



Gage County Board Minutes

The Gage County Board of Supervisors met on December 12, 2023, at 8:45 a.m. with Emily Haxby, Don Schuller, Erich Tiemann, Eddie Dorn, Dave Swavely and Gary Lytle present, Terry Jurgens 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 \$550,660.64, which does not include claim #23120077 to Hard Rock Quarries, LLC. in the amount of \$1,620.87 to be voted on separately; 4. approve correspondence received and place on file; 5. Approve quote with Applied Connective for Security Server and maintenance of server in the amount of \$25,030.04; 6. Approve quote with Applied Connective for Courthouse Wifi managed services in the amount of \$18,099.00; 7. Approve quote with Applied Connective for Security managed services – Access Control (network door control, etc.) in the amount of \$65,270.93; 8. Approve quote with Applied Connective for managed Security Services – update panic buttons/hardware in the amount of 10,612.40; 9. Approve quote with Applied Connective for multimedia managed services/equipment for Boardroom in the amount of \$86,570.88; 10. Approve quote with Applied Connective for Highway Dept for cameras & equipment in the amount of 20,535.00; 11. Approve District Court Summary Fee Report & Register of Deeds Fee Report for the month of November, 2023.

Lytle asked to pull items 5 through 10 from the consent agenda for further discussion before voting to approve.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Allowed</u>
Courthouse Employees	Salaries	170,182.11
Advanced Auto Dealers, Inc.	Shf website maint.	29.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare	Jail onsite medical svcs	7293.15
All Copy Products, Inc.	Treas & EM copier leases, B&G toner	417.74
Applied Connective Technologies	IT equip., svcs.	9914.80
Beatrice Public Schools	Comm-based juvenile svcs aid grant	4126.77
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	585.06
Blackburn Technologies	Svc call	60.00
Bragg Animal Control	Impound 2 dogs	90.00
Cardinal Assessment Group, LLC	Appraisal maint. & pick-up work	3037.50
Charm-Tex, Inc.	Inmate provisions	893.30
Charter Comm. (Spctrm2019)	Jail cable TV	195.9
City of Wymore	Qrtrly EMS svcs	10,000.00
Coast to Coast Computer Prod.	Co Ct toners	429.98
Consolidated Management	Meals at training	186.75
Credit Information Systems	Employment screenings	25.50
Crete Veterinary Clinic	Vet svcs	2769.50
Culligan of Lincoln	Water cooler	190.00
Diode Technologies	Monitoring	90.89
Dr. Eric Thomsen	Mntl hlth hrng	190.00
Eakes Office Solutions	Offc supplies	1990.20
Echo Group	Supplies	124.27
Sandra Eltiste	Prior svc retirement	12.00
First Wireless, Inc.	Twr rental	440.00
Gage Co. Treasurer	Shf veh title & reg	45.70
Griffiths Hovendick Chapel, Inc.	County cremation	1200.00
Jerry Shelton, Atty	Atty fees	1068.75
Joyce Kassing	Prior svc retirement	20.00
Lammel Plumbing	Repairs	248.47
Lancaster Co. Sheriff	Svc fees	18.00

