

# Commissioner's Record No. 27

MADISON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

## COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Madison, Nebraska

May 7, 2024

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

Advanced notice of meeting was published in the Wednesday, May 1, 2024 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.

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

Present: Commissioners Ron Schmidt, Eric Stinson, and Troy Uhlir, County Clerk Anne Pruss, County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson, County Sheriff Todd Volk and Deputy Brett Lee, Register of Deeds Diane Nykodym, Clerk Magistrate Monica Rotherham, and Noxious Weed Supervisor Don Svitak. Norfolk Daily News reporter Austin Svehla, WJAG reporters Paul Hughes and Addi Sporleder.

Commissioner Stinson read the following consent agenda items into the record:

- 1) Approval of minutes of April 22, 2024 meeting
- 2) Award of contract in the amount of \$993,228.29 to M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc. for Road Project Nos. C-59-930, C-59-934, C-59-935, and C-59-987
- 3) Approval of Right-of-Way Agreements for Project C-59(812), Norfolk North
  - a) Permanent Easement agreement with Neva E. Winter in the amount of \$24,050.00
  - b) Permanent Easement agreement with Neva E. Winter in the amount of \$13,050.00
- 4)

### RESOLUTION #2024-21

WHEREAS, Check No. 24040322, dated April 22, 2024, and drawn on the General Fund in the amount of nineteen dollars and seventy-five cents (\$19.75), was made payable to Madison County Sheriff (Fees) County Attorney Fees, P.O. Box 209, Madison, Nebraska 68748, and

WHEREAS, Madison County Sheriff department requested cancellation of duplicate payment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Check No. 24040322, dated April 22, 2024, and drawn on the General Fund in the amount of nineteen dollars and seventy-five cents (\$19.75), is hereby cancelled.

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

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

Madison County Noxious Weed Superintendent Don Svitak was present at the board meeting to review the 2023 noxious weed program. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture examines each county's weed control throughout each calendar year and then they compile this information into a report. This report is based on a scoring system to confirm that the counties are meeting all the minimum requirements that the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act states. To meet the minimum standards the county has to reach 3400 points and if they do not that county will need to make corrections in order to get to the 3400. These points are based on inspections, office evaluations, county reports, and continuing education. There are five reports that each county is required to create each year and these reports also reflect the scoring. For the year 2023 Madison County did receive the required scoring of 3397.

No action was taken.

The Commissioners discussed Blue Cross Blue Shield Health insurance benefits for County employees for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Commissioner Uhlir stated that NACO is our large-pool provider and our group, as part of that pool sits on the benefits committee with them and what comes out of the committee, as well as the NACO board, which oversees the plan. Uhlir commented what has happened in our group is that insurance firms are able to come in and pick off the healthier groups. So, in the past, whatever increase was simply shared by everybody. We just had an increase so the blanket increase this year would have been 6%. The board believes that maintaining our healthy groupings was necessary to prevent an increase. In order to do this they had to go compare claims by group. Uhlir stated that we are not overly elevated and we're marginally better than average. He believes that some individuals are

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above the 10% increase because they are unhealthy, whereas some groups fell below the 6%, are healthy. So this was what they suggested we would need to be at. Even though BCBS took a 10% cut in their fee Uhlir has argued that each year our premium that the county pays in and the percentage they receive increases every year. He feels that because we're getting older and have more claims than usual that the county would likely pay a lot more to look at another plan than what we have. Uhlir is concerned with how the county moves forward with the \$282,000 increase to the premiums.

County Clerk, Anne Pruss commented that since the 2022-2023 fiscal year we had a \$531,000 increase just in those two years. When asked why the percentages changed Ms. Pruss explained that in the 2022-2023 fiscal year the county eliminated the deductible buy down but implemented it in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Our contract goes from July to June but the coverage goes from January to December, so by bringing back the deductible buy down we had to go back to January 1<sup>st</sup> so the county's costs were a bit higher. She also stated that typically the second half of the year is higher due to people meeting their deductibles.

