



Gage County Board Minutes

The Gage County Board of Supervisors met on August 23, 2023, at 8:45 a.m. with Terry Jurgens, Don Schuller, Erich Tiemann, Eddie Dorn, Dave Swavely and Gary Lytle present, Emily Haxby absent.

Notice of said meeting was posted at the County Clerk's Office and published prior to the meeting in compliance with State Statutes.

Let the record show that all proceedings are electronically recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Chairman Tiemann announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the Board of Supervisors Room.

Consent Agenda included the following items: 1. General Agenda; 2. Minutes from previous meeting and committee meetings; 3. claims audit in the amount of \$587,921.09 which does not include claim #23080124 to Beatrice Lawn Care in the amount of \$400.00, to be voted on separately; 4. approve correspondence received and place on file; 5. Approve bid from Masonry & Restoration Services for the Northeast Stone Infill in the amount of \$15,053.00; 6. (skipped a number) 7. Approve bid from Masonry & Restoration Services for the Phase 12- Clock Tower Restoration in the amount of \$213,313.00; 8. Approve sending letter to Planning & Zoning requesting review of regulations for Livestock Confinement facilities/operations; 9. Approve sending Letter to NIRMA to recommend reappointment of Erich Tiemann to NIRMA Bd. and authorizing Emily Haxby to sign letter; 10. Approve reappointing Derrick Damrow to another term on the Gage County Planning & Zoning Commission effective April 1, 2023.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Allowed</u>
Courthouse Employees	Salaries	156,089.20
All Copy Products	Extension – Office equip.	395.33
Applied Connective Tech. LLC	Data Processing, installation	9,773.85
AT&T Mobility	Phone svc	456.21
Beatrice Area Solid Waste	Rubbish disposal	105.00
Beatrice Board of Public Works	Utilities	6,385.14
Beatrice Daily Sun	Subscription – Inmates	241.99
Beatrice Iron & Metal	Sheriff - vehicle repair	29.95
Beatrice Lawn Care	Spraying courthouse trees	400.00
Capital Business Systems, Inc.	ROD maint. Agreement	36.50
Charter Communications	Probation – phone svc.	192.96
Cidnet	Data purchased	999.90
City of Beatrice	Shf., courthouse – trash svc.	264.96
Clerk of District Court	St. & svc. Fees	658.07
Community Memorial Health	Jail – medical exams	40.00
Critical Hire	Pre-employment	25.00
Diode Technologies	Vets – security upgrade	1,993.68
Eakes Office Solutions	Office equip., supplies, etc.	1,840.58
Farmers Cooperative	Jail – fuel	274.50
First Wireless, Inc.	Monthly svc. Contract	684.68
Fox Funeral Home	County burial	930.62
Gage County Sheriff's Office	Shf. fees and mileage	101.19
Gage County Treasurer	Voiding ck. #23020139 to MIPS	429.34
Garcia Clinical Laboratory	Inmate medical	26.00
Government Forms & Supplies	Tres. – office supplies	99.33
Green Way Lawn Services	mowing	460.00
Hometown Leasing	Atty. copier lease	138.82
Isolved Benefit Services	Admin. fees	159.50
Jerry Shelton Attorney	Atty fees	2,588.75
Lancaster County Sheriff's Office	Svc. Fees	18.00
Mahloch Law Office	Atty fees	360.00
Mead Lumber	Dist. Crt. – plywood	102.30
Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc.	Scanning equip. monthly rent	457.00
Murray Law PC LLO	Atty fees	2,755.00
NACO	SE District Meeting registration	460.00
Nelson, Clark & Timan, PC	Atty fees	6,346.15
NI Government Services, Inc.	Emerg. Mgm. – monthly svc.	77.39

Noakes Heating & Air	Svc. call	216.54
Northeast Auto	Investigative exp.	550.00
Paper Tiger Shredding, Inc.	Shredding	45.75
Prochaska & Associates, Inc.	Inmate needs assessment	2,250.00
Quadient, Inc.	Maintenance agreement	786.48
Quill – Ext.	Office supplies	368.91
Quill – Prob.	Office supplies	205.39
Ron’s Repair	Shf. vehicle repair	496.38
Sapp Brothers	Shf. & Jail fuel	4,591.93
Secretary of State	Subscription cost	40.00
Security Services	Monitoring fire alarm Shf. office	35.50
Southeast Nebraska Dev. District	Dues	7,025.00
Sheridan Industries	Ext. office – cleaning	120.00
Sherwin Williams Co.	paint	94.95
Soap Opera Laundry	cleaning mops & dust rags	14.00
Spectrum	Emerg. Mgm.- monthly svc.	11.55
Stanard Appraisal Services, Inc.	Appraisal service	13,924.50
Stephen J Kraviec, PC LLO	Child Suppt. Enf. Atty, postage	2,466.50
Summit Food Service, LLC	Jail meals	2,761.21
Thomson Reuters	Dist. judge software subscription	2,602.54
US Bank Purchase Cards	Meals, fuel, supplies	453.50
US Postal Service (Wilber)	PO Box fee	186.00
Verizon Wireless	Emerg. Mgm. phones	216.77
Verizon Wireless	hot spots, ipads	327.89
Washington County Sheriff’s Office	Inmate boarding & medical	28,718.00
Windstream – Ext. Office	Phone svc.	854.50
Windstream – Ext. Office	Phone svc.	311.14
Windstream – Fillmore Co.Prob.	Phone svc.	431.87
Windstream – General	Phone svc.	6,389.22
Windstream – Hwy. Dept.	Phone svc.	311.14
Windstream – Hwy. Dept.	Phone svc.	643.69
Windstream – Sheriff	Phone svc.	2,082.57
Windstream – Vets	Phone svc.	369.69

