 years. He stated that one of the challenges is getting someone to spray on a part time basis and that was considered when preparing this budget and the plans for the future. Commissioner Prauner asked if Mr. Svitak gets paid from the Zoning budget when he completes a zoning inspection and Mr. Svitak responded that the costs for zoning inspections are being paid from the Weed budget because they don't track how the number of hours, gas expense, and vehicle use for the inspections and some of the office expenses for the Weed and Zoning departments are being shared. Commissioner Prauner asked if the Weed department would need a different vehicle. Mr. Svitak responded that he didn't include anything in the budget for vehicle changes, but he will look at it again next spring.

A report detailing each item budgeted in the Miscellaneous General office function was reviewed and questions regarding various items were addressed. Budget committee members explained that many of the items included in this office function are calculated by the budget committee; however, some items are submitted by other departments such as the County and District Court attorney fees, court costs, economic development costs, and annual appropriations for Area Aging, Region 4 costs, and Norfolk Community Health Care costs. They explained that a new funding request in the amount of \$1,500 is included from Northeast Nebraska RC&D which replaces Prairieland RC&D which received annual funding in the amount of \$300. Commissioner Prauner asked who represents the County on the Northeast Nebraska RC&D and Chairman Ohl responded that several members were appointed by the Commissioners. Budget committee members explained that an invoice was received for 2015 sponsor dues for pilot project of adding Madison County to Northeast Nebraska RC&D and the Council suggested this amount since it was the minimum amount that was paid by the other counties served. WJAG reporter Susan Risinger stated that Northeast Nebraska RC&D is a very active chapter that is involved in many projects including rural tourism, tire recycling, and computer recycling. Mr. Svitak reported that he attended a meeting this spring because they want Madison County to join their organization. He stated that currently there are three counties that are not in a weed management area including Madison, Stanton, and York Counties. He explained that a weed management area can apply for funding, such as location of noxious weeds along a river, and the grant funding application must be through a non-profit agency such as Northeast Nebraska RC&D. He said that the agency wants Madison County to join so if the Department of Agriculture ever locates noxious weeds along the Elkhorn River then Madison County in cooperation with Northeast Nebraska RC&D can apply for grant funding to clean up the river banks. He further explained that if the County joins a weed management area, he would be required to provide time, equipment, and chemicals to go to other counties to assist with weed cleanup. He said that the county is not required to join a weed management area, but the Department of Agriculture encourages it.

Budget committee members presented a report listing the funding requests budgeted in the Capital Acquisitions office function which includes carpet replacement in the Assessor's Office and roof replacements on the Planning and Zoning, Veteran's Service, and Jail buildings. They explained that these items are major improvements to capital structures and will be used as lid exceptions.

Budget committee member Richard Johnson reported that the total increase for Road/Bridge Fund office function 705, which is for the day-to-day operations, and reflects a 2.5% increase. He explained that that the Federal Fund Purchase Program has specific requirements on use of the funds and replacing bridges with culverts is an acceptable expense. He reported that \$232,000 is budgeted for bridge replacements. He reported that major projects including South Victory Road, Battle Creek North, and Meadow Grove North, are budgeted in the FAS Fund. He stated that property tax is being levied in the FAS Fund so the major projects are used as lid exceptions. Commissioner Prauner questioned if funds are budgeted for right-of-way purchases and Mr. Johnson responded that \$40,000 is budgeted in FAS and \$3,000 is included in the Road/Bridge fund for right-of-way.

A report listing the anticipated expenditures for each fund in the budget was reviewed. Budget committee member Richard Johnson explained that the total percentage change reflects a 3.66% decrease; however, the Road/Bridge Bond Fund is not included in the total because this calculation is based upon the valuation and won't be available until the next meeting. He stated the levy rate is typically 1 cent; however, it may have been lowered in the past when there was a surplus of cash on hand. Another spreadsheet reflecting the estimated property tax requests in General and FAS Funds was reviewed. Mr. Johnson explained that the estimated levy based upon last year's valuation is 39.5 cents. He reported that the budget committee estimated that if the valuation increased by 11%, the levy rate would be the same as last year. He explained that the valuation will be certified by August 20th and then final budget calculations can be presented at the August 25th meeting.