Lepant Law Office	Mntl hlth hrng	190.00
Lincoln Journal Star	Publications	875.76
Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc.	Scanning equip rent	457.00
Midwest Card & ID Solutions, LLC	ID card supplies	79.72
Midwest Process Services	Civil process fees	461.80
MIPS, Inc.	Programming/supplies	5131.09
NACO	Conf. regis	150.00
NE Weed Control Assn.	Mbrshp	125.00
NE Public Health & Env. Lab	Drug/alcohol testing	420.00
Nelson, Clark & Timan, PC LLO	Public Defender	6346.15
Noakes Htng. & A/C	Parts, labor	492.36
Odell Vol. Fire & Rescue	Qtrly EMS svcs	1500.00
Paper Tiger Shredding	Doc shredding	238.00
Pickrell Rural Fire Dist.	Qtrly EMS svcs	1500.00
Polaris Law Group	Atty fees	2992.50
Precision Auto Tune	Veh repair	298.54
Precision Signs & Graphics	Shf veh graphics	25.00
Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	Equip. lease	2068.17
Quill – Det.	Offc supplies	1056.12
Quill – Ext.	Offc supplies	183.16
R&B Arms, LLC	Law Enf supplies	1655.00
Sapp Bros. Petroleum	Shf/Jail fuel	4551.97
Smith, Schafer, Davis, LLC	Atty fees	85.50
Soap Opera Laundry	Mop & rag cleaning	17.50
Stanard Appraisal Svcs., Inc.	Appraisal maint.	7930.00
Stephen Kraviec, PC LLO	Child Suppt. Enf. Atty., postage	2489.96
Summit Food Service	Jail meal svc	5810.09
T.O. Haas Tire	Oil change, veh repairs	1830.34
The Crete News	P&Z publications	24.99
The Fairbury Journal-News	P&Z publications	25.90
The Home Depot Pro	Janitorial supplies	219.90
The Radar Shop, Inc.	Re-certify radar units, supplies	1496.00
The Voice News	Publications	596.05
Thomas & Thomas Court Reporters	Transcript	379.62
TK Elevator Corp.	Elevator maint.	256.76
Verizon Wireless – GCSO	Cell phones	480.12
Vlg. of Clatonia – Clatonia Rescue	Qtrly EMS svcs	4500.00
Westlake Ace Hardware, Inc.	Supplies	256.94
Willet & Carothers Law Office	Atty fees	418.00
Windstream – Ext 4344	Phone monthly fees	313.01
Windstream – Ext Offc	Phones	312.35
Windstream – Gen 1484	Phone monthly fees	2150.60

Road Fund

Highway Department Employees	Salaries	43,813.65
Beatrice Concrete Sand & Gravel	Rock & gravel	32,603.30
Beatrice Iron & Metal	Parts, supplies, tools	483.51
Capital One, NA	Supplies	27.96
Concrete Industries	Crack sealant	9126.00
Eakes Office Solutions	Offc supplies	236.82
Hard Rock Quarries, LLC	Co. rock	1620.87
Inland Truck Parts	Parts	872.85
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers	Parts, hand cleaner	311.03
Landmark Implement, Inc.	Parts	352.16
Larry's Tire & Service	Tire repairs & changeovers	503.00
Matheson Tri Gas, Inc.	Torch kit, oxygen	448.02
Midwest Unlimited, LLC	Supplies	72.56
MIPS, Inc.	Hwy program	192.32
NMC Exchange	Parts	2274.59
O'Reilly Auto Parts	Parts	28.64
Powerplan	Parts	1229.50
Rewound Power Motors	Parts, labor	275.51
Sapp Bros. Petroleum	Fuel, oil, Grease	27,850.19
T.O. Haas Tire	Tires	1606.48
Verizon Connect Fleet USA, LLC	Fees	255.05
Westlake Ace Hardware	Supplies	394.55

Visitors Promotion Fund

Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce Lodging tax 7717.43

Register of Deeds Preservation & Modernization Fund

MIPS, Inc. Deeds online w/ numeric indexes 220.08

Insurance Fund

Gage County Health Insurance Employee health ins claims paid 42,290.94
 Lucent Health Solutions Ins premiums, admin fees 33,678.00

General Fund

Ameritas County share of Employees Retirement 12,383.46
 Security First Bank Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare 12,431.53
 Gage County Clerk – Health Plan Co. share of Empl. health insurance 26,875.25

Road Fund

Ameritas County share of Employees Retirement 2,957.42
 Security First Bank Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare 3,222.78
 Gage County Clerk – Health Plan Co. share of Empl. health insurance 9,011.75