Road Fund

Highway Department Employees	Salaries	41,809.88
Bauer Built	Tires	885.20
Beatrice Area Solid Waste Agency	Rubbish disposal	20.00
Beatrice Board of Public Works	Utilities	443.79
Beatrice Concrete Sand & Gravel	Rock & Gravel	16,152.08
Beatrice Iron & Metal	Parts, tools, supplies	521.80
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	39.76
Cather & Son’s Construction, Inc,	Asphalt	3,943.44
City of Beatrice	Bin rental	74.24
Crete Lumber & Farm Supply	Ice	157.50
Eakes Office Solutions	Office supplies	113.96
Farmers Cooperative	Propane	50.60
Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc.	Engineering consulting svcs.	41,231.95
Medical Enterprises, Inc.	Drug Testing	110.00
Newman Signs, Inc.	Signs	4,610.20
NMC, Inc.	Parts	694.51
Norris Public Power District	Utilities	232.77
O’Reilly	Parts, supplies	889.61
PowerPlan	Parts, labor	1,364.88
RDO Truck Centers	Parts	708.30
Sapp Brothers	Fuel, oil	10,942.02
Freightliner Truck Center Co.	Parts	233.19
Verizon Connect NWF, Inc.	Phones	259.04

ROD Preservation & Modernization Fund

Capital Business Systems, Inc	Copier lease	235.87
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Insurance Fund

Gage County Health Insurance	Employee health insurance claims paid	69,929.62
Mutual of Omaha	County life insurance premium	570.31

Covid American Rescue Plan Fund

Universal Broadband Consulting, Inc.	Consulting	1,300.00
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County Buildings Fund

Masonry Construction, Inc.	Labor, material, equip.	52,313.00
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General Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	10,905.60
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	11,380.55
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	25,480.07

Road Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	2,822.16
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	3,063.28
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	8,961.25

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Lytle to approve the consent agenda minus #10 to be pulled for discussion. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion on how the board handles appointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Tiemann just wanted to explain the process of appointments to the P&Z Commission has been that if the member volunteers to be reappointed for another term, the board has made the reappointment as finding members willing to serve in the past has been difficult. He said that this process can be discussed and/or changed at any time.

Motion made by Lytle, seconded by Swavely to reappoint Derrick Damrow to another term on the Gage County Planning & Zoning Commission, effective April 1, 2023. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Dorn to approve claim #23080124 to Beatrice Lawn Care in the amount of \$400.00, bringing the total amount of claims approved through August 23, 2023 to \$588,321.09. Motion carried 5-0-1 with Tiemann abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Patty Barnard, 41928 S 176th Rd., Liberty NE, spoke about the proposed CAFO operation in Island Grove Township, saying there was an error in the marking of the ground that she would discuss with Lisa Wiegand, P&Z Administrator.

Committee reports were given by Swavely & Dave Jones on Bldg. & Grounds/Winter Lights, Tiemann on Equalization, Jurgens on Finance/Insurance, Tiemann on Human Resources/Employee Relations, Lytle, Lisa Wiegand & Shf. Gustafson on Law Enforcement/Emergency Management, and Jurgens & Tiemann on Road & Bridge. Topics of discussion included exterior repairs to courthouse building and new lights; due process of P&Z procedures; CAFO in Island Grove Twp.; tree overgrowth violation letters; Shf. Dept. stats; and broadband internet update.