Commissioner Schmidt asked what decisions would need to be made by the Board to lower the levy. Mr. Johnson reported that the options are to reduce spending and transfer funds from the Inheritance Tax Fund to reduce the levy. Budget committee member Nancy Scheer reminded Board members that spending reductions made to items that are lid exceptions would affect the lid calculations. Mr. Johnson asked if the Board members had any idea where they wanted the levy. Commissioner Prauner recommended that the levy be close to 34 cents and Commissioner Schmidt stated that he would like the levy close to 32 cents.

Roger Acklie asked how much the proposed property tax amount increased from last year and Commissioner Schmidt responded that the estimated increase is \$1.3 million. Mr. Acklie asked when funds would be available for the increase in the gas tax and Commissioner Schmidt responded that funds would be available after January 1, 2016. Mr. Johnson reported that the County anticipates receiving \$30,000 and the funds must be used to replace deficient bridges. Commissioner Schmidt reported that in five years, the projected funds that the County will receive from the gas tax increase is \$365,000. Mr. Johnson explained that the distribution factor for the gas tax is the same as the highway allocation funds.

Budget committee members also reviewed the LC-3 supporting schedule listing the restricted funds and lid exceptions. Commissioner Prauner asked about the bonded indebtedness listed and Mr. Johnson explained that the bond payments are about \$200,000 annually and the levy may be lowered depending upon how much cash is on hand. He stated that the budget must be balanced so the expenditures must balance with the revenue. Mrs. Scheer explained that the County re-financed the bonds in 2013 when the interest rates were low. She stated that the principal payment is due in May so the budget committee likes to make sure that adequate cash is available since the principal payment is due prior to first half of tax collections from the prior year's levy.

Budget committee members reviewed the lid computation form. They explained that the current estimates reflect \$383,621 in unused restricted funds authority compared to \$2,410 last year. They reported that the items to be considered when setting the property tax is compliance with the lid, the levy limit, and what amount the Board wants to set for a levy.

Budget committee members explained that State law allows the restricted funds authority to be increased by 2.5%, and by a super majority vote of the Board, the restricted funds authority can be increased an additional 1%. The budget committee recommended that the Board approve the restricted funds authority increase since budget numbers are not finalized.

After further discussion, budget committee members presented the following resolution to increase the allowable restricted funds authority:

RESOLUTION #2015-34

WHEREAS, Section 13-519 Nebraska Revised Statutes provides that a governmental unit may adopt a budget which exceeds the statutory limit of restricted funds for the fiscal year by an additional one percent upon the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has received the preliminary budget reports prepared by the budget committee; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that an additional 1% of restricted funds authority is necessary to provide funding for anticipated expenditures for the 2015-2016 fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the restricted funds for the 2015-2016 fiscal year be increased by an additional one percent as provided by law.

Motion was made by Prauner and seconded by Schmidt that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Roll call vote: Ayes, Ohl, Prauner, and Schmidt. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Schmidt reported that the Board members are receiving some complaints from farmers who want the County to spray weeds in the road ditches. He said that he instructed the Weed Superintendent to not spray weeds because when spraying 2-4-D on tall weeds there is drifting that kills soybeans and trees. He said that they are advising farmers to spray weeds along their own fields. In addition, he said the farmers are using shredders that cause the clippings to fly onto the roads. He said that this is a terrible problem for the maintainers because the clippings are picked up with the gravel making huge clumps and this is the time of year where they don't want clumps in the windrow along the side of the road. He asked farmers to keep the clipping in the road ditches and not on the roads.

The following written reports were reviewed:

- 1) Clerk of the District Court July, 2015 fee report
- 2) Public notice from Tim Campbell dated July 30, 2015

The following claims were audited:

GENERAL FUND		
Total Net Payroll		130,931.49
A & H Building and Supply, Inc.	Supplies, County Jail	165.90
Mark D. Albin	Legal Services, District Court	176.50
Mark D. Albin	Legal Services, County Court	1,261.11
Ronald Albin	Legal Services, County Court	3,376.16
American Family Life Assurance Co.	Insurance Premiums	773.76
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	Insurance Premiums	332.00
Appeara	Mat Service, Public Defender	28.18
Appeara	Mat Service, Courthouse	96.18
AS Central Services	Telephone Service, Planning and Zoning	24.11
AS Central Services	Telephone Service, County Sheriff	262.29
AS Central Services	Telephone Service, County Jail	441.71
AS Central Services	Telephone Service, Noxious Weed	24.11
AS Central Services	Telephone Service, Veterans Service	67.00
Assembled Products Corporation	Supplies, County Sheriff	1281.29
Assist Business Center, University of Nebraska Lincoln	Subscription, County Extension Office	225.00
Lucinda K. Bauer	Legal Services, County Court Attorney	1876.04
Bear Graphics	Supplies, Register of Deeds	170.00
Addisen Beck	Mileage & Training, Juvenile Diversion	96.26
Binswanger Glass	Repairs, County Sheriff	253.70
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, Planning and Zoning	10.04
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, Courthouse	78.24
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, County Jail	134.39

Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, Noxious Weed	10.05
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service, Veteran Service Office	20.98
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	Insurance Premiums	128473.80
Bessie Bove	Prior Service Benefits	12.00
Brady & Amy's Inc.	Fuel, Courthouse	945.24
Brogan Gray P.C. LLC	Legal Services, District Court	2,281.70
Madison Burger	Mileage, County Extension Office	103.50
Cableone	Cable TV, County Sheriff	110.50
Carney Law, P. C.	Legal Services, County Court	545.25
City of Crofton	Rent, Juvenile Diversion	1100.00
City of Madison	Utilities, Public Defender	212.11
City of Madison	Utilities, Courthouse	5302.52
City of Madison	Utilities, County Jail	5181.68
City of Norfolk	Utilities, Veteran Office	33.51
Colonial Life and Accident Insurance	Insurance Premiums	400.08
Community Justice Center	Workshop, Juvenile Diversion	1472.37
Connecting Point	Equipment, Data Processing	1,490.00
Connecting Point	Equipment, Clerk of District Court	652.00
Connecting Point	Services, County Sheriff	237.64
Connecting Point	Internet Service, Juvenile Diversion	59.95
Connecting Point	Internet Service, Veteran Office	38.95
Connecting Point	Internet and Contract Services, Courthouse	2,497.00
Consolidated Management Company	Meals, County Jail	177.50
Constellation Newenergy Gas Division	Gas Service, Planning and Zoning	26.04
Constellation Newenergy Gas Division	Gas Service, Noxious Weed	26.03
Constellation Newenergy Gas Division	Gas Service, Veteran Office	2.67
Deborah Cooley	Transcript Fees, Courthouse	3703.75
Copple, Rockey, McKeever & Schlecht, P.C., L.L.O.	Legal Services, County Court	5770.68
Copycraft Printing	Supplies, Juvenile Diversion	46.20
Cuming County Clerk	Reimbursement of Services, Juvenile Diversion	1117.92
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, County Clerk	28.13
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, Register of Deeds	178.98
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, District Court	42.57
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, County Court	43.18
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, Building and Grounds	49.99
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, County Extension Office	47.64
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, County Sheriff	44.94
Eakes Office Solutions	Copier Lease, County Attorney	125.38
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies, Copier Lease, Probation Office	998.51
Field's Hardware	Supplies, Building & Grounds	63.43
Field's Hardware	Supplies, County Jail	217.49
First Concord Benefits Group, L.L.C.	Administrative Fees, Flex Plan	2,926.99
Fitzgeralds, Vetter & Temple	Legal Services, Courthouse	1,268.15
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply	Supplies, County Jail	468.53
Barry Freudenburg	Repair Services, Public Defender	327.47
Frontier	Telephone Service, Courthouse	1,034.68
Galls/Quartermaster	Clothing, County Jail	250.88
General Reporting Services	Transcripts, County Court	2,410.25
Glass Edge	Repairs, Probation Office	98.00
Kristen Grant	Mileage, County Extension Office	120.75
GreatAmerica Financial Services	Copier Lease, Public Defender	145.26
Crystal Hestekind	Cleaning Services, Probation	360.00
Hometown Leasing	Copier Lease, Probation	772.71
Carey Hopkins-Mileage	Mileage, Juvenile Diversion	43.70
Jeffrey L. Hrouda	Legal Services, Courthouse	2,046.10
Jack's Uniforms & Equipment	Supplies, County Sheriff	1,059.36
Jack's Uniforms & Equipment	Supplies, County Jail	56.89
John's Disposal Inc.	Garbage Service, Probation	61.00
John's Disposal Inc.	Garbage Service, Veterans' Service Office	61.00
K & S Doors Co. Inc.	Repairs, County Jail	519.50
Pam Kesting	Mileage, County Extension Office	209.30
John Krantz	Office Lease, Juvenile Diversion	1,500.00
Emma Kwapnioski	Mileage, County Extension Office	62.10
Patricia Lacroix	Witness Fees, Law Enforcement	233.95
Louderback Drug	Medication, Juvenile Detention	59.39
Madison County Clerk	Tax Deposit	49,709.42
Madison County District Court	Filing Fees, District Court	1,147.00
Madison County Sheriff	Service Fees, County Court	307.70
Madison County Sheriff	Service Fees, District Court	1,425.76
Madison County Sheriff	Service Fees, Mental Health	58.58
Madison National Life Insurance Company	Insurance Premiums	134.33
James Marshall	Tutoring Services, Juvenile Diversion	120.00
Heather McWhorter	Telephone Service, Planning Commissioner	90.00
Menards	Supplies, Building & Grounds	118.53
Menards	Supplies, County Sheriff	26.10
Menards	Supplies, County Jail	122.67
Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc	Equipment Rent, County Court	218.00

