



# Saline County Board Minutes



## SALINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Saline County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by Chairperson, Marvin A. Kohout. Present were Kohout, Russ Karpisek, Philip S. Hardenburger, Janet J. Henning, Stephanie A. Krivohlavek Commissioners, County Clerk Anita K. Bartels, Administrative Assistant Tim McDermott. County Attorney Tad Eickman was present between court commitments.

Notice of said meeting was posted in the County Clerk's Office, on the Saline County Website, and published in all three county newspapers prior to the meeting, in compliance with State Statutes.

Let the record show that all proceedings are electronically recorded.

Kohout advised those present of the open meetings law posted at the back of the room.

Henning moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Karpisek, Kohout, Krivohlavek, Hardenburger, and Henning, nays none, motion carried.

Krivohlavek moved to approve the minutes of the August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular meeting, seconded by Hardenburger. Voting aye were Kohout, Krivohlavek, Hardenburger, Henning and Karpisek, nays none, motion carried.

Under Citizens Forum, Gary Veprovsky voiced concerns regarding the lights on the wind turbines. Veprovsky stated currently there is a little red light on the turbines and questioned why the lights would need to be changed to a flashing white light. Veprovsky also requested all Commissioner meetings be available with a live audio and visual feed. Krivohlavek replied she has requested the live feeds be made available in the past and this topic is on today's agenda for discussion.

Chuck McKay addressed the Board questioning whether the 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. working hours were in the road agreement for concrete trucks. He stated on August 8<sup>th</sup>, the concrete trucks started running at 4:00 a.m. and were done by 2:00 p.m. The Board confirmed the working hours have been addressed with the concrete plant. McKay brought up several issues regarding the wind towers. He felt safety issues were being avoided by the Planning and Zoning Committee. He inquired if the Board had received a safety manual from the manufacturer of the wind towers. McKay presented 2 pages from the Nordex website regarding danger zones around wind towers. He is looking to change any future wind tower placements for consideration of danger zones. McKay asked the Board to request the Planning and Zoning Committee allow citizens to be present, allowing both sides of the story to be heard. Board members stated the Planning and Zoning Committee is its own entity, having no jurisdiction over their meetings. McKay requested the Board get a safety manual from Zesta, the manufacturer of the wind towers being erected in Saline County.

Jeff Koll also expressed concerns with the wind turbine lighting, specifically regarding aircraft activation. Koll stated the turbines should be 45 decibels or lower. He also requested going forward, permits involving wind turbines not be transferable. Koll expressed interest in filling the open seat on the Planning & Zoning Committee. He stated concerns, which need to be addressed, are the set back zones of turbines, so a turbine does not encroach in a trespass zone and make manufacturing specs a part of the conditional use permit for safety and liability reasons.

At 10:02 a.m. Anita Stougaard, Youth Diversion Coordinator gave an update on the program and plans for the next year. Due to COVID-19, there are funds available to roll over for this school year. Stougaard has been working with Family Services Lincoln to fill a need for mental health support and hire a part time mental health therapist. The therapist would be at Crete Middle School one and ½ days per week and Crete High School ½ day per week. Stougaard stated a consultant agreement with Family Services Lincoln is needed to move forward. The Board gave consent to proceed and to present the agreement to the County Attorney and Board for the necessary signatures.

At 10:15 a.m. Gary Veprovsky addressed the Board to discuss Accountability Concerns. Veprovsky stated the lack of accountability erodes public respect. Examples he gave which caused him to question accountability were the courthouse addition/remodel, specifically the doors, air conditioning and the parking lot upgrade. Veprovsky believed someone other than the citizens should be paying for these types of issues. McDermott explained the issue with the doors was not an additional cost. The doors were a warranty



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replacement through the contractor. McDermott also explained many of the changes made during the remodel and renovation was a result of several different Fire Marshals doing the inspections. From one Fire Marshal to another, each would have their own assessment of what needed to be added or changed. Addressing the parking lot upgrade, this conversation began during renovation, but was not addressed until now.

