

Dakota County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, March 3, 2025  
3:00 p.m. Regular Business Meeting  
County Board Meeting Room, First Floor  
Dakota County Courthouse, Dakota City, Nebraska

Chair Hohenstein called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the Board of Equalization meeting. Present at Roll Call: Hohenstein, Rodriguez, Van Berkum, Reed. Absent: Bousquet. 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 – February 18, 2025.
  - b. Approval of payroll claims for February 16 to March 1, 2025.
  - c. Approval of payroll accounts payable claims
  - d. Approval of accounts payable claims(if any)
3. NEW BUSINESS & RESOLUTIONS
  - a. Lori Warner, SSC Convention & Visitors Bureau update on tourism in Dakota County.
  - b. Review and award bid for Dakota County Bridge Inspections in 2025.
  - c. Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, requests Board to review and approve gravel pricing bids for March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026.
  - d. Board to discuss Grievance Board procedures and designate a list of 15 members to serve as potential Grievance Board members as set forth in the Employee Handbook approved 1-22-2024. This will be done at the reorganizational meeting each year following this 2025 resolution. Resolution to be approved at next meeting.
  - e. Board to review and approve or deny the new YMCA Membership Agreement going into effect April 1, 2025 for the Employee Wellness program.
  - f. Board to appoint Road Department Foreman.
  - g. Board to discuss the Road Department backhoe and decide what action to take on repairs.
4. OLD BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS
  - a. Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent – Road Report
5. COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. MAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY BUSINESS  
Reminder - Joint City-County-School meeting March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus Halll at 5:30 p.m.
7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed to excuse Commissioner Bousquet from the meeting. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Hohenstein called for Public Comment: There was none.

Chair Hohenstein called for Consent Agenda items. Chair Hohenstein explained that he went through the payroll claims and accounts payable claims and everything was in order. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve the consent agenda items: (a) approval of the previous meeting minutes – February 18, 2025; (b) approval of payroll claims for February 16 to March 1, 2025; (c) approval of payroll accounts payable claims; (d) approval of accounts payable claims-none. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Bousquet-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

**Payroll: General Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$194,513.89; Net Pay-\$140,301.67; Total Retirement-\$14,047.86; Total FICA-\$14,406.16; Health Plan-\$44,800.00; Dental Plan-\$1,620.00; Life Insurance-\$214.85; Richard Bousquet-\$1,225.62; Martin Hohenstein-\$1,271.77; Jeffrey Reed-\$1,225.62; Rogelio Rodriguez Villalobos-\$1,225.62; Brian Van Berkum-\$1,225.62; Cherie Conley-\$2,549.99; Robin Hansen-\$1,519.20; Paola Ledesma-\$1,689.60; Kathy Abbe-\$1,502.40; Khen Chu-\$1,280.00; Maria Garcia-\$1,346.40; Stephanie Gatzemeyer-\$2,549.99; Jalissa Hattig-\$1,657.60; Brenda Landaverde-\$1,420.00; Emily McNaughton-\$1,346.40; Debera Benton-\$1,540.00; Christy Abts-\$2,549.99; Melissa Collins-\$1,773.60; Joseph O'Neil-\$636.00; Karen Becerra-\$1,744.80; Katherine Wiltgen-\$2,549.99; Louvontree Hunter-\$3,615.82; Debra Jensen-\$1,781.60; Samantha Mitchell-\$1,378.41; Rodney Soole-\$2,307.20; Todd Uhl-\$1,920.00; Tammy Dunn Peterson-\$1,596.80; Angelica Antonio Flores-\$2,369.92; Shaun Bird-\$3,656.24; Timothy Decker-\$2,766.78; Brian Ellinger-\$3,257.26; Penny Epting-\$2,827.77; Brian Fernau-\$2,391.65; Tyler Fulkerth-

