

Dakota County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 5, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.
County Board Meeting Room, First Floor
Dakota County Courthouse, Dakota City, Nebraska

Chair Hohenstein called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Present at Roll Call: Hohenstein, Love, Van Berkum, Giese, Launsby. Absent: None. Also present was Kim Watson, County Attorney, and Cherie Conley, County Clerk, acting as Board Secretary. The location of the Open Meetings Act was noted.

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL – *Excused Absence*

A current copy of the *Open Meetings Act* is posted on the west wall near the entrance of the County Board Meeting Room and is available for review by all citizens in attendance.

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to adjust the order of items on this agenda if necessary.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT. The Board of Commissioners will hear comments about any item not on the agenda. The Chair has the discretion to limit the time of comment.
2. CONSENT AGENDA *Any individual item may be removed by a Commissioner for special discussion and consideration. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners.*
 - a. Approval of the previous meeting minutes – January 22, 2024.
 - b. Approval of payroll claims for January 21 to February 3, 2024.
 - c. Approval of payroll accounts payable claims
 - d. Approval of monthly accounts payable claims
 - e. Approval of Quarterly Report – Veterans Service Officer
3. NEW BUSINESS & RESOLUTIONS
 - a. Robert Rapp, Don Faber, and Matt Wallenwaber to present the 2023-24 YTD group health plan and dental plan reports and the renewal options available for March 1, 2024 and other plan year options as applicable. Requesting Board approval of the group health plan and dental plan renewals including the group health plan reinsurance stop loss contract.
 - b. Board to approve Planning & Zoning membership appointments – one appointment to the following geographical areas: (1) rural Hubbard (2) Village of Emerson and (3) rural Jackson for a 3-year term February 2024 to February 2027.
 - c. Board to approve the following appointments to serve on the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Oversight Committee: Dale Brian Davis replacing Larry Armbright for a 5 year term (Jan 2024 to Jan 2029) and Jeffrey Finken replacing Mike Cheever for a 5 year term (Jan 2024 to Jan 2029)
 - d. Board to approve the nomination of Norman Breece as the Chair of the VSO Oversight Committee.
 - e. Approve renewal of the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) contract for services between Dakota County and MercyOne Occupational Health effective March 1, 2023, to March 1, 2024 and determine offering either 3 counseling sessions at \$1.85 per employee per month or 6 counseling sessions at \$2.06 per employee per month.
 - f. Dawn Bousquet, Treasurer, requesting Board approval to move \$1.12 from Fund 6026 Boat Sales Tax to the General fund. This error was made by the Department of Revenue by processing a prior return submitted twice resulting in excess funds in Fund 6026.
 - g. Board to review and discuss Olson and Associates feasibility study on Crystal Lake water reclamation and take potential action.
4. OLD BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS
 - a. Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent – Road Report
 - b. Theresa Grove, Health Department Director – Quarterly Report
 - c. Board to offer letter of opposition to LB1607 eliminating the Inheritance Tax.
5. COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. MAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY BUSINESS
7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hohenstein called for public comment. There was none.

Chair Hohenstein called for approval of the consent agenda items. Commissioner Love moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum, to approve the consent agenda items: a) approval of the previous meeting minutes – January 22, 2024; b) Approval of payroll claims for January 21 to February 3, 2024; c) Approval of payroll accounts payable claims; d) Approval of accounts payable claims; and e) Veterans Office Quarterly Report for October to December 2023. ROLL CALL VOTE: Love-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Payroll: General Fund Employer: Gross Salaries-\$185,687.20; Net Pay-\$133,716.61; Total Retirement-\$13,363.85; Total FICA-\$13,682.49; Health Plan-\$45,360.00; Dental Plan-\$1,620.00; Life Insurance-\$214.21; Robert Giese-\$1,200.60; Martin Hohenstein-\$1,246.75; Troy Launsby-\$1,000.60; Scott Love-\$1,200.60; Brian Van Berkum-\$1,200.60; Cherie Conley-\$2,487.80; Robin Hansen-\$1,460.80; Paola Ledesma-\$1,589.26; Kathy Abbe-\$1,435.77; Dawn Bousquet-\$2,487.80; Maria Garcia-\$1,294.40; Stephanie Gatzemeyer-\$1,725.60; Jalissa Hattig-\$1,444.00; Brenda

