

**BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

The Buffalo County Board of Commissioners and the Buffalo County Board of Equalization met on Tuesday, May 14, 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 May 9, 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. County Clerk Heather Christensen 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 April 23, 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 Maendele and seconded by Morrow to ratify the following May 3, 2024 payroll claims processed by the County Clerk. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Morrow, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

GENERAL FUND			
NET PAYROLL			342,700.90
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	1,516.95
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	62,893.63
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	158,880.21
EMPOWER ANNUITY INS	R	DEFERRED COMP	1,075.00
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	6,500.47
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	115,263.50
KEARNEY UNITED WAY	E	DONATIONS	61.00
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	1,119.86
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	283.17
ERIN M MCCARTNEY	E	GARNISHMENT	402.00
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	3,736.41
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	1,449.50
NE CHILD SUPPORT	E	CHILD SUPPORT	945.00
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	19,173.72
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	1,195.75
ROAD FUND			
NET PAYROLL			66,292.65
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	733.69
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	10,462.00
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	4,606.17
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	1,024.57
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	19,234.59
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	167.51
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	115.12
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	968.18
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	272.50
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	2,915.82
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	309.33
WEED FUND			
NET PAYROLL			5,474.69
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	870.45
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	320.65
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	104.16
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	1,714.88
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	3.81
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	56.94
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	263.88
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	4.81

Sheriff Neil Miller, Chief Deputy Sheriff Daniel Schleusener, Deputy Sheriff Jacob Valentine, Deputy Sheriff Nicholas Lieth, Sergeant Ephraim Valenzuela, Sergeant David Gibbs and Investigator Brandon Brueggemann were present for the Proclamation of the National Police Week. Commissioner Lynch read the proclamation and thanked those who serve Buffalo County. Moved by Lynch and seconded by Higgins to proclaim the week of May 12th through May 18th, 2024 as “National Police Week” in Buffalo County with the following Resolution 2024-21. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Motion declared carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-21

Proclamation

Name the Week of May 12, 2024 through May 18, 2024 as “National Police Week” in Buffalo County

WHEREAS, National Police Week was first proclaimed in 1963 by President Kennedy when he signed Proclamation 3537 creating “National Police Week” to recognize the service given by men and women who, night and day, protect us through enforcement of our laws, and

WHEREAS, the members of the law enforcement agencies of Buffalo County play an important role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Buffalo County; and

WHEREAS, it is important that our citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agencies, and that members of our law enforcement agencies recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and;

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Buffalo County Sheriff’s Office unceasingly provide vital public services;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buffalo County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim the week of May 12th through May 18th as “National Police Week” to honor those law enforcement officers, who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifices in service to their community or have been disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes. All Buffalo County citizens are encouraged to pay tribute to the many law enforcement officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in so doing, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

Employee Recognitions for the following County Employees were read aloud on the April 23, 2024 Board meeting and were presented today with their appreciation certificates: Communications Officer Jennifer Girard for 1 year of service, Truck Driver/ Operator Highway Ben Mankhey for 1 year of service, Highway Superintendent John Maul for 25 years of service and Veteran Services Officer Clerk Sue Janssen for 36 years of service.

Commissioner Maendele read the proclamation thanking Emergency Medical Services provided throughout the city and county. Gibbon EMT Michelle Eutsler, Ravenna Paramedic Peg Dethlefs, Kearney Volunteer Fire Department member Nate Tof, Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Department member Angie Kucera, Elm Creek Volunteer Fire and Rescue member Carol Jorgensen were present for the Proclamation of the Emergency Medical Services Week. Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to proclaim the week of May 19, 2024 through May 25, 2024 as “Emergency Medical Services Week” in Buffalo County with the following Resolution 2024-22. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Higgins, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-22

PROCLAMATION

To designate the Week of May 19, 2024 through May 25, 2024, as “Emergency Medical Services Week” in Buffalo County

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Squads in Buffalo County responded to 1,195 calls for service; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week.

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 19-25, 2024, as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK with the theme of: EMS –Honoring our Past. Forging our Future, the Buffalo County Board of Commissioners encourage the community to pay tribute to the many EMS workers in Buffalo County for the vital public service they provide.

Emergency Manager, Darrin Lewis was present to demonstrate the new fully operational secure outdoor warning system with improved capabilities.