Motion made by Lytle, seconded by Swavely to approve the consent agenda without items 5 through 10. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Swavely to approve item #5 on the consent agenda, quote with Applied Connective for security server and maintenance of server in the amount of \$25,030.04. Discussion – Lytle pointed out that by approving all the updates to IT equipment through a single IT provider, cuts out the local providers that have been doing certain things in the past like door controllers and cameras, from the opportunity to bid on those parts of the system updates. Ron Flohr and John Thomsen with Diode Communications were at the meeting and talked about the services and equipment they have been providing for the county, and said they would be interested in bidding on the updates. Haxby said she appreciates all the work that has been done in the past, but that the board wanted to hire one IT provider so that all of the IT would be tied to one system and there wouldn't be gaps in coverage, there would be consistency in programs, and companies wouldn't be waiting on one another to gain access to systems or shuffling responsibility back and forth on any issues that arise. So, we hired Applied Connective to take on that job, and now that they've provided quotes for the updates and their figures are out there, we're going to pull these updates and put them out for bid – that's not right. Discussion continued with points being raised about benefits and/or drawbacks with separation of duties between different entities; feasibility of different companies working together on IT/Security systems; how the prices were arrived at and whether they're appropriate prices for the goods and services proposed; all aspects of security system such as door locks, cameras, and audio/visual equipment, were not considered when hiring an IT company for election and cyber security; whether the updates can be put out for bid after Applied Connective's quotes have been made public. Tiemann called for vote on motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Lytle to approve consent agenda item #6, quote with Applied Connective for courthouse Wifi managed services in the amount of \$18,099.00. Tiemann explained this would include six internet connection points with secured and guest internet availability on each floor of the courthouse. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Swavely to approve consent agenda item #7, quote with Applied Connective for security managed services for Access Control (network door controls, etc.), in the amount of \$65,270.93. Discussion – includes maintenance on door controllers that activate door locks (not the actual handles/latches) for 72 controllers, tie-ins, licensing, installation, hardware and software; Lytle, speaking for himself, not on behalf of board, would like to have Diode Communications have opportunity to participate in bidding this – they have been doing the work, kept system going during Beatrice 6 days to save money and keep cost down, shouldn't commit taxpayers' money without considering local vendor; Deputy Co. Atty Amanda Fanning said the board needs to be cautious about bidding services that may be considered specialized professional projects or services, but this is not specialized so it could be bid out to other entities; are there things in the quote that aren't necessary and could be removed to reduce cost?; the issue of trying to integrate different systems together that may not be compatible; having our IT company be required to oversee things they didn't install; need to find the best solution for the county as elected officials. Tiemann stated there is a motion and second on the floor and asked for any further discussion. Having none, he called for vote. Haxby, Dorn and Swavely voting aye, Schuller, Tiemann and Lytle voting nay. Motion failed on a 3-3 tie.

Discussion on agenda item #8, replacing hard-wired and Bluetooth panic buttons with 26 USB panic buttons and 6 portable Bluetooth panic buttons, and the software. Has the capability of

notifying all other offices and the security station when button is pushed and ability to type into computer what the situation is and it would come up on the others' screens. Motion made by Haxby, seconded by Swavely to approve consent agenda item #8, quote with Applied Connective for managed security services – update panic buttons/hardware in the amount of \$10,612.40. Discussion – is this something a local provider could provide; amount is under the \$50,000 that would require bid process; quote is for panic buttons – there is a separate system that runs the lockdown buttons in each office that hasn't been discussed for an update and is not included in this quote. Vote – Haxby, Tiemann, Dorn and Swavely voting aye, Schuller and Lytle voting nay. Motion carried 4-2.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Haxby to approve consent agenda item #9, quote with Applied Connective for multimedia managed services/equipment for the board room in the amount of \$86,570.88. Discussion – for cameras, screens, microphone/voting system, live streaming equipment and speakers; has been put off for lack of available equipment and interested bidders; courts recently updated for \$170,000; service turn-around time with distance of provider being so far; the need to get information out to the public ever since the pandemic; lack of interest from companies in the past in bidding, but impressed with how quickly Applied Connective got numbers to the board. Vote – Haxby, Dorn and Swavely voting aye, Schuller, Tiemann and Lytle voting nay. Motion failed due to 3-3 tie.

Discussion on agenda item #10, for Highway Dept. cameras and equipment in the amount of \$20,535.00. This was requested to be added in addition to the quotes presented last meeting since everything else is being updated. It is for 14 cameras at the Highway Dept., installation, monthly management service for updates, camera replacement, etc., 1-year contract, does not include the off-site lot. Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Haxby to approve consent agenda item #10, quote with Applied Connective for Highway Dept. cameras and equipment in the amount of \$20,535.00. Discussion – cameras would be on the outside and inside of the Dept. to provide protection to employees and/or the public; includes a DVR there for short-term save (may need upgraded), and that it will relay back to courthouse for long-term save; would feed into the security server listed in item #5; whether the cameras are compatible with current system; cost of maintenance service is more than cost to replace cameras. Tiemann called for vote. Haxby, Dorn and Swavely voting aye, Schuller, Tiemann and Lytle voting nay. Motion failed due to 3-3 tie.