Commissioner Uhlir is considering some other programs that might help the county save money with one of them being setting up a Medicare program for those employees that are eligible. He feels that is really confusing going to the Medicare sub and the county employees get off of our plan and a lot of them do not take the cash-in-lieu. So what NACO has done is their onboarding program to be able to do the Medicare setup & feels that even though it is not the cheapest end product, it is the cheapest route. NACO is putting together something to present to anyone that is Medicare eligible to speak to county employees that are eligible. County Clerk Anne Pruss feels the problem with this is that even if an employee is eligible their spouse may not be and therefore want to stay on the county's health insurance. Commissioner Schmidt expressed his approval about being on Medicare with the significant cost savings he has experienced and encourages others to consider it and does not understand why people don't go on the program. County Clerk, Anne Pruss feels that if they were more educated on Medicare it might help.

Another option that was discussed is trying to implement some sort of wellness program to address the rising cost of health care and improve employee. Ms. Pruss stated that one of the larger employers in Madison County have set up certain steps that if their employees go through them it actually reduces that cost to them. Not knowing what NACO offers it is something she feels the county should address and look into.

Even though Commissioner Schmidt is able to receive the cash-in-lieu benefit he does not take it and is in favor of increasing the cash-in-lieu as an incentive to not take the county's health care. Commissioner Stinson commented that he feels that this benefit is pretty generous right now and that in the private sector that you would find very few employers that give their employees a cash-in-lieu benefit if you did not take the company's health insurance. Yes, the county is saving money on the premiums but the cash-in-lieu is not offered as a supplement to make money, it's to cover your costs. Monica Rotherham, District Clerk Magistrate, stated that for what she receives for cash-in-lieu it does not pay to be on her husband insurance plan. She also mentioned that also probably depends on where your spouse works & how many dependents you have. Ms. Pruss mentioned another thing that is going to sway the coverage is that the county is hiring younger employees that are able to receive the cash-in-lieu due to them being covered on their parents insurance until the age of 26 but then having to take the county's insurance when they reach that age. She doesn't feel they realize that when you factor \$350 for 12 months, yes your hourly rate is increased but once you go on the county's plan your hourly rate is going to drop and they are going to have to readjust.

Commissioner Uhlir would like to wait to look at the numbers. There is about a \$65 savings from going from \$2600 to \$3900 deductible with 109 estimated employees for the next year which is about ninety thousand. So with raising that he would like to see what that would be to increase the deductible buy down.

Anne Pruss stated that the 3 factors that would affect a decision right now is the employee's contribution amount, increasing or decreasing the cash-in-lieu benefit and if the county is going to the deductible by down again. The county would need to make a final decision by May 21, 2024 as the contract is due May 24, 2024. The commissioners agreed that they would like to wait and go over the numbers to see what would benefit the county and their employees.

No action was taken.

County Sheriff Todd Volk began discussion for his department's budgets 2024-2025 financial year.

Motion made by Stinson and seconded by Schmidt to go into executive session to discuss County Sheriff's office and jail budgets for 2024-2025 fiscal year. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson, and Uhlir. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 10:12 A.M.

Persons in attendance, Commissioners Troy Uhlir, Ronald Schmidt, Eric Stinson, County Clerk Anne Pruss, County Sheriff Todd Volk, and Deputy Brett Lee.

Executive Session concluded at 10:48 A.M.

Motion made by Stinson and seconded by Schmidt to back into regular session. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson, and Uhlir. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The following written report and correspondence were reviewed:

- 1) Fund balance report
- 2) District Court fee report April, 2024
- 3) CASA quarterly report, 2024
- 4) Economic Development Director quarterly report, 2024
- 5) 2023 annual report to governing bodies on Tax Increment Finance (TIF) from Community Development Agency
  - a. City of Norfolk
  - b. City of Madison
  - c. City of Newman Grove
  - d. City of Tilden

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The following claims were audited:

