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**BOARD OF EQUALIZATION PROCEEDINGS – January 6, 2022**

A meeting of the Board of Equalization of Stanton County, Nebraska was held in the open and public session on January 6, 2022, at 8:00 AM in the County Commissioner's room in Stanton, Nebraska.

Present upon roll call were: Douglas Huttman, Dennis Kment and Duane Rehak, Board of Equalization. Wanda Heermann, County Clerk and Cheryl Wolverton, County Assessor, were also present.

Advance notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Stanton Register on December 22, 2021, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance to the Board members, a copy of their acknowledgement of the receipt of notice and the agenda being attached to these minutes.

All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Kment, who announced that the open meetings act is posted on the wall in the commissioner's room and a copy may be obtained from the county clerk's office upon request.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Rehak to approve the agenda.

Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Rehak to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021, meeting.

Voting: Ayes: Kment, Rehak and Huttman. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Re-organization meeting was held in open session by law and as per Statute.

Nominations opened for Chairman of the Board of Equalization.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Rehak, to nominate Dennis Kment for Chairman, that nominations cease and Dennis Kment be elected by affirmation.

Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Nominations opened for Vice Chairman of the Board of Equalization.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Rehak to nominate Doug Huttman for Vice Chairman, that nominations cease and Doug Huttman be elected by affirmation.

Voting: Ayes: Kment, Rehak and Huttman. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Cheryl Wolverton, county assessor, presented and explained the correction sheets for the month.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Rehak to void correction sheets numbered 2021-21 and 2021-23 approved December 20, 2021 due to incorrect tax credit listed.

Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Rehak to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the correction sheets numbered 2021-34 and 2021-35 and place them on file.

Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

There were no listings of clerical errors needing approval.

Motion made by Rehak, seconded by Huttman to adjourn to the next meeting set for Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 8:00 AM.

Voting: Ayes: Rehak, Huttman and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

/s/ Dennis Kment, Chairman, Board of Equalization, Stanton County, Nebraska

Attest: /s/ Wanda Heermann, County Clerk

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**COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS – January 6, 2022**

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Stanton County, Nebraska was held in the open and public session on January 6, 2022, at 8:15 AM in the County Commissioner's room in Stanton, Nebraska.

Present upon roll call were: Douglas Huttman, Dennis Kment and Duane Rehak, Board of Commissioners. Wanda Heermann, County Clerk was also present.

Advance notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Stanton Register on December 22, 2021, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance to the Board members, a copy of their acknowledgement of the receipt of notice and the agenda being attached to these minutes.

All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America the meeting was called to order at 8:20 AM by Chairman Kment, who announced that the open meetings act is posted on the wall in the Commissioner's room and a copy may be obtained from the County Clerk's office upon request.

Motion made by Rehak, seconded by Huttman to approve the agenda.

Voting: Ayes: Rehak, Huttman and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Rehak, seconded by Kment to approve the minutes of December 6, 2021 (as corrected) and December 20, 2021, meetings.

Voting: Ayes: Rehak, Kment and Huttmann. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Re-organization meeting was held in open session by law and as per Statute.

Nominations opened for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Rehak to nominate Dennis Kment for Chairman, that nominations cease and Dennis Kment be elected by affirmation.

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Nominations opened for Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Rehak to nominate Doug Huttmann for Vice Chairman, that nominations cease and Doug Huttmann be elected by affirmation.