NGage Director Rachel Kreikemeier presented the NGage Quarterly Report which highlights their strategic goals of expanding business and industry, building business relationships, and growing a Youth Engagement and Talent Advancement Initiative. She reported the following: through surveys of businesses, they've found that labor attraction is the biggest challenge businesses face which is a result of the lack of housing and childcare; Randy & Debbie Kinny with Precise Fabrication/Kinney Mfg. are working an on-site daycare into expansion plans and hope to open in August, 2024; Accuma is expanding; new business is coming to town; hope to see new housing go up; working on connecting young professionals in the 18-39 year old range to the community with the resurrection of the YPG (Young Professionals Group) program which will have a kick-off on August 24th from 4-7 p.m. at Envision Landscapes, providing networking and professional development opportunities. Kreikemeier stated that there will be a meeting to address childcare issues at the Vintage Venue on August 29th at 5:00 p.m., and that there will be a keynote speaker Mark Perna with workforce development at the Beatrice High School Hevelone Center on November 3rd from 9:00-11:00 a.m., talking about how to attract and retain a workforce. Swavely asked about career days that provide opportunities for students to be exposed to manufacturing businesses. Kreikemeier said that on October 5th which is National Manufacturing Day, there will be an event for students from area schools to get into manufacturing businesses to learn about not only the production part of the businesses, but also about the marketing, human resources, accounting, and management opportunities available.

Motion made by Lytle, seconded by Swavely to place the NGage Quarterly Report on file. Motion carried 6-0.

Brian Koch, Business Services Representative with the Department of Labor in Region IV, gave a presentation on a grant-funded On-The-Job Training Incentive Program. His job is to connect people to employment and advocate for those seeking employment. The incentive program

operates out of a grant called Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Grant, from which the State of Nebraska will pay 50% of the wages of anyone the county is willing to hire and provide on-the-job training to. Through connections at the State, he found out that the Gage County Veterans Office has an opening in their office, which would be the perfect opportunity for Gage County to benefit from this program. Veterans, those who are impoverished or disadvantaged, and those currently on economic assistance would all automatically qualify for the program. Once someone is placed in employment, the Dept. of Labor is able to continue to provide career counseling and supportive services which may include paying for gas if they are commuting over 15 miles, tool expenses if tools are required, PPE clothing and/or equipment required, steel-toed boots if required, or certification expenses to learn a new technology. Koch stated that they’ve had a high success rate in helping people become gainfully employed and retaining their employment to achieve a new career path.

County Attorney Roger Harris gave an update on the lawsuit of Rick Hill vs. Elected Officials which started about a year ago. Mr. Hill sued the state’s County Election Commissioners and other public officials alleging, among other things, corruption in the election process, going after the company providing the ballot counting machines and software. The Board opted to utilize NIRMA defense counsel in the lawsuit. The plaintiff filed several amended lawsuits in addition to the original lawsuit, attempting to keep the suit alive, but the appeal has finally ran and Attorney Harris got a letter that basically said that the case is closed and the suit was dismissed completely – it’s done. The total cost was a little over \$11,000 which was for the defendants represented by NIRMA and they basically absorbed that cost so there will be no deductible or anything owed by the county. He said that this is an excellent result and a testament that our election commissioner did nothing wrong. He asked that the communication regarding the lawsuit be placed on file.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Lytle to place communication regarding the Rick Hill vs. Elected Officials lawsuit be placed on file. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Dorn to approve receiving a copy of the valuations for the political subdivisions for 2023 and placing it on file. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Lytle to approve receiving preliminary requests for levy allocation to the County Board from Townships, Rural Fire Districts, the Gage County Historical Society and the Gage County Agricultural Society and placing them on file. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION #23-13, 2023

Whereas, Nebr. State Statute 77-3443(3) requires all political subdivisions subject to county levy authority to submit a preliminary request for levy allocation; and

Whereas, the political subdivisions that are subject to Gage County Levy authority are agricultural society, historical society, rural fire districts and townships; and

Whereas, the Gage County Board of Supervisors has determined that due to the number of political subdivisions and taxing parcels that would be affected, that a levy will be established and if the subdivisions request is over that levy, their levy will be reduced to respective amounts as set out herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gage County Board of Supervisors that the levy rates will be as follows:

Agricultural Society**	0.003583
Historical Society*	0.000823
Rural Fire Districts	0.030000
Townships	<u>0.075000</u>
Total	0.109406

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by said Board that if any of the political subdivisions that are subject to the county levy authority neglects to submit a request, the Board will use their last year’s budget request to determine the levy rate subject to limitations found in the resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gage County Board of Supervisors does hereby allocate the following:

<u>Political Subdivision</u>	<u>Property Tax Request</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Allowable Tax Request</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
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Gage Co. Ag Society** General	135,000.00	0.003583	135,000.00	0.003583
Historical Society*	40,000.00	0.001062	31,000.00	0.000823