GENERAL FUND		
Total Net Payroll		191,978.83
Advanced Correctional Healthcare	Health Related Costs, County Jail	12,444.19
Ag Spray Equipment	Weed Equipment Repair, Noxious Weeds	314.80
Mark D Albin	Legal Services, District Court	1,819.03
Albracht Disposal Inc.	Garbage, County Jail	185.40
Allstate Benefits	Insurance Premiums	538.70
American Family Life Assurance Co.	Insurance Premiums	789.67
Appera	Towel Service, Public Defender	40.57
Appera	Towel Service, County Jail	79.96
ARL Credit Services	Garnish of Wages	183.12
Big Red Printing Inc.	Law Enforcement Supplies, County Sheriff	567.15
Black Hills Energy	Heating Fuels, Planning & Zoning	38.11
Black Hills Energy	Heating Fuels, Noxious Weeds	38.10
Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Nebraska	Insurance Premiums	168,155.63
Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Nebraska	Insurance Premiums	5,772.20
Bob Barker Company Inc.	Law Enforcement Supplies, County Jail	3,792.75
Bomgaars Supply Inc.	Building & Grounds Supplies, Buildings & Grounds	41.26
Bomgaars Supply Inc.	Weed Equipment Repair, Noxious Weeds	44.47
Brodock LLC	Law Enforcement Supplies, County Sheriff	1,000.00
Maria Izabel Chavez	Interpreting Services, Public Defender	112.50
City Of Madison	Utilities, Buildings & Grounds	201.47
City Of Madison	Utilities, County Jail	867.91
Cleanest by Farr	Cleaning Services, Probation Office	450.00
Clerk Of The Supreme Court	County Court Costs	130.00
Cmrs-Fp	Postal Services, County Sheriff	1,000.00
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance	Insurance Premiums	243.44
COM Sprinklers	Building & Grounds Repair, Building & Grounds	820.00
Consolidated Management Company	Meals, County Sheriff	17.15
Consolidated Management Company	Meals, County Jail	2,331.65
Constellation Newenergy Gas Div LLC	Heating Fuels, Planning & Zoning	46.07
Constellation Newenergy Gas Div LLC	Heating Fuels, Noxious Weeds	46.07
Courtesy Ford Lincoln Mercury	Vehicle Equipment Repair, County Sheriff	676.98
Culligan	Contractual Services, Juvenile Accountability	40.00
Custom Sports	Uniform Allowance, County Jail	170.00
Das State Accounting-Central Finance	Teletype Service, County Sheriff	268.80
Das State Accounting-Central Finance	Teletype Service, County Jail	268.80
Dept. Of Correctional Svcs	Board of Prisoners Costs, County Jail	2,800.85
Douglas County Court	Certified Copies, Law Enforcement	3.25
Eakes Inc.	Equipment Rental, Planning & Zoning	240.42
Eakes Inc.	Office Supplies, District Court	471.55
Eakes Inc.	Office Supplies, County Sheriff	436.94
Eakes Inc.	Office Supplies, Equipment Rental, Office Equipment, County Attorney	1,512.43
Eakes Inc.	Office Supplies, County Jail	(359.46)
Eakes Inc.	Office Supplies, Photo Copier, Probation	1,704.80
Egan Supply Co	Board of Prisoners Costs, County Jail	762.52
Egley Fullner Montag Morland & Easland	Legal Services, County Court	532.98
Election Systems & Software	Voting Supplies, Data Processing, Election Commissioner	9,178.92
Elite Court Reporting Service	Transcripts, Law Enforcement	479.70
Elite Office Products	Equipment Rental, County Extension Office	462.09
Elkhorn Rural Public Power District	Utilities, Communications	97.42
Encartele Inc./Cidnet	Commissary - Phone Data, County Jail	3,000.00
Ewalt Law Office PC LLO	Contract Legal Services	14,166.67
First Concord Benefits Group	Insurance Premiums	5,766.15
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply	Janitorial Supplies, Planning & Zoning	86.19
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply	Janitorial Supplies, Noxious Weeds	86.18
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply	Janitorial Supplies, Building & Grounds	305.13
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply	Janitorial Supplies, Probation	439.00
Gordy's Towing & Repair	Repairs, County Sheriff	1,447.61
Graham Tire Company	Repairs, County Sheriff	236.89
Gis Workshop LLC	GIS Services, Planning & Zoning	2,150.25
Gregg Hanson	Meals & Mileage, Veterans Service Office	240.97
Naomi Hemphill Cleaning	Cleaning Services, Public Defender	70.00
Holiday Inn Kearney	Lodging, County Sheriff	229.90
Holiday Inn Kearney	Lodging, County Jail	804.65
Holiday Inn Kearney	Lodging, Veterans Service Office	347.85
Jack's Uniforms & Equipment	Uniforms, County Sheriff	123.50
Jack's Uniforms & Equipment	Uniforms, County Jail	549.25
Kelly Supply Company	Weed Equipment Repair, Noxious Weeds	1.94
Lampli Locke & Beaudette Law Office	Legal Services, County Court	275.50
Landkamer Flag Sales	Flags, Building & Grounds	168.00

