

**MCPHERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION PROCEEDINGS**  
**December 11, 2023**

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met as per adjournment of **November 8, 2023**, for their regular monthly meeting. Notice of meeting having been posted in the Stapleton Enterprise issue dated **December 7, 2023**, and the McPherson County Website, [www.mcphersoncounty.ne.gov](http://www.mcphersoncounty.ne.gov). The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Arensdorf, who noted the Open Meetings Law, which is posted on the North wall of the meeting room. Members John Bryant, Brett Nason and Jeff Arensdorf were present. Also present were the Highway Superintendent Tom Werblow, Sheriff Tom Burch, and County Clerk Kathy Hoberg. Nason made a motion to excuse the County Attorney. Bryant seconded. Voting Aye: Nason, Bryant and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None. Bryant moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Nason seconded. Voting Aye: Bryant, Nason and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None. After examination, Nason made a motion to approve the following claims as presented. Bryant seconded. Voting Aye: Nason, Bryant and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None.

<b>GENERAL</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
Payroll	Wages	28,000.49
Ameritas	Retirement	1628.88
Applied Connective	IT Consultant	798.60
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance	7676.16
Richard Cook	Weed Mileage	31.44
Custer Public Power	Lights/Electricity	602.79
DAS St. Accounting	Computer Expense	172.00
Eakes Office Plus	Office Supplies	63.84
Great Plains		531.85
Communication	Telephone/Internet	
Great Plains		57.96
Communication	Emergency Mngmt	
Ideal Linen	Supplies	265.68
IRS	SS/Medicare	2,088.31
J13 Enterprises LLC	Budget Prep	2,355.89
Chelsey McNutt	Park Contract	287.50
MIPS	Data Processing/Computer	1,085.78
Neal Oil & Auto	Fuel/Supplies	672.00
NE Safety & Fire Equip	Inspections	40.00
Whitney Schroeder	Mileage/Child Suppt. Enforce	102.18
Select Carpet & Tile	Carpet Stretching	201.00
Stan's Guns	Sheriff Ammo	112.50
Stapleton Enterprise	Printing/Publishing	192.07
US Bank	Office/Janitor Supplies	204.95
Verizon	County Court Phone	53.85
Viaero	Sheriff Phone	83.09
Village of Stapleton	Trash Disposal	2,728.00
<b>ROAD</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
Payroll	Wages	14,350.63
Ameritas	Retirement	901.17
ATC Group Services	Road Sample Test	1800.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance	2549.22
Bomgaars Supply	Equipment	329.99
Croell Inc.	Gravel	34,245.15
Dawson Tire & Wheel	Tire Repair	3,033.53
Great Plains Comm	Phone/Internet	106.97
Inland Truck Parts Co.	Equipment Repairs	247.05
IRS	County Share SS/Med	1,095.48
JM Parts & Equipment	Supplies	97.20
Level LLC	Hauling	4,745.00
McPherson Co.		
Inheritance	Reimbursement Payments	2,076.35

Neal Oil & Auto	Fuel/Supplies	7,311.94
NE Safety & Fire	Inspections	21.00
TC Engineering	Highway Supt	750.00
Titan Machinery	Equipment	176.00
<b>FAIR</b>		
Ideal Linen	Supplies	77.22
<b>SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM</b>		
Prairie Hills Café	Senior Meals	3,450.00

Rich Cook was present and presented the board with a Weed Report. Each commissioner was given a written copy of the report, and it was signed by Chairman Arensdorf.

The commissioners were given a copy of a letter sent to the owners of Block 5&6 in Tryon, regarding possible zoning violations. The letter was prepared by the County Attorney and hand delivered by the Sheriff. The owners have been given copies of the Zoning regulations regarding prohibited agricultural uses in the zoning area. The owners have communicated their willingness to comply.

**At 10:00 AM**, Caleb Johnson was present and talked to the board about a new Budget Preparation contract proposal. Nason made a motion to approve and sign a contract with J3 Enterprises, LLC for fiscal year 2024-2025, and accept the option to extend the offer at the rate of \$2200.00 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and fiscal year 2026-2027. Bryant seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Nason, Bryant and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None. The commissioners discussed roads with Ed Black. The road workers have been repairing holes and adding rock and gravel to the roads. The Western Star semi-truck had tires replaced, and the transmission and clutch are being replaced in the dump truck.

Tom Werblow gave the commissioners a copy of a soil stabilization test report he received from Atlas Technical, Dallas, Texas.

The testing was done on a sample of the asphalt taken from Soddy Road. There was continued discussion about grinding the asphalt and adding materials to replace the asphalt roads in McPherson County.

The board examined the December Road Plan presented by Nason. Bryant made a motion to approve the plan, removing the Melvin Road which has been completed except for maintenance. Arensdorf seconded. Voting Aye: Bryant, Arensdorf and Nason. Voting Nay: None.

There was a safety committee meeting held. Tom Werblow gave flyers and a presentation about Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Diesel Fuel. Those present were, Jeff Arensdorf, Brett Nason, John Bryant, Kathy Hoberg, Tom Burch, and Ed Black.

The county sheriff's position was discussed. The county was contacted by Hireclick.com regarding advertising for the position. The commissioners decided not to pursue a contract with them. The position has been posted again on the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center website, the McPherson County website and the NACO website.

The commissioners looked at some repairs needed inside and outside of the courthouse. The treasurer will request some price quotes and pursue grants for payment of the projects.

Bryant moved to designate the *Stapleton Enterprise* as the official McPherson County newspaper for 2024. Nason seconded. Voting Aye: Bryant, Nason and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None.

Shareen Munson, Prairie Hills Café, asked the clerk to inform the commissioners of the need to raise the donation portion of the senior meals to \$6.00 per meal. The increase is necessary due to the rise in the cost of preparing the meals. McPherson County serves as a contractor with West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging to perform as the service provider for the program. McPherson County contracts with Prairie Hills Café to prepare and provide the meals. All funds are paid to Prairie Hills Café from West Central Area Agency on Aging and the public donations. McPherson County does not contribute, nor use taxpayer funds for this program.

The commissioners were each given a copy of the November and December Fund Balance Reports from the Treasurer.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:25 AM to meet again at 9:00 AM on January 10, 2024, for their **annual organizational meeting**. This meeting will be held at the McPherson County Courthouse in Tryon and is open to the public.

ATTEST:

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McPherson County Clerk

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McPherson County Board Chairman