Voting: Ayes: Kment, Rehak and Huttmann. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The applications for County Depository Banks were reviewed. A Statement of Disclosure was given by Dennis Kment regarding the employment of his son, David Kment, at Stanton State Bank.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Rehak to approve the Resolution for the depositories for Stanton County funds for 2022:

**RESOLUTION No. 2022.01 - 01:**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the written applications for the designation as County Depositories of the County funds, as filed by the following named banks for the year ending December 31, 2021, coming on for consideration; and the County Board being fully advised, hereby accepts and approves the applications and hereby authorizes the deposit of County funds in the following banks for the term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022:

Bank First, Norfolk NE  
Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust, Norfolk NE  
First Nebraska Bank, Stanton NE  
Midwest Bank NA, Pierce, Pilger, Wisner NE  
Stanton State Bank, Stanton NE  
NPAIT, Lincoln NE

up to, but not exceeding the amount of the paid capital stock and surplus of said banks, respectively, upon the qualification by said bank, or any or all of them by furnishing of sufficient securities, and the approval of the same by the Board of Commissioners of Stanton County, Nebraska, as provided by Sec. 77-2318, of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Reissue 2009.

AND, that the same is hereby approved.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Board of Commissioners  
Stanton County, Nebraska  
/s/ Dennis Kment  
/s/ Doug Huttmann  
/s/ Duane Rehak

Attest:

/s/ Wanda Heermann  
Stanton County Clerk [seal]

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Committee appointments reviewed.

Discussion held on the various committee appointments and the NE Nebraska Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board nomination of Linda Hewitt to represent Stanton County for a three (3) year term.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Rehak to approve the appointment of Linda Hewitt to represent Stanton County on the NE Nebraska Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board for a three (3) year term.

Voting: Ayes: Kment, Rehak and Huttmann. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Rehak to approve the appointments to various positions as follows:

County Health Dept Board – Dennis Kment  
County Health Dept Board – Kirk Van Pelt, county representative (non-elected)  
DOT regulations for Drug Free Workplace Supervisor – Duane Rehak  
Emergency Planning Committee, local – Mike Frohberg  
NE Nebraska Community Action Partnership – Dennis Kment  
NE Nebraska Area Agency on Aging Representative – Dennis Kment  
NE Nebraska Dept Economic Development Representative – Douglas Huttmann  
NE Nebraska Dept Economic Development Representative – Chad Waldow, county representative (non-elected)  
NE Nebraska Juvenile Services Board – Dennis Kment, alternate – Mike Unger  
Northstar Board – Douglas Huttmann  
Region IV Mental Health Board – Duane Rehak  
Safety Committee – Douglas Huttmann; alternate – Duane Rehak  
NE Nebraska Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board – Linda Hewitt, 3yr term (2022-2024) (non-elected)  
NE Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition Board – Duane Rehak; alternate – Dennis Kment (Res No.2018.01-002, Jan 4, 2018)  
NE Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition Board – Gary Svitak, Maple Creek Township (Res No.2018.01-003, Jan 4, 2018)

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Rehak, seconded by Huttmann to confirm the re-appointment on January 3, 2019 for the following appointed officials for the years 2019 - 2022:

Emergency Manager -	Mike Frohberg
Highway Superintendent -	Mark Mainelli
Planning/Zoning Administrator -	LaLene Bates
Veterans' Service Officer -	Anthony McPhillips
Weed Superintendent -	Gary Carson

Voting: Ayes: Rehak, Huttmann and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Discussion held on the wage/salary of the appointed officials for the year 2022.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Rehak to re-visit the hourly rate for the Planning/Zoning Admin and Veterans' Service Officer at the 2022 - 2023 budget approval, and to re-visit the salary rate for the Emergency Manager at the 2022 - 2023 budget approval and also to continue the Weed Superintendent annual salary at \$12,000.00 (\$1,000.00 monthly).

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Huttmann to approve and place on file the following Stanton County Extension Board Members for the year 2022: Pat Larson, Jackie Schapman, Keith Drott, Kim Spence and Tim Stamm.

Voting: Ayes: Kment, Huttmann and Rehak. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Kment to approve and place on file the following Stanton County VSO committee Members for the year 2022: Bill Johnson. 2024: Robert Chilcoat and Clint Warnke. 2025: Jim Campbell. 2026: Robert Spieck.

