

Thomas County Board Minutes



Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 18, 2022

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners convened in open and public session at 8:30 a.m., in the meeting room of the Thomas County Courthouse, Theadford, NE. Members present were Pam Moody, John Seeley and Jim Purdum. Also present throughout the meeting were board secretary/County Clerk Lorissa Hartman, County Highway Superintendent Lloyd Smith, road employee Keith Hartman, County Attorney Kurt Arganbright, Jay Jones, Brent & Janet Steffen, Dave Sands-Ne Land Trust, Twyla Witt and County Sheriff Joseph Smith.

Chairman Moody stated open meeting guidelines are posted as required by law and copies are available, if requested.

Notice of meeting was given by publication in the Thomas County Herald on October 6, 2022.

Motion made by Seeley and second by Purdum to adopt the October 18, 2022 regular meeting agenda. Roll call vote: Ayes – Purdum, Seeley, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Seeley and second by Moody to approve the October 4, 2022 regular meeting minutes as published in the Thomas County Herald on October 13, 2022. Roll call vote: Ayes – Seeley, Moody, Purdum. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Discussion on road projects:

The board reviewed the existing road maintenance policy and discussed changes.

Pink road definition should be changed to periodic routine maintenance.

Add a yellow road classification – single use road with multiple landowners. Definition should be periodic road maintenance with material provided. The new/existing roads will need to meet minimum standards defined by the State of Nebraska, before the county will begin maintenance on the road.

Some roads may need to have an agreement with the landowner about what type of maintenance or material will be provided in the future.

More discussion will be held at the November 1st meeting. Once everything is ready the board will hold a public hearing to discuss the changes with the public.

The auto gate policy will be adopted after the road maintenance classification has been adopted.

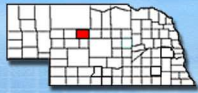
Motion made by Seeley and second by Purdum to set the temporary part time road maintenance hourly rate of pay at \$18.25/hour. Roll call vote: Ayes – Moody, Purdum, Seeley. Nays – none. Motion carried.

The quote from Kaufman trailers for a flatbed trailer was reviewed. The updated quote was just provided this morning. The board asked Commissioner Purdum to check on the warranty that comes with the trailer and a decision will be made at the November 1st meeting. No action taken today.

Correspondence presented. No action taken.

The board opened the floor to Brent Steffen and Dave Sands to discuss the proposed conservation easement. Brent advised the board that he believes this to be a property right concern and as long as it didn't infringe upon his neighbors it shouldn't be a problem. He is concerned that the land remains as AG use and not be developed in the future.

Dave Sands of Ne Land Trust addressed the board and gave a report on what the Ne Land Trust is about and who serves on the board.



Thomas County Board Minutes



The main objective is to keep this land from being subdivided and developed in future years.

The board had concerns about losing future valuation and taxes if this property were to be taken off the tax rolls. Dave Sands assured the board that this would not be an issue.

Commissioner Moody had questions about the definition of ALE and why it is not included into the easement, concerns were also addressed on the perpetuity clause and future federal government control of the property. She also asked about the Baseline Documentation report that was addressed in the easement and how the board could make an informed decision when not all of the information was provided to the county board. Commissioner Moody also asked about future road/bridge work and who would need to give approval to the county before work could be completed. Dave Sands advised the board that the county would need to provide information to the NE Land Trust about any future projects before proceeding with the work.

The funding of the conservation easement will be paid from the NRCS and the Ne Land Trust board.

Dave Sands advised the board that the legislature and developed the law and gave the three reasons that a board could deny the permit. He stated that he felt this easement did not meet any reason that the county could reject the permit.

Motion made by Seeley and second by Purdum to approve the conservation easement with Nebraska Land Trust and Brent L & Janet L Steffen Trust. Roll call vote: Ayes – Purdum, Seeley. Nays – Moody. Motion carried.

Commissioner Moody recessed the regular meeting at 10:01 a.m. to enter into the Thomas County Board of Equalization meeting.

Commissioner Moody reconvened the regular meeting at 10:10 a.m.