\$3,457.67; Jeremy Gilpin-\$2,502.89; Martin Guerrero-\$2,917.20; Melvin Harrison III-\$2,958.80; Jason James-\$2,886.77; Kimberly Johnson-\$635.93; Jared Junge-\$2,548.26; Christopher Kleinberg-\$3,185.79; Jose Magana-\$3,142.79; Keaton Mueller-\$2,447.20; Gregory Nyhof-\$2,937.33; Jonathan Romo-Rodriguez-\$2,778.79; Mardi Schnee-\$1,384.80; Ryne Sell-\$487.83; Sarah Hammond-\$2,588.01; Shantel Krull-\$1,137.50; Debra Schmiedt-\$3,910.80; Kimberly Watson-\$3,981.55; Alexandra Wolf-\$1,354.13; Jacob Acero-\$2,089.62; Summer Adair-\$1,928.64; Roberto Alvarez-Arreola-\$1,708.56; Shaelee Barreras-\$2,700.00; Ismael Castro-\$2,234.01; Timathey Chamberlain-\$2,148.06; Charlotte Coleman-\$809.60; Ruby De La Torre-\$1,821.52; Adilene Delgadillo Alvarez-\$810.60; Elisabet DeRoin-\$2,346.05; Cody Epting-\$2,136.60; Rebekah Epting-\$2,136.60; Jennifer Fuentes-\$2,274.15; Jonathan Gray-\$2,431.77; Kara Groetken-\$1,875.70; McKenna Hammer-\$1,687.56; Todd Hammer-\$2,567.42; Adam Hough-\$1,920.63; Dustin Johnson-\$2,260.44; Terry Johnson-\$2,471.16; Brandon Long-\$2,511.13; Jennifer Marquez-\$2,380.72; Skyler Miner-\$1,919.49; Kelsey O'Neill-\$2,648.90; Jaime Perez-Rojas-\$1,464.48; Kimberly Peterson-\$1,845.60; Cesar Ponce Robles-\$2,049.24; Michele Rohde-\$1,710.13; Jeremy Russell-\$1,981.44; Jerry Santos-\$2,162.28; Jennifer Svendsen-\$3,665.60; Armando Valerio-\$2,187.72; Randall Walsh-\$2,662.58; Deanna Hagberg-\$2,266.37; Jolene Gubbels-\$2,344.62; Jennifer Ankerstjerne-\$1,557.90; Theresa Grove-\$2,529.60; Johanna Marquez-\$1,331.20; Courtney Swick-\$1,492.61; Nicholas Nieman-\$2,499.89; **General Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$12,319.93; State Tax-\$6,466.81; Soc Sec-\$11,675.65; Medicare-\$2,730.51; Extra Fit-\$1,506.00; Extra Sit-\$490.00; Retirement-\$9,730.30; Health Plan-\$3,550.00; Dental Plan-\$525.00; Colonial Health-\$194.73; Sheriff Union Dues-\$850.00; Colonial Life/Disability-\$54.00; Deferred Comp-\$690.00; Garnishments-\$1,331.06; Flex Plan Medical-\$1,073.08; Flex Dependent Care-\$208.33; VSP Vision Prem-\$391.64; Legal Shield-\$128.61; Liberty Nat'l Pretax-\$112.05; Liberty Nat'l Post tax-\$41.96; VSP Vision Base-\$142.56; **Road Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$16,682.08; Net Pay-\$12,503.95; Retirement-\$1,126.03; Total FICA-\$1,270.15; Health Plan-\$4,480.00; Dental Plan-\$160.00; Life Insurance-\$19.51; Robert Hacker-\$1,960.80; Scott Jorgneson-\$1,924.80; David Kneiff-\$2,222.85; Kimon Litras-\$2,245.34; Tanya Orr-\$1,844.80; Dean Pallas-\$2,028.80; Colton Stallbaum-\$2,277.26; Gunner Stanwick-\$2,177.43; **Road Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$1,264.14; State Tax-\$585.71; FICA-\$1,029.41; Medicare-\$240.74; Extra Fit-\$25.00; Retirement-\$750.71; Health Plan-\$0.00; Dental Plan-\$0.00; Colonial Health-PreTax-\$38.23; Road Union Dues-\$165.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$19.16; Legal Shield-\$38.89; Liberty National PreTax-\$6.50; VSP Vision Base-\$14.64; **Health Planning Grant Employer 2502:** Gross Salaries-\$1,622.40; Net Pay-\$1,222.38; Retirement-\$109.51; Total FICA-\$120.29; Health Plan-\$560.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Chloe Coover-\$1,622.40; **Health Planning Grant Employee 2502:** Federal Tax-\$101.52; State Tax-\$55.20; FICA-\$97.49; Medicare-\$22.80; Retirement-\$73.01; Flex Plan Medical-\$50.00; **Health Program Grant Employer 2504:** Gross Salaries-\$1,756.80; Net Pay-\$1,362.24; Retirement-\$118.58; Total FICA-\$131.59; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Yesica Saldana Cisneros-\$1,756.80; **Health Program Grant Employee 2504:** Federal Tax-\$98.68; State Tax-\$48.57; FICA-\$106.65; Medicare-\$24.94; Retirement-\$79.06; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Base-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Aid Employer 2507:** Gross Salaries-\$1,836.00; Net Pay-\$1,521.99; Retirement-\$123.93; Total FICA-\$137.65; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Kristin Robinette-\$1,836.00; **Juvenile Services Aid Employee 2507:** State Tax-\$57.08; FICA-\$111.56; Medicare-\$26.09; Retirement-\$82.62; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$15.66;