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Landkamer Flag Sales	Flags, County Extension Office	68.40
Landkamer Flag Sales	Flags, Veterans Service Office	45.60
Madison County Clerk	Tax Deposit and Retirement	101,579.91
Madison County Historical Society	Historical Society Costs	939.71
Madison County Sheriff	Civil Process Fees, County Court	926.03
Madison County Sheriff	Civil Process Fees, District Court	333.35
Madison County Sheriff	Civil Process Fees, Mental Health	55.70
Madison County Treasurer	Blue Cross Blue Shield Reimbursement	258.25
Madison County 7th Judicial District	Dues, Subscriptions, Registrations, Training, Fees, Public Defender	125.00
Madison National Life Insurance Co.	Insurance Premiums	190.71
Madison National Life Insurance Co.	Insurance Premiums	213.95
Mead Lumber	Building & Grounds Repair, Public Defender	553.93
Menards	Building & Grounds Supplies, Buildings & Grounds	308.27
Menards	Building & Grounds Repair, County Extension Office	227.39
Menards	Weed Equipment Repair, Shop Supplies, Noxious Weeds	75.09
Menards	Building & Grounds Repair, Veterans Service Office	80.94
Mips Inc.	Data Processing Costs, County Clerk	680.05
Mips Inc.	Data Processing Costs, Data Processing, Register of Deeds	546.77
Motorola Solutions	Law Enforcement Supplies, County Sheriff	96.00
Nationwide Retirement Solutions	Insurance Premiums	1,413.85
NCRAAO Conference - 2024	Training, County Assessor	300.00
Nebraska Child Support Payment Center	Garnish of Wages	676.62
Nebraska Law Enforcement	Training, Lodging, County Sheriff	500.00
Nebraska Public Power District	Utilities, County Extension Office	583.39
Nebraska Public Power District	Utilities, Veterans Service Office	388.92
Norfolk Daily News	Publication Costs, Election Commission	231.20
Norfolk Daily News	Publication Costs, County Offices	329.07
NAPA Auto Parts Norfolk	Weed Equipment Repair, Noxious Weeds	28.50
NPAS Inc.	Other Equipment Repair, County Jail	1,005.96
NPZA - Nebr Planning & Zoning Association	Training, Planning & Zoning	470.00
One Office Solution	Voting Supplies, Election Commissioner	581.02
One Office Solution	Supplies, Public Defender	433.75
One Office Solution	Maintenance Agreements, Veterans Service Office	31.49
Michael D Petersen	Contractual Services, Community Based Grant	137.50
Pettitt Plumbing Heating & A/C Inc.	Other Equipment Repair, County Jail	2,715.66
Pierce County Sheriff	District Court Costs, District Court	25.00
Precision Technology Inc.	Office Equipment, Public Defender	329.00
Precision Technology Inc.	Supplies, Data Processing Equipment, Probation Office	5,235.00
Jayd Roberts	Mileage Allowance, County Extension Office	115.24
Stonacek Funeral Chapel	Coroner / Autopsy Costs, Law Enforcement	225.00
Stratton Delay Doele Carlson Buettner	Attorney Fees, County Court	5,069.10
Summit Food Service LLC	Food Service, County Jail	19,552.39
Surplus Center	Weed Equipment Repair, Noxious Weeds	130.19
Teeco Inc.	Contract Services, Planning and Zoning	4.48
Teeco Inc.	Contract Services, Noxious Weeds	4.47
US Bank Corporate Payment System	Meals, Training, County Attorney	602.62
US Bank Corporate Payment System	Postal Services, Law Enforcement	97.08
Verizon Wireless	Cellular Phone, Community Based Grant	133.58
Vision Service Plan	Insurance Premiums	705.15
Derek Volker	Contractual Services, Community Based Grant	337.50
Wex Bank	Fuel, County Sheriff	3,773.62
Wex Bank	Fuel, County Sheriff	716.58
Yard Restoration LLC	Building & Grounds Repair, County Extension Office	87.00
Yard Restoration LLC	Building & Grounds Repair, Veterans Service Office	58.00
Zelle LLC	Contract Services, County Offices	5,000.00
	Total General Claims with Payroll	603,667.80

