

HOOKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 12, 2024

The Hooker County Board of Commissioners held a regular monthly meeting at 3:30 p.m. in the courthouse on December 12, 2024. Present were commissioners Bryan Crisp and Julie Kraye, absent Thad Emerson. Also present during the meeting were Jessica Hampton, Todd Yost, George Vinton, Crystal Hardy, TL Meyer, Dwain Bryner, Bryce Lamb, Ryan Dickinson and Mike Baum.

Chairman Bryan Crisp announced the Public Meetings Law posted in the boardroom and copies of it and the agenda are available for the public. The minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting were read aloud. Bryan Crisp made a motion to approve the minutes, Julie Kraye seconded. Roll call vote, two ayes, motion carried.

The claims on file were audited by the board. Julie Kraye moved and Bryan Crisp seconded the motion that the audited claims be allowed and warrants from the various county funds be issued for their payment. Roll call vote, two ayes, motion carried. Approved claims are listed below. Roads were discussed and the road budget was reviewed. Bryan Crisp gave a building update, the electrical is complete. He looked into the cost of heaters and it will be around \$8,000-\$10,000 for the heaters and install. This will also require a propane tank and install which will be around \$3,000. Mike Baum addressed the board and discussed the stretch of road in Thomas County that Hooker County has maintained for the past several years, with the agreement that Thomas County would maintain a similar in length stretch in Hooker County. Baum stated that he has continued his maintenance of the Thomas County road, but the Hooker County road has not been maintained more than once a year and only after the land owner has called Thomas County to request maintenance. Baum is suggesting that if Thomas County will not take care of the road in Hooker County he would like to cease maintenance on the Thomas County road we currently maintain. Baum is going to contact the Thomas County Road Department to discuss. Further discussion will occur in the January meeting.

A letter from Topkote was read in the meeting notifying the board of retirement and closing of the business.

Bryce Lamb with Healing Hearts & Families attended the meeting to update the board of the community-based juvenile services their diversion program provides to Hooker County. Bryan Crisp made a motion to sign the memorandum of understanding for 2025 community-based juvenile services aid with Healing Hearts & Families. Julie Kraye seconded the motion. Roll call vote, two ayes, motion carried.

Dwain Bryner attended the meeting to express his concerns regarding the closing of Hooker County Transit. He understands the restrictions of using Federal Grants with mandates and of budget restraints. Bryner would like to see Hooker County Transit find other revenue sources so that the service could continue. One suggestion from Bryner was to contact Custer Care and see if they would be able to assist with riders who have Medicaid. Another idea was to see if the Mullen Community Foundation would be able to assist financially. The commissioners agreed to look into other revenue sources and/or transit services. Further discussion will take place in the January meeting.

Ryan Dickinson of Dickinson Land Surveyors Inc. attended the meeting to discuss becoming the Hooker County Surveyor. After an introduction of his company and how his company would assist Hooker County, the commissioners decided they will appoint Dickinson in the January meeting. TL Meyer presented the Constitution and By-Laws for Central Sandhills Extension. Julie Kraye made a motion and Bryan Crisp seconded the motion to approve the presented Constitution and By-Laws for Central Sandhills Extension. Roll call vote, two ayes, motion carried. Meyer also requested that the board appoint Ryan Ridenour as the Hooker County board member for Central Sandhills Extension. Bryan Crisp made a motion, Julie Kraye seconded the motion to appoint Ryan Ridenour as the Hooker County board member for Central Sandhills Extension. Roll call vote, two ayes, motion carried.

Jessica Hampton updated the board about Hooker County Transit. Hampton has been in communication with the Nebraska Department of Transportation in regards to ending Hooker County Transit. There will be a formal hearing in the January meeting for the ceasing of operation. Hampton is still determining all required steps from the state to complete this process. The county does have the opportunity to purchase one or all of the vans if Hooker County would like to retain the use of the vehicle. Bryan Crisp and Julie Kraye agreed to keep the mini van after determining value and cost. This will be addressed again in the January meeting. Hampton did report that our insurance carrier did not have a problem with Hooker County continuing a transit program without the use of the federal or state programs. This will be further discussed in the January meeting. Clerk Jessica Hampton reminded the board that Hampton, Crystal Hardy and Todd Yost would all be attending the NACO Conference December 18-20. Hampton also requested for the courthouse to be closed on Christmas Eve. Neither board member had an objection.