**Payroll Accounts Payable: General Fund:** Collection Service Center, garnishment-\$564.45; Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$248.73; Dental Account, premium-\$2,145.00; FSA Dep Care - \$208.33; FSA Medical - \$1,073.08; Health Plan, premium-\$48,350.00; Fraternal Order of Police #49, union dues-\$850.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$13,825.93; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$154.01; Legalshield, premium-\$128.61; Life Insurance, premium-\$214.85; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, contributions-\$690.00; Nebraska Child Support, garnishments-\$766.61; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$6,956.81; Point C COE, renewal premium - \$80.50; Principal Life, premiums-\$2,712.74; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$23,778.16; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$28,812.32; VSP, premium-\$534.20. **Road Fund:** Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$38.23; Dental Account, premium-\$160.00; Health Plan, premium-\$4,480.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$1,289.14; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$6.50; Legalshield, premium-\$38.89; Life Insurance, premium-\$19.51; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$585.71; Nebraska Public Empl Local 251, union dues-\$165.00; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$1,876.74; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$2,540.30; VSP, premium-\$33.80; **Insurance Fund 1275:** Mid-American Benefits -medical claims \$49,408.31; Point C FSA WD, flex spending-\$1,912.24; VSP-Cobra-\$19.17; **Health Fund 2502:** DC FSA-medical claims-\$50.00; Medical Account, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$101.52; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$55.20; Principal Life, premiums -\$23.90; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$182.52; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$240.58; **Health Fund 2504:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Health Plan, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$98.68; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$48.57; Principal Life, premium-\$25.88; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$197.64; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$263.18; VSP, premium-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Fund 2507:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$57.08; Principal Life, premium-\$23.87; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$206.55; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$275.30; VSP, premium-\$15.66.