Veprovsky referred to the resolution passed at the last meeting regarding fences and obstructions in the County right of ways. He presented a photo to the Board of a rock pile that filled the ditch at 1500 & O Roads. He reported three months ago trees were cut down or trimmed and the debris was left on his property, him unable to move cattle. He contacted Highway Superintendent Bruce Filipi, Filipi promptly addressed the issue. However, the contractor only moved the debris across the road to the neighbor's property. Veprovsky commended Filipi for being accountable when addressing road issues. Veprovsky stated he telephoned Bartels to find out why Rick Nelson gave a report at the last Board meeting, not under Citizens Forum, but it was placed in the minutes under Citizens Forum. Bartels explained she placed it there, because Nelson was not on the agenda, but given the floor to speak as a courtesy by Kohout. No action was requested or taken by the Board. She placed it there simply following an outline of the minutes. Bartels intended nothing malicious or deceitful.

Veprovsky brought up a previous issue Chuck McKay addressed with the Board, regarding Kohout voting on issues he may have a conflict of interest in. Krivohlavek stated this was addressed by the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission and was resolved based on conflict of interest laws. Karpisek noted this issue went through proper channels at the State level and as such there are no repercussions at the County level.

At 10:37 a.m. Kohout announced the Board would recess;

At 10:45 a.m. Kohout announced the Board would reconvene;

Maintenance Superintendent Dan Johnson opened discussion on the parking lot drainage issues. Wayne & Bobbi Crosby, owners of the property to the east of the parking lot was also present. Johnson suggested replacing the railroad ties by pouring a second concrete curb near or on the property line, setting posts for a fence. Johnson and Crosby will make another physical assessment of the area. Johnson will make contact with contractors to secure bids.

Under correspondence, Bartels reported receiving from Blue Valley Community Action, their August 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors agenda, the minutes of their June 15, 2020 meeting, the August 2020 reports to the Board of Directors and their June-July 2020 news clippings and from the City of Crete their August 18<sup>th</sup> agendas for the Crete City Council, the Public Works Committee, Parks & Recreation Committee, Legislative and Economic Development Committee and Finance Committee.

Under Report of Officials Kohout reported attending a Safety Committee meeting; NIRMA webinar; has a Planning and Zoning meeting tonight; Thursday a NACO Board meeting with the Governor; and stated NACO is looking for a Southeast District Board member, which is a 5-year commitment.

Hardenburger participated in a Blue Valley Community Action zoom meeting to select an auditor; has a Blue Valley Community Action meeting tonight; a Five Rivers RC & D meeting on Thursday; and noted they are not expecting to have a hazardous waste collection site until spring 2021.

McDermott reported attending an Employee Assistance Program meeting and stated Saline County's contact will be Jenny Hill; attended a Safety Committee meeting; a NIRMA webinar; tomorrow he has a NIRMA Board meeting via teleconference. He reported MIPS is discontinuing all email support. He is in the process of setting up a Saline County domain. All [.\\_@saline.naco.org](mailto:._@saline.naco.org) users will be required to change their email address.

Henning moved to approve the July 2020 Clerk of the District Court fees in the amount of \$18,630.30, seconded by Karpisek. Voting aye were Hardenburger, Henning, Karpisek, Kohout and Krivohlavek, nays none, motion carried.

Henning moved to approve the July 2020 Clerk fees in the amount of \$16,975.00, seconded by Karpisek. Voting aye were Henning, Karpisek, Kohout, Krivohlavek and Hardenburger, nays none, motion carried.



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Karpisek moved to the approve the Annual Personal Property Inventories of elected and appointed offices as presented, seconded by Henning. Voting aye were Karpisek, Kohout, Krivohlavek, Hardenburger and Henning, nays none, motion carried.

