

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

## SPECIAL MEETING

### October 25, 2023

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in special session on October 25, 2023 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published in the Valentine Midland News on October 18, 2023. The current agenda being on file in the office of the County Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman DeNaeyer. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Cherry County Commissioners Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughy, and Cherry County Clerk Brittny Longcor. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman DeNaeyer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

At 1:02 p.m. the meeting was moved to the Sheriff's Conference Room.

The Board met with Valentine City Council member, Kyle Arganbright, and County Attorney Eric Scott to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement for the joint Convention/Wellness Center. The relationship structure, timing of closing on the real estate, costs while the building is dark, and next steps of the project were discussed. Mr. Scott discussed the statutory payment cap for grants per year, concerns regarding the ownership and payment structure, and the formation of an entity whose primary purpose is to own the Convention/Wellness Center. The Board expressed their support for the project, but there are questions that need addressed to ensure that it is done right. There was no Board action on the agenda item regarding City of Valentine – Interlocal Agreement re: Convention Center.

The Board met with Building & Grounds Superintendent Pat Greenough and employees currently working in the old Courthouse to discuss a short-term plan for work arrangements.

At 1:30 p.m. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion regarding strategic real estate acquisition with the Board, County Clerk, and County Attorney present. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried. Chairman DeNaeyer restated the limitation of subject matter of the closed session. At 2:19 p.m. the Conference Room doors were opened and the public was allowed to reenter. At 2:20 p.m. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to return to open session. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to authorize County Attorney Eric Scott to negotiate a purchase agreement within the parameters discussed. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board's intent is to move as quickly as possible to secure an alternate space for offices and that individuals should work from home, if necessary.

At 2:22 p.m. the meeting returned to the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Emergency Management Director Matt Sandoz, Deputy Emergency Manager Jessica Coyle, and Niobrara National Scenic River Superintendent Susan Cook met with the Board and County Attorney to discuss the Community Wildfire Defense Grant. Qualifying uses of grant funds, landowner concerns regarding burning of slash piles, timing of tree removal, landowner application process, and involvement of the Nebraska Forest Service were discussed. Middle Niobrara NRD Manager Mike Murphy was present to discuss the possibility of the NRD's involvement with the grant. Personnel required for the administration of the grant and large equipment necessary for tree removal were also discussed.

McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to table the agenda item regarding the Community Wildfire Defense Grant until October 31, 2023. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

At 3:39 p.m. Chairman DeNaeyer declared the meeting adjourned.

***These minutes are not the official record and may be corrected. A copy of the approved, official minutes is available to the public in the Cherry County Clerk's Office.***

DRAFT