### ROAD BRIDGE FUND

Total Net Payroll		36,610.38
Advanced Auto Parts	Parts	533.24
Akrs Equipment Solutions, Inc.	Parts	35.70
Allstate Benefits	Insurance Premiums	153.18
American Family Life Assurance Co.	Insurance Premiums	390.92
Battle Creek Light & Power	Utilities	270.77
Bauer Built Inc.	Tires and Repairs	16,090.06
Binswanger Glass	Glass Repair	42.93
Black Hills Energy	Heating Fuels	190.45
Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Nebraska	Insurance Premiums	45,605.81
Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Nebraska	Insurance Premiums	1,604.81
Bomgaars Supply Inc.	Shop Supplies & Tools	555.96
Central Sand & Gravel	Gravel	52,084.58
City Of Madison	Utilities	534.81
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance	Insurance Premiums	409.47
Constellation Newenergy Gas Div LLC	Heating Fuels	412.11

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Cornhusker International Trucks Inc.	Parts	732.13
Dale R Johnson Ent Inc.	Gravel	26,780.64
Dinkel Implement Company	Parts & Repairs	2,069.35
First Concord Benefits Group	Insurance Premiums	728.51
Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply	Shop Supplies	52.66
Jebro Inc.	Asphalt	5,089.80
Kimball Midwest	Shop Supplies	603.26
Koch Excavating Co. Inc.	Gravel	2,372.00
Lawson Products	Shop Supplies	185.71
Loup Power District	Utilities	234.23
Madison County Clerk	Tax Deposit and Retirement	18,603.27
Madison National Life Insurance Co.	Insurance Premiums	32.08
Madison National Life Insurance Co.	Insurance Premiums	79.04
Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc.	Engineering	48,484.73
Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc.	Bridge Contracts - HBP	268.04
Matteo Sand & Gravel Co. Inc.	Armor Coating	1,046.00
Meisinger Oil Co. Inc.	Fuel	8,450.97
Menards	Shop Supplies	22.32
Nationwide Retirement Solutions	Insurance Premiums	1,425.00
Nebraska Public Power District	Utilities	167.20
Norfolk Iron & Metal	Equipment Repair	708.57
Nofolk NAPA	Parts	1,336.06
Wildcat Manufacturing LLC	Shop Supplies	105.00
Prime Sanitation	Garbage	67.50
RDO Truck Centers LLC	Parts	5,522.69
Road Builders Machinery & Supply Co.	Parts	234.50
Sapp Bros Norfolk	Machinery and Equipment Grease and Oil	472.00
Steffen Truck Equip/North American	Parts	324.91
Teeco Inc.	Contractual Services	68.70
Theo's Corner LLC	Fuel	90.75
Truck Center Co.	Fuel, Parts, and Repairs	9,582.43
Village Of Meadow Grove	Utilities	74.00
Vision Service Plan	Insurance Premiums	151.51
	Total Road Bridge Claims with Payroll	291,690.74

### FEDERAL AID SECONDARY FUND

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District	Capital Outlay Contracts	70,953.39
Madison County Register Of Deeds	Capital Outlay Right-of-Way	22.00
Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc.	Engineering	84,317.03
Neva E Winter	Capital Outlay Right-of-Way	37,100.00
	Total Federal Aid Secondary Fund	192,392.42

### VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau	Administration Fees	3,112.97
	Total Visitors Promotion Fund	3,112.97

### VISITORS IMPROVEMENT FUND

Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau	Administration Fees	254.57
	Total Visitors Improvement Fund	254.57

### ROD PRESERVATION & MODERNIZATION FUND

Eakes Inc.	Office Supplies	221.00
Mips Inc.	Microfilming, Data Processing & Website Costs	29,821.44
One Office Solution	Office Supplies	80.57
	Total ROD Preservation & Modernization Fund	30,123.01

### LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATING FUND

Madison County Sheriff	Commissary	147.58
	Total Law Enforcement Operating Fund	147.58

### DRUG COURT FUND

Jay B Putters	Incentives	35.00
US Corporate Bank System	Office Supplies	264.70
	Total Drug Court Fund	299.70

### ROAD/BRIDGE BOND FUND

Frontier Bank	Principal Retirement & Interest Payments	255,212.50
	Total Road/Bridge Bond Fund	255,212.50

Total Claims with Payroll 1,376,901.29

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

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The Board adjourned at 11:14 A.M. to Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.

ATTEST:



County Clerk Anne M. Pruss

Troy Uhlir, Chairman  
County Board of Commissioners