Midwest Plumbing & Heating	Repairs, Public Defender	124.83
Midwest Plumbing & Heating	Repairs, Building & Grounds	2184.05
Midwest Plumbing & Heating	Repairs, County Jail	138.66
MIPS Inc.	Software Support, County Clerk	605.69
MIPS Inc.	Software Support, Register of Deeds	188.00
MIPS Inc.	Equipment Rental, Register of Deeds	330.00
Moyer & Moyer	Legal Services, County Court	2076.55
National Enterprise Systems	Garnish of Wages	194.91
Nationwide Retirement Solutions	Deferred Compensation	2,005.00
Nebraska Child Support Payment Center	Garnish of Wages	369.23
Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center	Registration, County Jail	50.00
Nebraska Medicine	Medical Services, Juvenile Diversion	255.00
Norfolk Auto Center	Repairs, Noxious Weed	31.50
Norfolk Daily News	Publication Costs, County Extension	5.14
Norfolk Daily News	Publication Costs, County Clerk	255.34
Northeast Community College	Lease and Maintenance Fees, County Extension	2,951.25
Northeast Research & Extension Center	Postage, Phone Service, Supplies, County Extension	685.75
Mike O'Brien	Mileage, Juvenile Diversion	146.05
Wayne Ohnesorg	Mileage, County Extension	135.70
Stephanie Petersen	Phone Service, Supplies, Juvenile Diversion	88.03
Platte County Court	Copies, Law Enforcement	6.75
Susan Pohlman	Tutoring Services, Juvenile Diversion	275.00
Sarah Polacek	Mileage, Supplies, County Extension	210.82
Reigle Implement Co. Inc.	Repairs, Courthouse	23.60
Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas	Employee Share Retirement	8,848.74
Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas	Employer Share Retirement	12,958.81
Reynoldsons	Fuel, Planning and Zoning	37.84
Reynoldsons	Fuel, Noxious Weed	37.84
Saundes County Clerk Magistrate	Copies, Law Enforcement	3.00
Schroeder Land Surveying	Services, Equipment Rent, County Surveyor	1,880.00
Judy Schroeder	Prior Service Benefits	11.00
Security Shredding	Services, Probation Office	140.00
Lee Sherry	Mileage, County Extension Office	423.21
Sherwin-Williams	Supplies, County Jail	409.46
Staybridge Suites	Lodging, County Extension	87.99
Stratton, DeLay, Doele, Carlson, & Buettner, P.C., L.L.O.	Legal Services, County Court	3,018.07
Stratton, DeLay, Doele, Carlson, & Buettner, P.C., L.L.O.	Legal Services, District Court	5,157.70
University of Nebraska – Lincoln	Registration Fee, County Extension	70.00
US Bank Corporate Payment System	Travel Expense, Juvenile Diversion	355.88
Verizon Wireless	Telephone Service, County Extension	385.54
Verizon Wireless	Telephone Service, Juvenile Diversion	308.53
Verizon Wireless	Data Processing Fee, Courthouse	78.04
Irma Watt	Interpreting Services, Public Defender	115.83
Wayne County Clerk	Annual Judge Expense, District Judge	39,523.76
Western Office Technologies	Supplies, County Clerk	79.98
Western Office Technologies	Supplies, Register of Deeds	24.99
Western Office Technologies	Supplies, Register of Deeds	37.47
Western Office Technologies	Copier Maintenance, Clerk of District Court	540.00
Western Office Technologies	Supplies, Public Defender	277.44
Western Office Technologies	Supplies, County Sheriff	79.99
Wood & Aitken, LLP	Professional Services, Courthouse	52.00
Zippy Lube	Repairs, County Sheriff	39.70
Zodiac Properties LLC	Rent, Probation	10,210.84

