

HOOKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2025

The Hooker County Board of Commissioners held a regular monthly meeting at 3:30 p.m. in the courthouse on January 9, 2025. Present were commissioners Bryan Crisp, Thad Emerson and Julie Kraye. Also present during the meeting were Jessica Hampton, George Vinton, Crystal Hardy, Todd Yost, Devan Polt, Don Pettigrew, Darlene Osborn, Pam Brooks, Mildred Starr, Kathie Hassett, Mary Lou Isom, Mindy Paxton, Bob & Pat Edis, Cindy Daly and Nathan Vinton.

The minutes of the December 12th, 2024 meeting were read aloud and approved. Julie Kraye made a motion to approve the minutes, Bryan Crisp seconded. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. 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 claims on file were audited by the board. Thad Emerson moved and Julie Kraye seconded the motion that the audited claims be allowed and warrants from the various county funds be issued for their payment. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. Approved claims are listed below. Organization of commissioners was decided with a motion from Julie Kraye that Bryan Crisp remain the Board Chairman. Seconded by Thad Emerson. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. Bryan Crisp made the motion to keep Julie Kraye as Vice Chair of the Board. Seconded by Thad Emerson. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Bryan Crisp made a motion and Thad Emerson seconded the motion that regular monthly meeting times remain at 3:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Hooker County Commissioners Room. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

A request from DaySpring Bank asking to be named depository bank was reviewed. Julie Kraye moved and Thad Emerson seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-1 appointing DaySpring Bank the county depository bank and also naming Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust and DaySpring Bank as excess funds depositories. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Julie Kraye motioned and Thad Emerson seconded the motion to designate the Hooker County Tribune as the official county newspaper and additionally allow meeting notices to be posted on the county website, www.hookercountynegov.gov, as necessary. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Bryan Crisp moved and Julie Kraye seconded the motion for the following board appointments for year 2025: Bryan Crisp—West Central District Health, Lexington Area Solid Waste; Thad Emerson—Region II Health & Social Services Agency, Sandhills RC&D Board; Julie Kraye—West Central Development District, Firstnet Broadband Initiative. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Julie Kraye moved and Thad Emerson seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-2 appointing Don Pettigrew, qualified under license #S-289 Class A, to the position of County Road Superintendent for the 2025 calendar year. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Don Pettigrew presented a letter to the board stating his retirement as Hooker County Surveyor. Bryan Crisp made a motion and Julie Kraye seconded the motion to accept Don Pettigrew's resignation as Hooker County Surveyor. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Bryan Crisp moved and Thad Emerson seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-3 appointing Ryan E. Dickinson, qualified under license LS554, to the position of County Surveyor for the 2025 calendar year. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Roads were discussed and monthly expenses reviewed. Don Pettigrew notified the board that the next bridge inspection will take place in March 2026. Road wages for 2025 were discussed. The commissioners felt that the current wages are still appropriate. Mike Baum sent a text update to the commissioners. Baum said he will be contacting NLRMA regarding the new maintenance building to see what needs to be done to be compliant with insurance. He notified the commissioners that the roads look good right now and it doesn't appear there are a lot of cracks that will need filled. Baum is planning on shouldering roads and will be using up the millings pile.

The maintenance building was discussed and because of budget constraints the completion of the building is still on hold.

The Hooker and Thomas County road agreement from 2004 was reviewed. Thad Emerson made a motion and Bryan Crisp seconded the motion to terminate the agreement between Hooker and Thomas County road departments. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. George Vinton will write a letter of termination as requested in the agreement and send to the Thomas County Commissioners.

Hooker County Transit had a public hearing at 3:45 p.m. in the Hooker County Courtroom. The public hearing was to dissolve Hooker County Transit. Nine people attended the hearing and three letters of support were received. Clerk Jessica Hampton discussed the issues of continuing the transit service in its current state. The audits and Federal requirements put upon the transit service are burdensome, time consuming and difficult to implement in small transits. Hampton presented information showing Hooker County Transit's operating costs in years 2023 & 2024 and number of riders. Total expense per year averaged \$21,600 with an average of 225 riders per year. Those present brought a list of funding options for grants, etc. to present to the clerk and board. Mindy Paxton offered to speak with Mid Nebraska Community Foundation in regards to the Childer's Fund to see about funding a new minivan. There were many questions and concerns about how to keep operating Hooker County Transit and when operation may begin again. George Vinton attended the Hooker County Community Foundation meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025 to discuss Hooker County Transit's needs and if funding may be available. Further discussion will be had in the February meeting.