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

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

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Higgins to accept the City of Ravenna 2023 Annual Tax Increment Financing Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Lynch and seconded by Morrow to accept the City of Gibbon 2023 Annual Tax Increment Financing Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Morrow, Higgins, Kouba, Maendele and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

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

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to approve tax refund request 310000280 Custer Federal State Bank. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Higgins, Lynch and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Abstain: Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Lynch and seconded by Higgins to approve on Road Improvement Contract with Sporer Land Development. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

After discussion and review of the County Sheriff's report, it was moved by Lynch and seconded by Higgins to approve the Special Designated Liquor License applications filed by B&B Research and Investments L.L.C; Trade Name: The Village 1919: DBA The Village for event to be held at "The Farm" located at 51460 100th Road, Shelton, Nebraska on June 8, 2024. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Following discussion and review of the County Sheriff's report, it was moved by Maendele and seconded by Higgins to ratify the actions taken by Buffalo County Clerk Christensen to approve the Special Designated Liquor License application filed by BrixBar LLC Scott Klone for events to be held at the Jacobson/ Orr Law Firm located at 5408 Global Drive Kearney, Nebraska on May 23, 2024. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to recess the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 9:32 A.M. and reconvene as a Board of Equalization. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Higgins, 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 and County Treasurer Brenda Rohrich were present.

Moved by Kouba and seconded by Higgins to approve Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for CHI Good Samaritan for a 2012 Ford F450. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Kouba, Higgins, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Abstain: Maendele. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to approve Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for First Baptist Church of Kearney for a 2020 Ford Transit BB 148” Low ROO. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Higgins, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Higgins and seconded by Lynch to approve Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for Mid Nebraska Individual Services for a 2005 Cargomate Trailer, 2008 Dodge Caravan, 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt, 2009 Dodge Ram Truck 1500, 2010 Ford Cutaway Van, 2015 Ford Taurus and a 2018 Chrysler Pacifica. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Lynch, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Loeffelholz. Abstain: Klein. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Lynch and seconded by Higgins to approve Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for South Central Behavioral Services, Inc. for a 2024 Toyota Rav4. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Morrow to have the Buffalo County Board of Equalization hear the 2024 Property Valuation Protests and to have Buffalo County Clerk send notice of said hearings. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Morrow, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Morrow and seconded by Higgins to approve Tax List Corrections numbered 5036 through 5039 submitted by County Assessor Meusch. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Morrow, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Lynch to approve the permissive exemption waiver request for the Family Advocacy Network and authorize Assessor Meusch to consider the Permissive Exemption with a public hearing. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Higgins and seconded by Lynch to approve the permissive exemption waiver request for the United Campus Ministry-University of Nebraska and authorize Assessor Meusch to consider the Permissive Exemption with a public hearing. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Lynch, Kouba, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Higgins to adjourn the Board of Equalization and return to the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 9:40 A.M. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

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

Moved by Maendele seconded by Kouba to accept bids for One New 2024 John Deere 770GP Motor Grader for \$378,990.00 with Warranty (no price value included) and One New 2024 Caterpillar 150 Motor Grader with joy stick for the price of \$381,000.00 which includes a parts credit of \$8,500.00 and \$5,750.00 Basic Customer Service Value Agreement. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Higgins, Lynch, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

Facilities Director Stephen Gaasch was present for the following four agenda items.

Chairperson Klein instructed County Clerk Christensen to open and read aloud the submitted bids for Extension Building Addition. Bids were submitted by the following companies: DTC Duncan-Theis Construction, Central Contracting Corporation and On Point Construction Management. Facilities Director Gaasch will review the bids and come back later in the meeting with a decision.

Chairperson Klein instructed County Clerk Christensen to open the submitted bids for vending machine service at Ravenna Lake. One bid was submitted from Ripp Industries. Deputy County Attorney Hoffmeister read and reviewed the Bid with the Board. After discussion it was moved by Maendele and seconded by Lynch to accept the bid from Ripp Industries for the Vending Machine services. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Morrow and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Chairperson Klein instructed County Clerk Christensen to open and read aloud the submitted bids for Radio Project Jail Portables. Bids were submitted by the following companies: Sunny Communications and Rocky Mountain Communication Systems. The Sheriff's office will review the bids and come back with recommendations at the next meeting on May 28, 2024.

Facilities Director Gaasch returned to the meeting with decision regarding the bids for the Extension Building Addition. Moved by Morrow and seconded by Higgins that pending approval from the Agricultural Association of the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Parking Lot Improvement between Buffalo County and Agricultural Association the bid be awarded to DTC Duncan-Theis Construction. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Morrow, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele and Klein. Absent: Loeffelholz. Motion declared carried.

Chairperson Klein reviewed the following correspondence City of Kearney sent a letter regarding the Annexation of Arbor View Fourth with Resolution 2024-40. City of Kearney sent a letter regarding the Annexation of Younes Center Tenth Addition with Resolution 2024-50. City of Kearney sent a letter regarding the Planning Commission Agenda for May 17, 2024. Chairperson Klein called on each Board member present for committee reports and recommendations.

Chairperson Klein called for Citizen's forum. Sheriff Miller reminded the Board regarding the 5th Annual Police Memorial Ceremony on May 15, 2024. No one else addressed the board.

Chairperson Klein asked if there was anything else to come before the Board at 10:13 A.M. before he declared the meeting adjourned until the regular meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

ATTEST:

Ivan H. Klein, Chairperson
Buffalo County Board of Commissioners

Heather A. Christensen
Buffalo County Clerk

(SEAL)