Landaverde-\$1,365.60; Emily McNaughton-\$1,294.40; Debera Benton-\$1,480.80; Christy Abts-\$2,487.80; Melissa Collins-\$1,705.60; Joseph O'Neil-\$611.54; Karen Becerra-\$1,665.60; Katherine Wiltgen-\$2,487.80; Louvontree Hunter-\$3,527.63; Debra Jensen-\$1,712.80; Samantha Mitchell-\$1,325.61; Rodney Soole-\$2,307.20; Tammy Dunn Peterson-\$1,592.01; Angelica Antonio Flores-\$1,837.83; Shaun Bird-\$2,192.80; Timothy Decker-\$2,660.37; Brian Ellinger-\$2,549.88; Penny Epting-\$2,628.58; Brian Fernau-\$2,547.45; Tyler Fulkerth-\$2,409.60; Jeremy Gilpin-\$2,509.31; Martin Guerrero-\$2,353.86; Melvin Harrison III-\$2,570.49; Jason James-\$2,512.07; Kimberly Johnson-\$748.00; Jared Junge-\$2,445.60; Christopher Kleinberg-\$3,108.08; Jose Magana-\$2,322.83; Keaton Mueller-\$1,804.00; Gregory Nyhof-\$2,392.79; Jonathan Romo-Rodriguez-\$2,413.51; Mardi Schnee-\$1,331.20; Ryne Sell-\$992.20; Joshua Townsend-\$2,200.33; Sarah Hammond-\$2,311.54; Shantel Krull-\$1,120.00; Melinda Sandvick (Wicks)-\$1,846.15; Debra Schmiedt-\$11,281.14; Kimberly Watson-\$3,884.44; Emma Wiebelhaus-\$1,400.00; Jacob Acero-\$1,742.08; Shaelee Barreras-\$79.17; Dillon Blackbird Villacres-\$1,627.92; Rebecca Broer-\$2,135.46; Ismael Castro-\$1,606.92; Timathey Chamberlain-\$1,624.92; Chassidy Compton-\$1,456.88; Ruby De La Torre-\$1,651.44; Elisabet DeRoin-\$2,274.78; Jesse Doelle-\$1,748.45; Cody Epting-\$1,627.92; Rebekah Epting-\$1,627.92; Jennifer Fuentes-\$1,670.94; Jonathan Gray-\$1,897.63; Kara Groetken-\$1,916.10; Todd Hammer-\$2,638.94; Adam Hough-\$1,887.73; Joellen John-\$1,627.92; Dustin Johnson-\$1,666.18; Terry Johnson-\$1,621.92; Brandon Long-\$1,990.83; Jennifer Marquez-\$1,656.42; Skyler Miner-\$1,876.77; Kelsey O'Neill-\$1,910.93; Jaime Perez-Rojas-\$771.48; Kimberly Peterson-\$1,786.69; Nathaniel Ramirez-\$459.12; Adrian Ramos-\$1,651.44; Adolfo Raya-\$927.24; Michele Rohde-\$1,549.63; Angel Ruelas Hernandez-\$765.20; Jeremy Russell-\$1,640.84; Jerry Santos-\$1,651.44; Jennifer Svendsen-\$3,759.90; Randall Walsh-\$2,560.17; Deanna Hagberg-\$2,143.20; Jolene Gubbels-\$2,111.77; Jana Adam-\$1,628.71; Jennifer Ankerstjerne-\$1,743.34; Theresa Grove-\$2,408.00; Johanna Marquez-\$1,280.00; Courtney Swick-\$1,569.62; Nicholas Nieman-\$2,000.22; **General Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$11,677.67; State Tax-\$6,290.54; Soc Sec-\$11,089.04; Medicare-\$2,593.45; Extra Fit-\$1,216.00; Extra Sit-\$455.00; Retirement-\$9,240.24; Health Plan-\$4,000.00; Dental Plan-\$525.00; Colonial Health-\$253.04; Sheriff Union Dues-\$450.00; Colonial Life/Disability-\$54.00; Deferred Comp-\$590.00; Garnishments-\$1,331.06; Flex Plan Medical-\$975.87; Flex Dependent Care-\$416.66; VSP Vision Prem-\$429.96; Legal Shield-\$109.11; Liberty Nat'l Pretax-\$112.05; Liberty Nat'l Post tax-\$41.96; VSP Vision Base-\$119.94; **Road Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$18,639.81; Net Pay-\$13,917.20; Retirement-\$1,258.19; Total FICA-\$1,390.54; Health Plan-\$5,040.00; Dental Plan-\$180.00; Life Insurance-\$22.06; Chad Cockburn-\$1,668.45; Emil Girard-\$1,816.00; Robert Hacker-\$1,852.00; Lance Jacobsen-\$2,160.00; David Kneifl-\$1,909.00; Daniel Konrad Lisenbee-\$1,816.00; Kimon Litras-\$1,946.36; Dean Pallas-\$1,840.00; Gunner Stanwick-\$1,816.00; Jeffrey Stanwick-\$1,816.00; **Road Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$1,167.97; State Tax-\$637.10; FICA-\$1,126.98; Medicare-\$263.56; Retirement-\$838.80; Health Plan-\$200.00; Dental Plan-\$42.00; Colonial Health-PreTax-\$38.23; Colonial Health L/D-\$47.71; Flex Plan Medical-\$108.69; Road Union Dues-\$137.50; VSP Vision Prem-\$34.82; Legal Shield-\$40.37; Liberty National PreTax-\$6.50; VSP Vision Base-\$32.38; **Health Planning Grant Employer 2502:** Gross Salaries-\$1,360.13; Net Pay-\$1,043.56; Retirement-\$91.81; Total FICA-\$104.05; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$0.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Chloe Coover-\$1,360.13; **Health Planning Grant Employee 2502:** Federal Tax-\$79.56; State Tax-\$46.75; FICA-\$84.33; Medicare-\$19.72; Extra Fit-\$20.00; Exrta Sit-\$5.00; Retirement-\$61.21; **Health Program Grant Employer 2504:** Gross Salaries-\$1,778.04; Net Pay-\$1,391.25; Retirement-\$114.05; Total FICA-\$133.21; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Mohamud Ibrahim-\$88.44; Yesica Saldana Cisneros-\$1,689.60; **Health Program Grant Employee 2504:** Federal Tax-\$93.08; State Tax-\$47.81; FICA-\$107.96; Medicare-\$25.25; Retirement-\$76.03; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Base-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Aid Employer 2507:** Gross Salaries-\$1,664.00; Net Pay-\$1,345.04; Retirement-\$112.32; Total FICA-\$123.76; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Kristin Robinette-\$1,664.00; **Juvenile Services Aid Employee 2507:** Federal Tax-\$41.98; State Tax-\$32.10; FICA-\$100.30; Medicare-\$23.46; Retirement-\$74.88; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$25.24;