Treasurer Crystal Hardy presented treasurer's report and projections of cash flow through January 2025. Jessica Hampton presented a spreadsheet that showed November cash available for the county and projections through January 2025. Hardy requested the authority to transfer up to \$30,000 from Inheritance Tax to the General Fund for payroll expenses if deemed necessary. Bryan Crisp made the motion to authorize the treasurer to transfer up to \$30,000 from Inheritance Tax to the General Fund for December payroll expenses if necessary. Julie Kraye seconded. Roll call vote, two ayes, motion carried.


Sheriff Todd Yost let the board know that the push-to-talk phones are up and running and service seems to be very good with the new system. Library budget worksheet was presented.

**CLAIMS**

GENERAL FUND		ROAD FUND	
Blue Cross Blue Shield, ins	\$ 11,927.65	Cardmember Service	\$ 18.99
Vision Service Plan	\$ 62.35	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 118.96
AI's Lock and Safe	\$ 18.75	DAS State Accounting	\$ 44.00
Applied Connective Technologies	\$ 842.20	Grant County Treasurer	\$ 664.09
AT&T Mobility	\$ 184.33	Handyman Hardware	\$ 290.47
Blue 360 Media	\$ 102.95	Kwik Stop	\$ 210.87
Brouillette, Troshynski, Kingston & Jackson	\$ 900.00	Sandhill Oil	\$ 264.38
Cardmember Service	\$ 202.47	Village of Mullen	\$ 13.60
Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 380.47	Andersen & Sons NAPA	\$ 82.93
DAS State Accounting	\$ 44.00	Cornhusker International	\$ 2,381.53
Data Shield	\$ 54.00	Custer Public Power District	\$ 83.58
Election Systems & Software	\$ 2,983.34	Daly Enterprises	\$ 4.90
Fair Law Office	\$ 137.50	Great Plains Sandhills Family Medicine	\$ 47.00
Grant County Treasurer	\$ 664.09	Inland Truck	\$ 450.00
Artis Hicks, exp	\$ 40.00	Mid-America Diesel	\$ 64.64
Hooker County Tribune	\$ 156.83	Neal Oil & Auto Center Inc	\$ 1,026.43
Kwik Stop	\$ 725.29	Don Pettigrew, exp	\$ 446.87
Macke's Grocery	\$ 106.72	WPCI	\$ 32.00
Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc	\$ 20.00	IRS	\$ 3,526.44
MIPS, Inc	\$ 944.65	NE Dept of Revenue	\$ 604.81
Mullen Auto & Diesel	\$ 355.04	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 1,111.23
Mullen Motors	\$ 701.22	Payroll	\$ 10,893.98
Nebraska Sheriff's Association	\$ 30.00	<b>LIBRARY FUND</b>	
Nebraska UC Fund	\$ 1,330.28	Consolidated Telephone	\$ 114.26
Darlene Osborn, exp	\$ 90.00	Village of Mullen	\$ 278.49
Quill LLC	\$ 98.98	Windstream of the Midwest	\$ 3.43
Sandhill Oil	\$ 144.00	Brodart Co	\$ 261.75
Village of Mullen	\$ 422.37	IRS	\$ 282.20
West Publishing	\$ 298.50	NE Department of Revenue	\$ 38.30
Windstream of the Midwest Inc	\$ 18.01	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 137.25
Windstream of the Midwest Inc	\$ 33.07	Payroll	\$ 1,258.40
IRS	\$ 9,127.44	<b>911 SURCHARGE FUND</b>	
Nebraska Department of Revenue	\$ 1,348.57	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 343.16
Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 3,482.03	<b>STOP FUND</b>	
MASA Global	\$ 75.00	AT&T Mobility	\$ 998.00
George Vinton	\$ 2,250.00	<b>INHERITANCE TAX FUND</b>	
Payroll	\$ 29,738.96	K.C. Electric	\$ 25,914.00
		Vap Construction	\$ 2,106.00

Meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m. Notice is hereby given that the next regular meeting of the Hooker County Board of Commissioners will be held Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Commissioners Room and agendas for these meetings are kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the county clerk during normal business hours.

Attest:

  
Jessica Hampton, Hooker County Clerk

Hooker County Board of Commissioners

  
Bryan Crisp, Chairman