

**BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024**

The Buffalo County Board of Commissioners and the Buffalo County Board of Equalization met on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. and 9:15 A.M. Chairperson Klein called the meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Board members responded to roll call: Timothy Higgins, Myron Kouba, Daniel Lynch, Bill Maendele, Sherry Morrow and Ivan Klein. Absent: Ronald Loeffelholz. A copy of the acknowledgment and receipt of notice and agenda by the Board of Commissioners is attached to these minutes. Public notice of this meeting was published/posted in the Kearney Hub, on the Buffalo County website, and the bulletin boards located outside the County Clerk's office and County Board Room on October 3, 2024. Chairperson Klein announced that in accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review and posted at the back of the Board Room. Deputy County Clerk Rachele Warner took all proceedings hereinafter shown; while the convened meeting was open to the public. Deputy County Attorney Andrew Hoffmeister and Deputy County Attorney Josiah Davis were present.

REGULAR AGENDA

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Lynch to approve the September 24, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Morrow and seconded by Higgins to ratify the following October 4, 2024 payroll claims processed by the County Clerk. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Morrow, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

October 4, 2024 PAYROLL

GENERAL FUND			
NET PAYROLL			343,037.10
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	1,520.48
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	60,847.73
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	160,255.42
EMPOWER ANNUITY INS	R	DEFERRED COMP	1,075.00
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	6,974.64
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	115,480.64
KEARNEY UNITED WAY	E	DONATIONS	55.00
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	1,130.29
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	307.22
ERIN M MCCARTNEY	E	GARNISHMENT	402.00
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	3,765.72
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	1,469.50
NE CHILD SUPPORT	E	CHILD SUPPORT	1,200.50
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	19,266.90
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	1,186.07
ROAD FUND			
NET PAYROLL			68,385.42
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	718.22
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	10,568.60
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	4,110.14
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	816.24
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	20,066.95
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	181.36
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	117.43
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	935.69
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	272.50
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	3,119.93
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	299.68
WEED FUND			
NET PAYROLL			5,594.49
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	889.44
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	320.65
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	104.16
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	1,760.07
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	3.94

METLIFE	E	DENTAL	56.94
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	272.88
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	4.81

Moved by Higgins and seconded by Lynch to approve the early claims submitted by the County Clerk as listed below. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Lynch, Kouba, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

ROAD FUND		
STATE OF NEBRASKA	FUEL TAX	\$4,237.00

Moved by Morrow and seconded by Kouba to accept the Buffalo County Treasurer September 2024 Fund Balance Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Morrow, Kouba, Higgins, Lynch, Maendele and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Morrow and seconded by Maendele to accept the Clerk of the District Court September 2024 Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Morrow, Maendele, Kouba, Higgins, Lynch and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Higgins and seconded by Lynch to accept the August 2024 Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska RYDE Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Lynch, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Abstain: Kouba. Motion declared carried.

Zoning Administrator Dennise Daniels was present to discuss the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) proposed highway project known as "Elm Creek – Miller" and inventoried as project number "STP – 183-2(111)", for roadwork situated on and along Highway 183 located in the Elm Creek, Logan & Armada Townships, Buffalo County, Nebraska. No one else addressed the Board. Moved by Higgins and seconded by Maendele to authorize Chairperson Klein to sign a letter regarding proposed project summary, NDOT Project: 42989, STP-183-2), Elm Creek – Miller(MS) on and along United States Highway 183 located in Elm Creek, Logan & Armada Townships, Buffalo County, Nebraska. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Maendele, Kouba, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

After discussion and review of the County Sheriff's reports, it was moved by Maendele and seconded by Higgins to approve the Special Designated Liquor License applications filed by Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary for an event to be held at Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary located at 44450 Elm Island Road, Gibbon, NE 68840 on October 25, 2024. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Chairperson Klein reviewed the following correspondence. Nebraska Medicine sent a letter regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from September 2022 for the participation of the federal drug discount program established under 340B of the Public Health Service Act and their ongoing commitment for care provided. In the year 2024 they served 2,820 patients from Buffalo County through over 25,100 patient visits. Approximately 3.6% of these patients did not have insurance and 50.7% were on Medicaid or Medicare. Both programs for which the cost exceeds the reimbursement provided. Select Sprayers & Equipment, LLC (SSE) sent an email requesting a reduction in speed on HWY 30 from Keystone Road to Kearney NE due to there being 14 businesses in the area and the difficulty of trucks being able to turn into those businesses. The request is to reduce speeds from 65MPH to 55 MPH and have no passing zones marked. City of Kearney sent a letter regarding the Planning Commission Agenda for October 18, 2024. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) sent a letter to inform Buffalo County about possible eligibility for "FMA Swift Current" funds that can be used to pay for structure elevation, relocation, or demolition; property acquisition; and other mitigation efforts such as flood proofing and project scoping. The FMA Swift Current grant is not a national-competitive programs and all applications will be reviewed at the State level and by FEMA for award of funding. Chairperson Klein called on each Board member present for committee reports and recommendations.