Payroll Accounts Payable: General Fund: Collection Service Center, garnishment-\$564.45; Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$307.04; Dental Account, premium-\$2,145.00; FSA Medical - \$416.66; FSA Dental - \$975.87; Health Plan, premium-\$49,360.00; Fraternal Order of Police #49, union dues-\$450.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$12,893.67; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$154.01; Legalshield, premium-\$109.11; Life Insurance, premium-\$214.21; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, contributions-\$590.00; Nebraska Child Support, garnishments-\$766.61; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$6,745.54; Principal Life Insurance, premiums - \$2690.66; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$22,604.09; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$27,364.98; VSP, premium-\$549.90. **Road Fund:** Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$85.94; Dental Account, premium-\$222.00; FSA Medical - \$108.69; Health Plan, premium-\$5,240.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$1,167.97; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$6.50; Legalshield, premium-\$40.37; Life Insurance, premium-\$22.06; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$637.10; Nebraska Public Empl Local 251, union dues-\$137.50; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$2,096.99; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$2,781.08; VSP, premium-\$67.20; **Insurance Fund 1275:** Mid-Americian Benefits-administrative fees \$37,312.57; Mid-Americian Benefits-claims \$60,264.25; **Health 2502 Fund:** Medical Account, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$99.56; Life Insurance, premium - \$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$51.75; Principal Life Ins, premiums-\$22.98; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$153.02; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$208.10; **Health 2504 Fund:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Health Plan, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$93.08; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$47.81; Principal Life, premium-\$24.90; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$190.08; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$266.42; VSP, premium-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Fund:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$41.98; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of

Revenue, state taxes-\$32.10; Principal Life, premium - \$22.10; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$187.20; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$247.52; VSP, premium-\$25.24.

Accounts Payable: General Fund: Nebraska Department of Labor – unemployment claim - \$5004.00; **Road Fund:** Nebraska Department of Labor – unemployment claim - \$1,542.00.