Haxby said that she still doesn't agree that it was right to ask our IT people to quote these things, they gave us the numbers, and now we're going to ask them to have to re-bid against other companies after they already put their numbers out there. Tiemann said that he and Lytle had a conversation that the original intent of having one vendor was not to exclude other vendors, it was intended to make things easier and seamless staying all with one entity, but we also need to do our part to give local vendors the option and ability to bid. It's unfortunate that the numbers from Applied Connective were put out there, and we can't change that now, but he thinks people can see both sides to the situation and know that it wasn't intentional. These are large amounts and the full scope of the project was more than just election and cyber security, but many more things included in county security that weren't originally thought about. Dorn stated that it's not right for other companies to be able to see Applied's bid amounts. Schuller said we have the right to review the bids and see what they are charging us for. Haxby reiterated that she feels the whole situation is wrong in so many ways, especially since Applied Connective's quote amounts are out there now.

Short recess at 10:12 a.m. Back in session at 10:17 a.m. with all members previously listed present.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Swavely to approve claim #23120077 to Hard Rock Quarries, LLC. in the amount of \$1,620.87, bringing the total amount of claims paid through December 12, 2023 to \$552,281.51. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Tiemann abstaining due to conflict of interest.

No public present for comments or request for future agenda items.

Committee reports were given by Swavely and Dave Jones on Bldg. & Grounds/Winter Lights; Tiemann on Equalization; Haxby on Finance/Insurance; Lytle and Shf. Gustafson on Law Enforcement; and Haxby on Road & Bridge. Topics of discussion were east ramp pumps going bad; winter lights for tower will go on next year; spruce tree replaced in lawn by winter lights committee; N side of courthouse masonry is finished; will replace concrete and put screen around dumpster; winter lights committee is purchasing lamp posts for N & W sides of courthouse; info on transport van; status of outreach meetings, Dec 19 at Plymouth and Tri County School; on-line survey for grants will be available soon. Lytle and Tiemann thanked Haxby and Clerk Dawn Hill for all the grant work they've done for the county with no extra compensation, and all the money they've been able to bring back to the county.

NGage Executive Director Rachel Kreikemeier presented the Quarterly Report for July 1st through October 31, 2023. She talked about the Preschool Development Grant where 63% of providers participated. They can receive training incentives for attending classes for CPR and continuing ed. They hosted a successful Manufacturing Day where 150 students from 5 different schools visited manufacturing companies such as Landmark Snacks, Rare Earth Salts, Neapco and J & J Wire. They also plan to host a Business and Industry Day in the spring for students to visit other types of business besides manufacturing. Kreikemeier also reported that new businesses of Jimmy John’s and a Data Center are coming to Beatrice.

Motion made by Lytle, seconded by Swavely to approve receiving the NGage Quarterly Report and placing it on file. Motion carried 6-0.

Christina Lyons presented a Community Based Juvenile Services Grant Application to the board for approval. The grant funds are for having an alternative program of electronic monitoring as opposed to detention. It also provides community coaching for Cedars Youth Services, working with Nebraska State Probation, and pays for the expenses of operating the juvenile diversion program.

Motion made by Lytle, seconded by Swavely to approve Community Based Juvenile Services Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Lytle to approve the purchase of 2 motor graders and 2 pickups and call for bids. Discussion – Haxby said the information was just received at committee meetings on Friday and she understood they were waiting to discuss further at next committee meetings with the full information so they could review what’s being replaced and why. Tiemann said they’re downsizing and will surplus 8 trucks. Lytle asked why 2 motor graders and which ones are being replaced, Mark said Beatrice West grader is a 2012 with 16,000 hours which is one, the other is one that has had a lot of emission issues. Specs were still marked as a “Draft”, and there were errors that need corrected before approving. Dorn and Lytle withdrew their motion and second – specs to be presented for approval at the December 27, 2023 meeting.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Schuller to move into closed session at 11:12 a.m. for possible litigation. Motion carried 6-0.

Haxby left during closed session.

Motion made by Swavely, seconded by Dorn to come out of closed session at 11:22 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman declared Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m. until December 27, 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 12th day of December, 2023.

(SEAL)

/s/ Dawn Hill
Dawn Hill
Gage County Clerk