Weed Superintendent Devan Polt presented his annual report and review from the Noxious Weed Board and provided an update on noxious weeds in Hooker County. Julie Kraye made a motion and Thad Emerson seconded the motion to approve the Noxious Weed Activity Report, office evaluation, control plan, infestation report and weed control authority board roster. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

The commissioners signed the annual signatures report for the Secretary of State. Clerk Jessica Hampton presented the financial statement from Contryman Associates. Julie Kraye made a motion and Bryan Crisp seconded the motion to approve the financial statement and to sign the statement transmittal and approval and acknowledgement letter. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Crystal Hardy presented the treasurer's semi-annual report. Bryan Crisp moved and Julie Kraye seconded the motion to approve the treasurer's semi-annual report. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. Hardy notified the board that tax collection in December covered December payroll. Budgets and expenses are still being watched very closely and there is still a good chance that Inheritance Tax Funds will be needed in March and April to pay claims and payroll. Hardy and Hampton are monitoring cash flow closely.

Sheriff Todd Yost updated the board on the Sheriff's Office. Yost replaced the battery in his cruiser and reported that the new phone system is working well.

Library budget worksheet was reviewed.

CLAIMS

GENERAL FUND		ROAD FUND	
Blue Cross Blue Shield, ins	\$ 11,927.65	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 118.96
Vision Service Plan	\$ 62.35	DAS State Accounting	\$ 44.00
Applied Connective Technologies	\$ 937.20	Grant County Treasurer	\$ 664.09
AT&T Mobility	\$ 263.72	Handyman Hardware	\$ 79.72
Brouillette, Troshynski, Kingston & Jackson	\$ 849.98	Macke's Grocery	\$ 17.10
Cardmember Service	\$ 2,039.00	Sandhill Oil	\$ 495.75
Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 303.60	Village of Mullen	\$ 20.68
DAS State Accounting	\$ 44.00	Custer Public Power District	\$ 106.35
Fakes Office Solutions	\$ 258.96	Doolley Oil	\$ 151.16
Galls	\$ 108.37	NMNC	\$ 653.00
Grant County Treasurer	\$ 664.09	IRS	\$ 3,508.18
Crystal Hardy, exp	\$ 213.06	NE Dept of Revenue	\$ 511.02
Artis Hicks, exp	\$ 20.00	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 1,090.41
Holiday Inn Kearney	\$ 1,214.55	Payroll	\$ 10,815.23
Hooker County Tribune	\$ 171.15	LIBRARY FUND	
Macke's Grocery	\$ 5.37	Consolidated Telephone	\$ 114.26

Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc	\$	20.00	Macke's Grocery	\$	36.82
MIPS, Inc	\$	944.65	Sandhill Oil	\$	180.81
Mullen Auto & Diesel	\$	333.80	Village of Mullen	\$	252.02
NACA	\$	100.00	Windstream of the Midwest	\$	3.64
NDCCA	\$	50.00	Brodart Co	\$	523.50
NSA	\$	175.00	EastWest Books	\$	183.24
Darlene Osborn, exp	\$	60.00	IRS	\$	312.02
Platte Valley Communications	\$	600.00	NE Department of Revenue	\$	37.11
Quill LLC	\$	77.98	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$	135.57
Verizon Wireless	\$	23.63	Payroll	\$	1,440.25
Verizon Wireless County Court	\$	53.93	911 SURCHARGE FUND		
Village of Mullen	\$	406.59	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$	343.16
JB Walker, exp	\$	292.91	STATE INSTITUTION FUND		
West Publishing	\$	298.50	Region II Services	\$	769.07
Windstream of the Midwest Inc	\$	29.74	LODGING TAX PROMO FUND		
Windstream of the Midwest Inc	\$	35.42	Mullen Arts Center	\$	2,000.00
Todd Yost, exp	\$	30.00	Omaha Magazine	\$	3,415.00
IRS	\$	9,245.52	SJSB	\$	530.00
Nebraska Department of Revenue	\$	1,264.91	Sandhills RC&D	\$	2,862.00
Ameritas Life Insurance	\$	3,574.79	LODGING TAX CAPITAL FUND		
MASA Global	\$	75.00	Bond Payment	\$	9,331.25
George Vinton	\$	2,250.00	Sandhills Medical Foundation	\$	18,006.23
Payroll	\$	30,165.39	Village of Mullen	\$	19,519.00

Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m. Notice is hereby given that the next regular meeting of the Hooker County Board of Commissioners will be held Thursday, February 13th at 3:30 p.m. Additionally, the Hooker County Board of Equalization will meet for purposes of reviewing the permissive exemptions at 3:45 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:

Hooker County Board of Commissioners



Jessica Hampton, Hooker County Clerk



Bryan Crisp, Chairman