Robert Rapp, Don Faber, brokers with New York Life Insurance and Matt Wallenwaber with Mid-American Benefits presented the 2023-24 YTD group health plan and dental plan reports and the renewal options available for March 1, 2024. Mr. Rapp and Mr. Faber explained how they had gone out to 25 companies for quotes for our group and received 2 that were willing to take on Dakota County and were competitive and brought to the Board those proposals. Mr. Wallenwaber explained that the last year claims were down, and the severity of claims were reduced. There will be no changes made to the coverage. Mr. Faber and Mr. Rapp stated the County has been with the current underwriting carrier for 12 years and they would recommend staying with them and go with Option “I” on the quote sheet. Commissioner Giese asked how many groups pay 100% of employee premiums. Mr. Wallenwaber said few businesses do and staff typically pay a part of the premium. Commissioner Giese moved, seconded by Commissioner Love to approve the proposed benefit package detailed in Column I staying with Mid-American Benefits and Stop Loss carrier USBenefits/American National – Monthly Specific Premium cost based on average of 93 covered employees of \$27,557.46, Annual Specific Premium Cost of \$330,689.52, Monthly Fixed Cost \$32,335.80 and Annual Fixed Cost \$388,029.60, Monthly Maximum cost \$134,263.47 and Annual Maximum Cost \$1,611,161.64 for the group health plan and dental plan renewals including the group health plan reinsurance stop loss contract. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Love moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve Planning & Zoning membership appointments –rural Hubbard – Scott Bousquet, Village of Emerson – Richard McCabe, and rural Jackson – Tim Decker for a 3-year term February 2024 to February 2027. ROLL CALL VOTE: Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Larry Armbricht appeared before the Board on behalf of the Veterans Service Oversight Committee and gave a brief overview of the accomplishments of new committee member: Dale Davis and Jeffrey Finken and recommended their appointments. Mr. Armbricht also recommended the Board approve Norman Breece as Chair. Chair Hohenstein is on this committee and appreciates all their services. Commissioner Love moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the following appointments to serve on the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Oversight Committee: Dale Brian Davis replacing Larry Armbricht for a 5 year term (Jan 2024 to Jan 2029) and Jeffrey Finken replacing Mike Cheever for a 5 year term (Jan 2024 to Jan 2029). ROLL CALL VOTE: Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Giese moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum, to approve the nomination of Norman Breece as the Chair of the VSO Oversight Committee. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Love commented that he would like to see MercyOne come onsite and offer artery scanning again for employees and would like to see better attendance at wellness opportunities. Commissioner Love moved, seconded by Commissioner Giese to approve the renewal of the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) contract for services between Dakota County and MercyOne Occupational Health effective March 1, 2024, to March 1, 2025 offering 6 free counseling sessions per year for employees. ROLL CALL VOTE: Love-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Giese moved, seconded by Commissioner Love, to approve Dawn Bousquet, Treasurer, request to move \$1.12 from Fund 6026 Boat Sales Tax to the General fund. This error was made by the Department of Revenue by processing a prior return submitted twice resulting in excess funds in Fund 6026. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, presented the Road Report for January 21 to February 3, 2024. Overtime hours- 9; snow removal- 304.5 hours; gravel hauling – 4 hours, 30 tons hauled. They are trying to obtain gravel agreements. Commissioner Love asked what the approximate dollar amount was for the additional snow removal and Gubbels said approximately \$67,000. Gubbels also mentioned that CEC engineers would like to discuss the Lik U Wanta drive project at the next meeting.

Matthew Smith, with Olson and Associates, discussed in detail the need for a feasibility study on the Crystal Lake water reclamation project. Mr. Smith informed that Tyson is pumping approximately 5 million gallons of water a day into the river and how it would be beneficial if there were a way to capture and reclaim that water. There are a lot of regulatory permits and loopholes that would need to be looked at. He proposed an outline of this type of feasibility project and the fee would not exceed \$175,000. Commissioner Love commented it is a great idea, but all entities would need to be on board and the cost is a factor. Lou Franco from rural So Sioux City questioned the underground water supply. Walt Beerman from So Sioux City/Crystal Lake area commented that he has done a lot of research on this and states it would be a tremendous asset. The Board will consider the proposal and research this project further before making any decisions.

Commissioner Giese moved, seconded by Commissioner Hohenstein to send a letter of opposition to LB1607 eliminating the Inheritance Tax to the State Senators and the Legislative Committee. ROLL CALL VOTE: Love-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Love moved, seconded by Commissioner Giese to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Chair Hohenstein adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting of February 5, 2024, at 4:21 p.m.

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Martin Hohenstein, Chair

Cherie Conley, County Clerk/Board Secretary