Discussion was held to make available live audio and video of Commissioner meetings. McDermott stated it is doable, with a cost involved to purchase a dedicated laptop, camera and audio equipment. This cost is estimated to be around \$2,000 to \$3,000. McDermott recommends using YouTube to accomplish this. Audio is currently available to the public by dialing into the meetings. To make video available to the public, without purchasing additional equipment at this time, Karpisek moved to have Krivohlavek set up a Saline County Facebook page and McDermott to set up availability via YouTube, seconded by Hardenburger. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, Hardenburger, Henning and Karpisek, nays Kohout, motion carried.

Henning moved to approve the Treasurer’s Distress Warrant Report as presented, seconded by Karpisek. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, Hardenburger, Henning, Karpisek and Kohout, nays none, motion carried.

Henning moved to approve Resolution #2020-054 transferring \$110,000 from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund to be reimbursed when funds become available, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Hardenburger, Henning, Karpisek, Kohout, and Krivohlavek, nays none, motion carried.

Henning moved to approve Resolution #2020-055 transferring \$1,600 from the Inheritance Fund to the Bailiff Fund to be reimbursed when funds become available, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Henning, Karpisek, Kohout, Krivohlavek, and Hardenburger, nays none, motion carried.

Henning moved to approve Resolution #2020-056 transferring \$250 from the Inheritance Fund to the Employee Wellness Fund, seconded by Karpisek. Voting aye were Karpisek, Kohout, Krivohlavek, Hardenburger and Henning, nays none, motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Bruce Filipi, presented for a request to occupy County right of way from Spectrum/Charter to relocate cable at the NE corner of County Road 2100 and County Road J. Henning moved to approve the request, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, Hardenburger, Henning, Karpisek, and Kohout, nays none, motion carried.

Filipi requested permission to begin paperwork in cooperation with the City of Crete to replace the bridge at Tuxedo Park. This is a \$300,000 commitment from the County using soft match funds, with the City of Crete reimbursing the \$150,000 in cash. Board gave verbal approval to go ahead with paperwork.

Filipi gave an update on road projects including replacing a wood bridge with triple tubes near County Road 2100 & County Road J and they are continuing to replace rusted out culverts. He reported there have been major issues with the wind farm construction. He shut them down last week until they repaired the road damage. He is continuing to fine them when the situation warrants. Filipi also received reported on the cement trucks running as early as 4:00 a.m. Since Filipi put a stop to this, they no longer run before 7:00 a.m.

At 11:52 a.m., Henning moved to enter closed session, seconded by Karpisek. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, Hardenburger, Henning, Karpisek and Kohout, nays none, motion carried.

Kohout announced during closed session the Board would be discussing an employee catastrophic leave request.

At 11:57 a.m., Henning moved to exit closed session, seconded by Karpisek. Voting aye were Hardenburger, Henning, Karpisek, Kohout, and Krivohlavek, nays none, motion carried.

Kohout announced during closed session the Board discussed an employee catastrophic leave request. No action was taken. A decision was tabled until the afternoon session to allow time to obtain additional information.

Henning moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Karpisek. Voting aye were Kohout, Krivohlavek, Hardenburger, Henning and Karpisek, nays none, motion carried.

### GENERAL FUND

Payroll	Salaries	112,966.95
Rebecca Anderson	Crt	1,620.00
Anytime Plmbg & Htg	Bldg Maint	194.00
Awards Unlimited	Off Spls	152.56



