

**DAWES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**September 10, 2024**

The Dawes County Board of Commissioners will consider, take necessary action and reserves the right to enter into executive session concerning any of the following agenda items meeting the necessary criteria.

**9:20 A.M.**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**  
**Notice re: Posted/Copies of Open Meetings Act**  
**Motion approving Agenda**  
**Motion approving minutes of 08/27/24**  
**Motion approving claims**  
**Correspondence: None**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Public Comment\*\***

**9:40 A.M.**

Wade Yada, Highway Superintendent  
re: Road Updates

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

Official's Fee/Mileage Reports  
Payroll approval

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Jail Inspection  
Grant Approval re: Chadron Festival Quilts/Slim Days

**\*\*Note:** Per LB 43 effective July 19, 2024 Public Comment must be on each Agenda of the Board of Commissioners

## CHADRON, NEBRASKA

September 10, 2024

### DAWES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Public convened meeting of the Dawes County Commissioners in regular session commenced at the hour of 9:07 A.M. on the 10th day of September, 2024 pursuant to public notice as required by law. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Webb Johnson. Board Members present was Jake Stewart and Vic Rivera. Also, present was Cheryl Feist, Dawes County Clerk; Wade Yada, Highway Superintendent; Lindy Coleman, Assessor; Sam Wellnitz, Treasurer and Clifford Stehle. Adam Edmund was excused from the meeting. Per LB 898, Commissioner Johnson announced the location of the Open Meetings Act located on the door by the United States Flag. Copies of the Act are available upon request. Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Rivera, moved to approve the agenda. Roll call vote, Ayes: Stewart, Johnson and Rivera. Nays: None. Motion carried. The minutes of the August 27, 2024 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. Motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Rivera approving the minutes with the following corrections to wit: increase restricted funds by an additional 1%; next meeting date should've been recorded as September 10<sup>th</sup>, not 12<sup>th</sup> and re: River A claims, Commissioner Rivera abstained from the vote. Roll call vote, Ayes: Johnson, Rivera and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried. Claims were reviewed. Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Rivera, moved to approve all claims as submitted. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera, Stewart and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion carried. Monthly fee/mileage reports of the various departments were approved by general consent of the board.

At 9:16 A.M. Public Comment was opened by the Board Chairman. There wasn't anyone requesting public comment.

At 9:17 A.M. Wade Yada, Highway Superintendent, met with the Board. Road updates ensued to wit: District 1 working on Airport Rd, then onto Davenport Rd. District 2 working on blow outs, and hauling gravel on Grantham Rd. District 3 working on blow outs on Squaw Creek and Saw Log Roads and Breakneck Road will be addressed due damage sustained to the road. Pete is working on West Ash Creek clearing trees, then onto the Stumph pit. September 11, 24 an eight (8) hour refresher course re: MSHA will be attended by all Road Crew members. Road No. 50 was discussed. Commissioner Rivera and Wade Yada, Highway Superintendent met with Mr. John Mai re: autogates and over-head structure removal. Discussion ensued regarding removal of over-head structure. Clifford Stehle asked why the over-head structure needs to come down. Commissioner Rivera indicated the main reason being safety concerns and the fact that law prohibits structures over county roads. Charlie Littrell will be contacted to remove the over-head structure. Mr. Mai has requested that the county also have Charlie Littrell windrow the red rock purchased by Mr. Mai. Mr. Mai has also indicated that when removal of the over-head structure is done, he expects immediate action to bring the road up to standards. Culverts will be installed and the road widened according to Commissioner Rivera. The Board instructed Mr. Yada to contact Charlie Littrell and proceed with removal of the over-head structure and windrow Mr. Mai's red rock. Commissioner Stewart indicated for the record he will abstain from agreeing to any upgrades or modifications to Road No. 50. Mr. Yada then informed the Board that 4-Mile and Breakneck roads signage may incorrect per GIS. The Board and Assessor reviewed a map and discussion ensued. Mr. Yada believes the signage should read 4-Mile Road. This can affect 911 response so it must be addressed. Commissioner Rivera moved to enter executive session at 9:43 A.M. re: personnel. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. Roll call vote, Ayes: Johnson, Rivera and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried. At 9:58 A.M. a motion to reconvene to regular session with no action taken during executive session was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Rivera. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera, Stewart and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion carried. Deb Lesmeister, Dawes County Deputy and Casey Keim, payroll, benefits clerk joined the meeting. Discussion ensued re: vacation leave and recording thereof in benefits manager. It was learned that any employee who takes vacation leave anytime during the last two (2) weeks of December, the vacation leave used will be deducted from their new vacation hours awarded in January of each year. This is due to time worked. Discussion ensued. Deb Lesmeister indicated for the record adjustments can be made to the benefits manager program. The Board instructed the Roads Department to start tracking vacation leave taken during this timeframe and remit the information to the payroll department for an adjustment of vacation hours after January 01. In other business the Board reviewed to grants for board approval to wit: Chadron Quilt Festival in the amount of \$979.00 and Slim