Lori Warner, SSC Convention & Visitors Bureau, provided an update on tourism in Dakota County. She discussed some upcoming events that are planned and events they are currently working on to build more tourism in Dakota County. Commissioner Hohenstein did mention that the tourism money brought into Dakota County is set up as a "pass through" with the County Budget. Visitor Bureau monies come in from the State to the County and then are given to the Visitor Bureau monthly. The County does not keep any of these funds.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, advised Dakota County has 5 fracture critical bridges that need routine inspections in 2025. Two (2) bids were received: Mainelli Wagner for \$5,250.00 and MEI for \$8,225.00. Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to award the bid to Mainelli Wagner for \$5,250.00 to inspect the 5 fracture critical bridges in Dakota County for 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Bousquet-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, advised there were 6 gravel bids received: Backus Sand and Gravel-McLean, NE; Floyd River Materials-Sioux City, IA; 2 from Knife River-Sioux City, IA; Matteo Sand & Gravel-Norfolk, NE, and L.G. Everist-Iowa locations. Chair Hohenstein explained that the County usually accepts all bids to lock in prices and then use whichever location has the rock we need and the logistics. Commissioner Hohenstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the gravel pricing agreements received from Backus Sand and Gravel-McLean, NE; Floyd River Materials-Sioux City, IA; 2 from Knife River-Sioux City, IA; Matteo Sand & Gravel-Norfolk, NE, and L.G. Everist-Iowa locations for March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026. ROLL CALL VOTE: Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Hohenstein explained the Grievance Board procedures and asked that each Commissioner obtain 3 individuals that would be willing to serve as potential Grievance Board members as set forth in the Employee Handbook approved 1-22-2024 and provide those names to the County Clerk. A resolution will be approved at the next meeting with the 15 member list.

County Clerk, Cherie Conley, explained that the YMCA was changing their memberships to sponsorship levels instead of individual member benefits. The County has on average only 5-7 employees using the current membership where the County pays \$20.50 per month toward the employee's membership. The new YMCA Membership Agreement is going into effect April 1, 2025 has sponsorship levels; the lowest being the Bronze for \$2500 per year which gives the employees a 10% discount on their membership fees. Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to not approve moving forward with the YMCA Membership Agreement as the benefits to the employee and County has changed. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Reed-Yes, Bousquet-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Road Department Foreman position – Chair Hohenstein explained that the committee started off with 4 applicants to interview. 2 declined being interviewed as they changed their minds. Of the 2 applicants interviewed 1 of them took another job. The remaining applicant is very much in the running, but he would like to open the application process up for a couple more weeks. The Board was in favor of doing this.

Chair Hohenstein suggested Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Van Berkum and Highway Superintendent Jolene Gubbels move forward with interviewing for the 2 open motor grader positions and the weed/sign position so that these jobs can be filled, and we do not lose a qualified applicant while waiting to appoint the Road Foreman. The Board was in favor.

Highway Superintendent, Jolene Gubbels, explained that the backhoe needed a new transmission. Mr. Beaudette with Murphy Tractor addressed the Board and stated this machine is old and on average gets used approximately 80 hours per year. He provided 3 quotes: a new transmission approximately \$24,976; rebuilt transmission with 1 year warranty approximately \$14,724 or a used transmission with no warranty approximately \$14,000. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed to move forward with repairing the Road Department backhoe for approximately \$14,724. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Bousquet-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, presented the Bi-weekly Road Report for February 16, 2025 to March 1, 2025. Total Road Maintenance – 123 hours; overtime hours – 65.5 hours; tree/debris removal – 21 hours; salt/sand hauling – 14 hours; snow removal – 105.5 hours; gravel hauling – 19 hours; total tons hauled – 196.14 on roads. Road concerns-I Ave, Grant Rd, Jewel Ave, F Ave, Ithica Way. The Salt/Sand dump truck broke down and it is not worth putting more money into fixing. Will budget for a new/used dump truck. Chair Hohenstein visited with Rural Water regarding Likuwanta Drive and will discuss at next meeting. Board agreed to pay CEC for engineering costs to date with the March accounts payables.

Commissioner Committee Reports: There were none.

Mail and/or Emergency Business: Reminder the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint City/County/School meeting is Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, So Sioux City.

Commissioner Van Berkum moved to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Chair Hohenstein adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting of March 3, 2025, at 3:36 p.m.

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

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Martin Hohenstein Chair

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Cherie Conley, County Clerk/Secretary