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Barnas	Med	34.01
Anita Bartels	Reimb	50.29
Berggren Architects	Bldg Imp	1,643.83
Bessler Family Eye Care	Med	330.00
Bob Barker	Spls	158.32
Capital Business Sys	Equip Rntl	127.00
City of Wilber	Util	10,807.23
Crete Ace Hardware	Spls	708.98
Crete Area Med Ctr	Med	604.00
Crete Auto Supply	Spls	53.53
Culligan Of Crete	Spls	195.75
Eakes	Off Spls	1,014.65
Farmers Coop	Vech Exp	132.75
First Concord	Ins	595.00
First Wireless	Spls	647.50
Friend Comm Healthcare Sys	Med	380.00
Lou Hajek	Reimb	88.55
Jefferson Co Em Mgmt	Cntrct	3,700.00
Sharon Jelinek	Reimb	48.87
James Jirovec	Med	284.00
Kalkwarf & Smith	Crt	630.00
Matthew Kosmicki	Crt	1,332.00
Julie Krull	Spls	1,985.00
Lynn Peavey Co	Spls	160.50
Leanne Manning	Reimb	44.96
Tim McDermott	Reimb	19.45
Microfilm Imaging Sys	Equip Rntl	150.00
Midwest Card	Spls	223.13
Mips	Cntrct	2,339.16
Nathan Mueller	Reimb	81.65
Cody Mulbery	Reimb	100.00
Health & Human Svcs	Med	183.00
State Fire Marshal Agency	Insp	144.00
Nebraska	Crt Csts	4.00
Officenet	Off Spls	1,211.14
Region V Sys	Cntrct	4,066.00
Saline Co Atty	Med	121.73
Saline Co Court	Crt Csts	528.00
Saline Co Dist Court	Crt Csts	177.00
Saline Co Sheriff	Crt Csts	581.50
Sapp Bros	Fuel	2,499.85
Secretary of State	Crt Csts	20.00
Seward Co Ind	P&P	804.09
Shredding Solutions	Off Spls	191.70
Sid Dillon	Veh Maint	153.19



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State of NE	Data Proc	147.60
Eric Stehlik	Reimb	127.65
Anita Stougard	Reimb	74.75
Summit	Spls	7,702.11
Thomson Reuters	Srvc	143.85
Timekeeping Sys	Off Equip	807.06
Saline Co Ext.	Reimb	885.26
Becky Vales	Reimb	101.20
Visa	Spls	653.63
Visa	Off Spls	21.25
Visa	Pstg	55.00
Visa	Pstg	10.65
Visa	Pstg	24.03
Visa	Unif	232.27
Visa	Off Equip	70.34
Walker	Spls	64.21
Windstream	Comm	6,869.03
41 Auto	Spls	672.93

## ROAD FUND

Payroll	Salaries	23,402.95
Ace Irrigation	Spls	17,801.80
Akrs Equip	Equip Spls	606.36
Beatrice Concrete	Gravel	16,225.61
Beaver Hardware	Spls	47.88
City of Friend	Util	248.33
City of Wilber	Util	65.92
Commercial Industrial Supply	Bldg Maint	283.75
Crete Ace Hardware	Spls	57.24
Crete Auto Supply	Equip Spls	706.34
Crete Lumber	Equip	188.13
DJ Welding	Spls	28.90
Eric Riley Electric	Elec Spls	355.50
Eugene Chrastil Farms	ROW	1,060.00
Farmers Union Coop	Equip Spls	1,557.58
Filtercare	Equip Spls	24.55
Johnson Sand & Gravel	Gravel	32,898.12
Matheson Tri-Gas	Spls	282.21
Momar	Spls	549.19
Murphy Tractor - Powerplan	Equip Spls	1,795.98
Murphy Tractor & Equip	Equip Rntl	7,235.90
Gary Niemeier	ROW	2,376.40
NMC Exchange	Equip Spls	5,752.71
Norris Public Power	Util	221.29
O'Reilly Auto Parts	Equip Spls	58.06
Officenet	Off Spls	147.66



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Pomp'S Tire Service	Equip Svc	75.00
Praxair	Spls	69.00
Precision Diesel	Spls	72.90
RDO Truck Center	Equip Spls	480.75
Rock On	Gravel	2,477.59
Sack Lumber	Spls	40.47
Sapp Bros	Fuel	2,337.76
Rodney Skleba	ROW	1,240.00
Speece-Lewis Eng	Eng Fees	9,328.30
Truck Center	Equip Spls	472.28
Village of Dorchester	Util	94.23
Village of Swanton	Util	64.74
Village of Tobias	Util	56.80
Visa	Tax	1,257.84
Walker	Unif	49.33
Waste Connections	Svc	217.26
Young's Welding	Spls	1,165.06
41 Auto	Spls	9.99

## HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND

Herbst Construction	Cntrct	28,005.66
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## BAILIFF FUND

Payroll	Salaries	1,164.16
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## WELLNESS FUND

Tim McDermott	Reimb	48.30
Visa	Spls	593.05

## AGING SERVICES FUND

Payroll	Salaries	2,941.92
Samantha Cosaert	Pgrm	100.00
Eakes	Off Spls	15.99
Food Mesto	Pgrm	780.00
Tia Kreshel	Pgrm	435.00
Miller Mailing	Pstg	207.46
Purfoods	Pgrm	882.81
Visa	Pgrm	1,964.52
Wilber Care Center	Pgrm	1,044.37

## DRUG COURT FUND

Redwood Toxicology Lab	Med	120.99
Verizon	Comm	120.03

## JUVENILE SERVICES GRANT FUND

Anita Stougard	Pgrm	1,020.00
Visa	Spls	100.00

## 911 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

Windstream	Comm	152.68
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## 911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND

Windstream	Comm	699.56
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## COMMISSARY FUND

Barnas	Med	429.67
Bob Barker Co	Spls	620.06
Eakes	Off Spls	227.84
Summit	Spls	3,501.26
Visa	Spls	85.92

## ALL FUNDS

First State Bank	Fed Tax	15,015.23
NE Dept of Rev	State Tax	6,665.81
First State Bank	Soc Sec	29,036.32
Ameritas Life	Retire	23,346.33
Delta Dental	Dental Ins	2,166.13
VSP	Eye Ins	486.37
AFLAC	Ins	1,487.98
MassMutal	Def Comp	2,228.00
Colonial Supp Ins	Ins	233.81
Teamsters	Dues	294.50
Madison Nat'l Life	Life Ins	7.90
Madison Nat'l Life	Dis Ins	9.40
First Concord	Café	2,097.07
New York Life	Ins	118.90
NE Child Support	Garnish	197.08
AZ Child Support	Garnish	86.06
Credit Mgmt Svcs	Garnish	198.42

At 12:05 p.m. Kohout announced the Board would recess until 1:00 p.m.;

At 1:05 p.m. Kohout announced the Board would reconvene;

Brian Blobaum CPA, joined the meeting to begin budget discussions with elected and appointed officials. Officials participating were HR/IT Tim McDermott, Assessor Brandi Kelly, County Extension Leanne Manning, County Attorney Tad Eickman, Emergency Manager John McKee, Sheriff Alan Moore, County Clerk Anita Bartels, Maintenance Superintendent Dan Johnson, Veteran Officer Forrest Doyle, Aging Services Lori Moldenhauer, Clerk of the District Court Amber Mulbery and Highway Superintendent Bruce Filipi. Each official listed went over their budget, requesting adjustments if necessary. Consensus of the Board was to implement a 3% levy increase. Blobaum will take all information presented during these discussions, and prepare a final 2020-21 Budget to present to the Board on September 1, 2020 and Public Budget Hearing on September 15, 2020.

At 5:05 p.m. Karpisek moved to approve the employee catastrophic leave request, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Henning, Kohout, Karpisek, Hardenburger, and Krivohlavek, nays none, motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Saline County Commissioners' Room, Court House, Wilber NE.

ATTEST:



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Anita K. Bartels, County Clerk

Janet J. Henning

Marvin A. Kohout, Chairperson

Stephanie Krivohlavek

Phil Hardenburger

Russ Karpisek, Vice-Chairperson

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I, Anita K. Bartels, County Clerk in and for Saline County, do hereby certify that the minutes of the August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were presented and approved as presented.

Anita K. Bartels, County Clerk

Janet J. Henning

Marvin A. Kohout, Chairperson

Stephanie Krivohlavek

Phil Hardenburger

Russ Karpisek, Vice-Chairperson