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Kment and Rehak. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Re-appointments to the Stanton County Planning Commission were reviewed. Members needing to be re-appointed for the year 2022 for a three (3) year term are: Gerald Podany, Russell Kumm and Doug Oertwich. Board members not needing re-appointment are: 2023 - Mark Wiemann, Judy Funk and Gerald Kuhn; 2024 - Mike Kabes, Todd Zohner and vacate.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Rehak to re-appoint Gerald Podany, Russell Kumm and Doug Oertwich to a three (3) year term on the Planning Commission Board.

Voting: Ayes: Kment, Rehak and Huttmann. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Re-appointments to the Stanton County Board of Adjustment were reviewed. Members needing to be re-appointed for the year 2022 are: John Gall and Robert Locke. Board members not needing re-appointment are: 2023 - Mark Wieman and alternate, Dave Stepan; 2024 - Robert Lueninghoener. A vacated position on the board will be filled at a later date.

Motion made by Rehak, seconded by Kment to re-appoint John Gall and Robert Locke to a three (3) year term on the Stanton County Board of Adjustment.

Voting: Ayes: Rehak, Kment and Huttmann. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Rehak, seconded by Huttmann to approve the revised mileage rate of \$.58½ cents/mile effective January 1, 2022 for all reimbursable mileage incurred by county employees; and further providing that the sheriff is permitted to charge an additional \$.03 cents/mile for paper service all as per NRS §81-1176.

Voting: Ayes: Rehak, Huttmann and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Huttmann to approve the legal newspaper as the Stanton Register (Pitzer Digital) for the year 2022, to set the legal radio stations as WJAG/KEXL and US92 for legal and weather-related announcements, and designate the Stanton County website (<https://stantoncountyne.nebraska.gov>) as a means of publication of legal notices or other announcements.

Voting: Ayes: Kment, Huttmann and Rehak. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Discussion held on the current HRA \$3,000 contribution per employee for assistance with the health insurance deductible. Contributions are submitted on a monthly basis during the year.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Rehak to continue with the contribution of \$3,000 per employee eligible for insurance coverage through the county health plan to the Health Reimbursement Arrangement plan managed by Mid-American Benefits for the year 2022, and review during the renewal of the county health plan coverage.

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Anthony McPhillips, Veterans' Service Officer, joined the meeting.

Discussion held on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) and Stanton County. The MOU on file with NDVA for the use of the VetraSpec program under the NDVA license has expired or is set to expire. A new MOU for VetraSpec will need to be approved and signed for the term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 with an option to renew for two (2) additional two (2) year periods as mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Rehak to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the new Memorandum of Understanding between the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs and Stanton County effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

. . . . .  
Memorandum of Understanding  
Between the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs  
and Stanton County, Nebraska  
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023  
[on file in County Clerk's office]  
. . . . .

Joining the meeting were: Cheryl Wolverton, assessor; Sandy Zoubek, treasurer; Mike Unger, sheriff; LaLene Bates, zoning administrator and Ryan Wehrle, maintenance.

Discussion continued on the setting of salaries for the elected officials tabled at the December 20, 2021 meeting. The salaries of all elected county officers must be fixed by the county board prior to January 15<sup>th</sup> of the year in which a general election will be held for the

respective offices. The board reviewed and discussed the NACO 2023-2026 salary recommendations for county officials with various officials present. Also discussed was the compensation for the administrative duties to the City of Stanton for the law enforcement contract.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Kment to approve the following resolution in relationship to the Law Enforcement Interlocal Agreement Contract with the City of Stanton:

**RESOLUTION No. 2022.01 – 02:**

WHEREAS, the Stanton County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Sheriff of Stanton County to continue to be compensated for administrative duties in relationship to the City of Stanton law enforcement contract for services rendered; and

IN ADDITION, the Stanton County Sheriff shall be paid a sum of \$1,000.00 per month in compensation for his extra duties in regards to administration of the law enforcement contract with the City of Stanton. This payment shall be from funds received from the City of Stanton for the law enforcement contract. Such compensation shall cease at any time the law enforcement contract becomes void;

