

Dakota County Board of Equalization
Monday, November 25, 2024
8:45 a.m. Regular Meeting
County Board Meeting Room, First Floor
Dakota County Courthouse, Dakota City, Nebraska

Vice Chair Van Berkum called the Board of Equalization meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Van Berkum, Giese, Launsby, Hohenstein. Absent: Love. Also present was Kim Watson, County Attorney, Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer, and Cherie Conley, County Clerk as Board Secretary. The Open Meetings Act location was noted for all citizens in attendance.

The agenda for this meeting was as follows:

1. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Approval of the previous minutes – October 14, 2024
2. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. 8:45 p.m. Hearing for Boys & Girls Home of Nebraska, Inc. application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes by Qualifying Nonprofit Organization for 2004 Chevrolet Express Van VIN# 1GAHG39U941208215. Boys & Girls Home is a social service agency and uses the vehicle to transport staff and clients. Application came with recommendation of approval by Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer. §60-3,185 and §60-3,189
 - Board to consider the recommendation of the County Treasurer and any other information it may obtain; and shall approve or deny the exemption on the basis of law and of rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Tax Commissioner. §77-202(1)(c)(d)
 - b. 8:46 a.m. Hearing for Heartland Counseling's applications for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes by Qualifying Nonprofit Organization for 3 vehicles: (1) 2016 Chevy Impala, VIN# 2G1WA5E33G1131096; (2) 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan, VIN# 2C4RDGBG6GR335794; and (3) 2021 Nissan Titan pickup VIN# 1N6AA1EC5MN505693. The vehicles are used to provide community support services, crisis response, peer support and day support services to clients who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. These are to improve the quality of life and decrease the risk for institutions or hospital admissions. The application comes with recommendation of approval by Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer. §60-3,185 and §60-3,189
 - Board to consider the recommendation of the County Treasurer and any other information it may obtain; and shall approve or deny the exemption on the basis of law and of rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Tax Commissioner. §77-202(1)(c)(d)
 - c. Heartland Counseling to give Board update on services provided.
 - d. Christy Abts, Assessor, requesting approval of tax list corrections. §77-1613.02 (if any)
3. MAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY BUSINESS
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. ADJOURNMENT

Vic Chair Van Berkum moved, seconded by Board Member Giese to excuse Board Member Love from the meeting. ROLL CALL VOTE: Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED

Board Member Giese moved, seconded by Board Member Launsby, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2024, meeting. ROLL CALL VOTE: Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Absent, Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chair Van Berkum opened the hearing at 8:46 am for the Boys & Girls Home of Nebraska, Inc. application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes by Qualifying Nonprofit Organization for 2004 Chevrolet Express Van VIN# 1GAHG39U941208215. Boys & Girls Home is a social service agency and uses the vehicle to transport staff and clients. Application comes with recommendation of approval by Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer. Vice Chair Van Berkum closed the hearing at 8:47 am.

Board Member Hohenstein moved, seconded by Board Member Launsby to accept the recommendation of the Dakota County Treasurer and approve the Boys & Girls Home of Nebraska, Inc. application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes by Qualifying Nonprofit Organization for 2004 Chevrolet Express Van VIN# 1GAHG39U941208215. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Absent, Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chair Van Berkum opened the hearing at 8:47 am for Heartland Counseling's applications for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes by Qualifying Nonprofit Organization for (1) 2016 Chevy Impala, VIN# 2G1WA5E33G1131096 and (2) 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan, VIN# 2C4RDGBG6GR335794. The vehicles are used to provide community support services, crisis response, peer support and day support services to clients who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. These are to improve the quality of life and decrease the risk for institutions or hospital admissions. Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer, stated she approves the application. Vice Chair Van Berkum closed the hearing at 8:48 pm.

Board Member Hohenstein moved, seconded by Board Member Launsby to accept the recommendation of the Dakota County Treasurer and approve the Heartland Counseling's applications for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes by Qualifying Nonprofit Organization for (1) 2016 Chevy Impala, VIN# 2G1WA5E33G1131096 and (2) 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan, VIN# 2C4RDGBG6GR335794. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Giese-Yes, Launsby-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Love-Absent,. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jennifer Jackson with Heartland Counseling presented a Power Point which gave an outline of when the organization started up to current day, provided many statistics on the numerous services offered to the Tri-State communities, and where they are headed in the future. Ms. Jackson shared that Heartland Counseling has moved into their new location and they are looking at expanding their services and adding a building for a Crisis Stabilization Unit. Having this new facility located in our community will allow for more people being helped, law enforcement will have less travel time, it should help reduce the number jail stays, plus many other helpful services. Ms. Jackson is asking that the Board consider having the County invest monetarily in this facility. Chair Hohenstein commented that perhaps some ARPA funds could be used. Commissioner Giese will check to see if this type of expenditure qualifies for ARPA.

There was no mail, emergency business or public comment.

Vice Chair Van Berkum adjourned the November 25, 2024, Board of Equalization meeting at 9:12 a.m.

County Board of Equalization

Brian Van Berkum, Vice Chair

Cherie Conley, Secretary/County Clerk