County Attorney Shawn Eatherton entered at 9:08 A.M.

Paul Brune Senior Project Manager of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) presented an update on the Kearney 115kV transmission line project, and introduced his staff Bryan Smith and Troy Barger of NPPD and Brandon Houska and McKinsey Harvey of Watts Electric. No one else addressed the Board.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Higgins to recess the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 9:23 A.M. and reconvene as a Board of Equalization. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Chairperson Klein called the Board of Equalization to order in open session. County Assessor Roy Meusch was present.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Higgins to set levies for 2024-2025 fiscal year with Resolution 2024-48. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-48

			PROPERTY TAX RATES 2024-2025					
COUNTY FUNDS		LEVY						
GENERAL		0.314032						
BOND		0.021068						
VETERAN'S AID		0.000379						
TOTAL		0.335479						
BUFFALO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY								
GENERAL	0.009247	SINKING	0.014620					
FIRE DISTRICTS	GENERAL	SINKING			BOND			
SUBURBAN #1	0.023539	0.008410			0.003712			
GIBBON #2	0.011623							
SHELTON #3	Set By Hall	County						
PLEASANTON #4	0.065336							
RAVENNA #5	0.003147				0.003648			
MILLER #6	0.011202							
ELM CREEK #7	0.009976				0.010974			
AMHERST #8	0.014859				0.023116			
SID #3 GENERAL	0.163424							
CITY/VILLAGE	GENERAL	BOND			PARKING			CRA
AMHERST	0.080767	0.176790						
ELM CREEK	0.078564	0.321436						
GIBBON	0.400000	0.145000						
KEARNEY	0.140812	0.008058			0.100865			0.006892
MILLER	0.474892							
PLEASANTON	0.175202	0.064584						
RAVENNA	0.374383							
RIVERDALE	0.073889							
SHELTON	0.499999	0.176354						
SCHOOL DISTRICTS								
DISTRICT	NO.	GENERAL	BOND	K-8 or 2009	9-12 or 2013	CAPITAL 22	CAPITAL 24	SP BLDG
GIBBON	2	0.946437	0.144832					0.045342
KEARNEY	7	0.857176		0.062485	0.084778	0.027958	0.001598	0.108546
ELM CREEK	9	0.878787	0.181818					0.050505
SHELTON	19	1.007305	0.057588				0.022555	0.023995
RAVENNA	69	0.543891					0.029523	0.137772
PLEASANTON	R105	0.841058	0.135619					0.029858
AMHERST	119	0.667267	0.140667					0.009618

Moved by Higgins and seconded by Kouba to approve Tax List Corrections numbered 5048 through 5062 submitted by County Assessor Meusch. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to adjourn the Board of Equalization and return to the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 9:26 A.M. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Higgins, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

Beth Ferrell, Legal Counsel for the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) was present to present an update.
County Attorney Shawn Eatherton left at 9:36 A.M. and returned at 9:39 A.M.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent John Maul was present for the following agenda items.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Lynch to set bid date of November 12, 2024 at 10:00A.M. for Asphalt Overlay Projects including Project Nos. C10 (1014) Gibbon Road from Highway 30 going north to 100th Road; C10 (1015) O 85th Road from Gibbon Road going west 6200 feet to west edge of Gibbon Cemetery and C10 (1016) On Keystone Road from Highway 30 going south to Union Pacific Railroad Tracks. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Lynch and seconded by Kouba to set bid date of November 12, 2024 at 10:00A.M. for two bridge projects for abutment and pier rehabilitation. Project Nos. C10 (1431) Southeast of Kearney on Sweetwater Avenue south of 11th Street and C10 (1451) Sometown Road south of Elm Island Road. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Kouba, Higgins, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

FACILITIES

Facilities Director Stephen Gaasch presented a review of the Current Construction Projects in Buffalo County with the Board.

REGULAR AGENDA

Chairperson Klein called for Citizen’s forum, Veteran Service Committee Chairperson Tom McCoy informed the Board of a new employee in the Veteran Service Office. No one else addressed the Board.

Chairperson Klein asked if there was anything else to come before the Board at 9:57 A.M. before she declared the meeting adjourned until the regular meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

ATTEST:

Ivan H. Klein, Chairperson
Buffalo County Board of Commissioners

Rachelle D. Warner
Buffalo County Deputy Clerk

(SEAL)