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Total Net Payroll		28,646.28
American Family Life Assurance Company	Insurance Premiums	544.36
American Legion Auxiliary	Supplies	25.50
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation	Insurance Premiums	112.56
Appeara	Towel Service	351.72
Asphalt & Concrete Materials	Asphaltic Materials	11,563.71
Backus Sand & Gravel	Gravel	1,457.54
Barco Municipal Products Inc.	Signs	66.08
Battle Creek Farmers Coop	Fuel	3,393.77
Battle Creek Municipal Light & Power	Utilities	172.82
Bauer Built Tire	Tire Repairs	62.50
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service	100.45
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	Insurance Premiums	28,120.34
Brady & Amy's Inc	Fuel	838.80
Carhart Lumber Company	Supplies	26.49
City of Madison	Utilities	525.36
City of Newman Grove	Utilities	54.00
Colonial Life and Accident Insurance	Insurance Premiums	153.37
Connecting Point	Internet Service	15.00
Constellation Newenergy Gas Division	Gas Service	22.71
D & D Welding & Repair	Repairs	150.00

Dale R. Johnson Enterprises, Inc.	Gravel	7,784.05
Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company	Telephone Service	52.16
Field's Hardware	Supplies	51.29
Filter Care of Nebraska Ltd.	Repairs	350.35
First Concord Benefits Group	Administrative Fees, Flex Plan	450.91
Freudenburg Tool Inc.	Tools	268.67
Green Line Equipment	Parts	490.68
Island Supply Welding Co.	Supplies	27.56
Johnson Sand & Gravel	Gravel	1663.72
Kelly Supply Company	Shop Supplies	6.94
Kimball Midwest	Parts	216.48
Madison County Clerk	Tax Deposit	10,378.54
Madison County Treasurer	Insurance Reimbursement	2.44
Madison National Life Insurance Company Inc.	Insurance Premiums	36.00
Matheson Tri-Gas Inc	Shop Supplies	116.89
Matteo Sand & Gravel Company Inc.	Gravel	6,288.60
Menards	Shop Supplies	43.45
Nebraska Child Support Payment Center	Garnish of Wages	93.24
Nebraska Public Power District	Utilities	144.46
NMC Exchange L.L.C.	Parts, Repairs	1,325.93
Norfolk Auto Supply	Parts	97.15
Norfolk NAPA	Parts	433.65
Pioneer Telephone Company	Telephone Services	42.62
Professional Choice Recovery Inc.	Garnish of Wages	154.24
RDO Truck Companies	Repairs, Parts	25,166.79
Reigle Implement Co Inc.	Oil	37.50
Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas	Employee Share Retirement	1,728.47
Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas	Employer Share Retirement	2,592.75
Road Builders Machinery & Supply	Repairs, Parts	1,736.36
Rose Equipment Inc.	Parts	48.03
Smutny Repair	Repairs	819.03
Stalp Gravel Inc.	Gravel	1910.52
Telebeep Wireless	Pager Service	22.11
White Star Oil Company	Fuel	393.80

#### FEDERAL AID SECONDARY

Barco Municipal Products Inc.	Signs	848.41
Nebraska Public Power District	Install Electric Service	4560.56

#### REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION & MODERNIZATION FUND

Bears Graphics	Supplies, Register of Deeds	1585.00
MIPS Inc.	Software Support, Register of Deeds	514.70

#### DRUG TESTING FUND

Faith Regional Health Services	Drug and Alcohol Tests	105.00
Intoximeters, Inc.	Supplies	178.50
Nebraska Public Health Environment Lab	Blood Tests	210.00

#### 911 EMERGENCY FUND

Centurylink	Telephone Service	779.77
Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company	Telephone Service	127.86
Frontier	Telephone Service	164.10

#### DRUG COURT FUND

Connecting Point	Supplies	314.00
Eakes Office Plus	Supplies	44.90

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

The Board adjourned at 12:58 A.M. to Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 9:30 A.M.

County Clerk Nancy Scheer

Christian Ohl, Chairman  
County Board of Commissioners