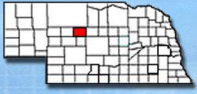
Motion made by Seeley and second by Moody to pay claims as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes – Purdum, Seeley, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND-

ARGANBRIGHT LAW OFFICE	ADMIN EXPENSE	1965.00
CHARRON LAWN CARE	LAWNCARE	435.00
CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	UTILITIES	342.84
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CENTRAL	SERVICES	28.64
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES	377.36
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	ELECTION COSTS	2446.24
TERRY E ELLIOTT	OCT LAWNCARE	550.00
EWOLDTS GROCERY INC	SUPPLIES	83.05
LORISSA HARTMAN	MILEAGE	85.00
LINCOLN COUNTY DETENTION CENTER	INMATE COST	1820.00
MIDWEST SPECIAL SERVICES	INMATE COST	330.00
NE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS	LB644 EXPENSE	725.49
NEBRASKA COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOC	MEAL	25.00
NEBRASKA UC FUND	UNEMPLOYMENT	40.76
UNITED STATES POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	120.00
PRO PRINTING & GRAPHICS	SUPPLIES	148.90
SYNCB/AMAZON	HALLOWEEN SUP	12.89
THOMAS CO TREASURER	POSTAGE	62.40
THOMAS COUNTY ATTORNEY	SHERIFF FEES	39.96
ANDREA THOMAS	MILEAGE	85.00
U S BANK	SHERIFF FUEL	70.41
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE	322.78

ROAD FUND-

CUSTER COUNTY CHIEF	ADVERTISING	134.00
CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	UTILITIES	60.29
VALENTINE MIDLAND NEWS	ADVERTISING	24.30



Thomas County Board Minutes



EXTENSION FUND-

EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES	108.61
GRANT COUNTY NEWS	PRINTING	4.70
HOLIDAY INN	LODGING	104.95
SCHOOL HOUSE GRAPHICS	SUPPLIES	37.55

ARPA FUND-

THEDFORD ART GUILD	ARPA GRANT	2500.00
THEDFORD RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	ARPA GRANT	12111.25

Office reports:

The Clerk reported that she had received the bill for the LB644 postcards in the amount of \$725.49 and since the only political subdivision that was required to host the public hearing was Mid Plains Community College, they would receive a bill to reimburse the county the full amount.

Early Voting has begun, as of this morning 26 applications for ballots had been received.

The Clerk also reported of the lawsuit filed against the County Clerk. The County Attorney and NIRMA have been contacted.

Treasurer office presented a financial report for September. The final ARPA funds application was submitted to the Treasurer's office and will be submitted to the board on November 1st. At this time any future applications will be put on hold until all obligated money has been disbursed.

The board reviewed the paperwork about future federal funding available to the county and directed the Count Treasurer to complete any necessary paperwork to make Thomas County eligible to receive the funding.

Sheriff gave a report on the Bovee Fire and following events. He reported that he has billed NEMA for additional costs related to the fire. He also presented an activity report and inmate report.

Motion made by Seeley and second by Purdum to approve office/fee reports. Roll call vote: Ayes – Seeley, Moody, Purdum. Nays – none. Motion carried.

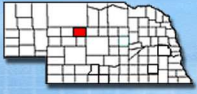
Motion made by Purdum and second by Seeley to approve corrected Resolution #2022-25, Thedford Fire Protection District, application #2. Roll call vote: Ayes – Moody, Seeley, Purdum. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Purdum and second by Seeley to approve Resolution #2022-26, ARPA grant application with Thedford Art Guild. Roll call vote: Ayes – Seeley, Purdum, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Seeley and second by Purdum to approve SDL liquor application for the Thedford Volunteer Fire Department on November 11th at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Roll call vote: Ayes – Purdum, Seeley, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Seeley and second by Purdum to approve the SDL liquor application for the Sandhills Corral on November 19th at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Roll call vote: Ayes – Moody, Purdum, Seeley. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Purdum and second by Seeley to approve the contract with Central Plains Valuation, LLC for appraisal services. Roll call vote: Ayes – Seeley, Purdum, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.



Thomas County Board Minutes



No public comment.

Motion made by Seeley and second by Purdum to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes – Moody, Purdum, Seeley. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioners meeting room of the Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford, NE. An agenda will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Thomas County Clerk during regular business hours. Additions to the agenda may be made up to 24 hours before the meeting.

Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Pamela S. Moody, Chair

Lorissa Hartman, County Clerk