RURAL FIRE DISTRICTS

<u>Political Subdivision</u>	<u>Property Tax Request</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Allowable Tax Request</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Adams Rural Fire* (General Fund)	84,000.00	0.032733	76,986.68	0.030000
Barneston Rural Fire* (General Fund)	36,000.00	0.037617	28,710.52	0.030000
Beatrice Rural Fire* (General Fund)	235,000.00	0.034153	206,422.55	0.030000
Blue Springs Rural Fire* (General Fund)	70,000.00	0.040096		
(Sinking Fund)	<u>19,073.00</u>	<u>0.010925</u>		
Total	89,073.00	0.051021	52,374.63	0.030000
Clatonia Rural Fire* (General Fund)	23,000.00	0.030348	22,735.92	0.030000
Cort-Lanc Rural Fire* (General Fund)	94,807.00	0.040524		0.030000
(Sinking Fund)	<u>4,410.00</u>	<u>0.001885</u>		
Total	99,217.00	0.042409	70,186.37	0.030000
Filley Rural Fire* (General Fund)	86,000.00	0.031110	82,931.64	0.030000
Odell Rural Fire* (General Fund)	86,380.00	0.031673	81,818.46	0.030000
Pickrell Rural Fire (General Fund)	56,566.00	0.025662	56,566.00	0.025662
Wymore Rural Fire (General Fund)	17,400.00	0.011238	17,400.00	0.011238

TOWNSHIPS

<u>Political Subdivision</u>	<u>Property Tax Request</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Allowable Tax Request</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Adams Township	64,793.46	0.028520	64,793.46	0.028520
Barneston Township	43,911.00	0.054262	43,911.00	0.054262
Blakely Township*	163,200.00	0.084718	144,479.32	0.075000
Blue Springs-Wymore	45,441.00	0.034757	45,441.00	0.034757
Clatonia Township	69,662.00	0.060627	69,662.00	0.060627
Elm Township	47,400.00	0.044048	47,400.00	0.044048
Filley Township	72,000.00	0.074459	72,000.00	0.074459
Glenwood Township	42,600.00	0.039603	42,600.00	0.039603

Grant Township	50,000.00	0.042524	50,000.00	0.042524
Hanover Township	45,000.00	0.039395	45,000.00	0.039395
Highland Township	41,500.00	0.023085	41,500.00	0.023085
Holt Township	46,313.00	0.035932	46,313.00	0.035932
Hooker Township	34,567.80	0.037871	34,567.80	0.037871
Island Grove Township	42,720.66	0.070382	42,720.66	0.070382
Liberty Township	39,025.20	0.055473	39,025.20	0.055473
Lincoln Township	49,739.30	0.046754	49,739.30	0.046754
Logan Township	45,000.00	0.041825	45,000.00	0.041825
Midland Township (Sinking Fund)	48,000.00 N/A	0.042787	48,000.00	0.042787
Total				
Nemaha Township	47,000.00	0.026068	47,000.00	0.026068
Paddock Township	51,935.00	0.054261	51,935.00	0.054261
Riverside Township	78,000.00	0.050360	78,000.00	0.050360
Rockford Township	41,000.00	0.041870	41,000.00	0.041870
Sherman Township	30,759.12	0.039216	30,759.12	0.039216
Sicily Township	51,958.80	0.052578	51,958.80	0.052578

*over amount allowed
**last year's tax request
***special election

Motion by Jurgens to adopt Resolution #23-13, 2023, seconded by Swavely.
Voting yes were Jurgens, Schuller, Tiemann, Dorn, Swavely, Lytle
Voting no were None

Motion carried 6-0.

ATTEST:

/s/ Erich Tiemann
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

/s/ Dawn Hill
Gage County Clerk (SEAL)

Motion made by Jurgens, seconded by Swavely to approve adopting Resolution #23-13 setting the final allocation of levy authority for the following: Townships, Rural Fire Districts, the Gage County Historical Society, and the Gage County Agricultural Society. Motion carried 6-0.

Sarah Behrends of BLT Investments, LLC, dba 402 Sprots Bar & Grill, spoke to the board regarding their application for a Special Designated Liquor License for a wedding reception to be held at LHT Events, 803 E Pine Rd., Wymore, NE, on September 16, 2023.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Swavely to approve recommendation to the NE Liquor Commission for a Special Designated Liquor License for BLT Investments, LLC, dba 402 Sports Bar & Grill for an event being held on September 16, 2023 at LHT Events, 803 E Pine Rd., Wymore, NE. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Dorn to move into closed session at 9:48 a.m. for personnel. Motion carried 6-0.

Jurgens left meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Dorn left meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Schuller to move out of closed session at 11:42 a.m.
Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman declared Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m. until September 6, 2023.

Board minutes can also be viewed on the Gage County website at www.gagecountynebraska.us.

/s/ Dawn Hill
Dawn Hill
Gage County Clerk

/s/ Erich Tiemann
Erich Tiemann, Chairman
Gage County Board of Supervisors

I, Dawn Hill, County Clerk of Gage County, do hereby certify that the above records are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Witness my hand and official seal this 23rd day of August, 2023.

(SEAL)

/s/ Dawn Hill
Dawn Hill
Gage County Clerk