AND, this authorization shall take effect for the elected term beginning in January 2023.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Board of Commissioners  
Stanton County, Nebraska  
/s/ Dennis Kment  
/s/ Doug Huttman  
/s/ Duane Rehak

Attest:  
/s/ Wanda Heermann  
Stanton County Clerk [seal]

Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Kment and Rehak. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Rehak to approve the resolution setting the salaries of elected county officials for the 2023 – 2026 term of office:

**RESOLUTION No. 2022.01 – 03:**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 23-1114 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, the Stanton County Board of Commissioners are required to determine and set the salaries of the various elected officers of the county prior to January 15<sup>th</sup> of the year in which a General Election will be held for the respective offices; and

WHEREAS, the Stanton County Board of Commissioners, have met in order to establish the salaries for the elected officials of Stanton County, Nebraska, for the term commencing January 2023, pursuant to Nebraska law. After reviewing the NACO salary comparison report of counties with similar population and tax valuation the board adopted the following resolution to establish new salaries for the elected officials of Stanton County, Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of Commissioners of Stanton County, Nebraska, to hereby establish the following salaries for elected officials for the elective term beginning January 2023 as follows:

County Assessor: The annual salary for the County Assessor shall be established at \$ 66,000.00 for the calendar year 2023. For each year thereafter an increase of \$1,500.00 shall be added to the previous year's salary.

County Attorney: The annual salary for the County Attorney shall be established at \$ 67,000.00 for the calendar year 2023. For each year thereafter an increase of \$1,500.00 shall be added to the previous year's salary.

County Clerk (ex-officio Register of Deeds, Election Commissioner and Clerk of the District Court): The annual salary for the County Clerk, ex-officio shall be established at \$ 67,200.00 for the calendar year 2023. For each year thereafter an increase of \$1,500.00 shall be added to the previous year's salary.

County Commissioner: The annual salary for the County Commissioners, shall be established at \$ 33,000.00 for the calendar year 2023. For each year thereafter an increase of \$750.00 shall be added to the previous year's salary.

County Commissioner Board Chair. The annual salary for the County Commissioner Board Chair shall be established at \$ 33,500.00 for the calendar year 2023. For each year thereafter an increase of \$750.00 shall be added to the previous year's salary.

County Sheriff: The annual salary for the County Sheriff shall be established at \$ 76,050.00 for the calendar year 2023. For each year thereafter an increase of \$1,500.00 shall be added to the previous year's salary.

County Surveyor: The annual salary for the County Surveyor shall be established at \$ 200.00 per year plus per diem expenses.

County Treasurer: The annual salary for the County Treasurer shall be established at \$ 66,000.00 for the calendar year 2023. For each year thereafter an increase of \$1,500.00 shall be added to the previous year's salary.

IN ADDITION to the above salary, the County Sheriff shall receive an additional \$360 per year as Chair of the County Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, that the County entered into a contract with the City of Stanton to provide contracted law enforcement, the additional compensation was set forth in Resolution No. 2022.01 – 02 approved and adopted by the Stanton County Board of Commissioners on January 6, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Budget Making Authority for Stanton County shall be established at \$ 4,250.00 for the calendar year 2023, \$ 4,500.00 for year 2024, \$ 4,750.00 for year 2025 and \$ 5,000.00 for year 2026; and

ALSO, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in addition to the above salary, each elected official shall receive during his or her term of office the same health and medical coverage as offered to all county employees, with the exception of the County Surveyor, who is not eligible for insurance coverage or benefits. Also, elected officials shall be enrolled in and shall receive the benefits of the County Employees Retirement System, as set forth by Nebraska Revised Statutes and receive all statutory benefits; and

IN ADDITION to the above salary, an elected official shall receive during his or her term of office at the county expense an opt-out provision (aka "cash in lieu of" provision) if they elect to opt out of the county health and medical plan. This option will be available as permitted by Federal and State statutes and rules and regulations of agencies. Pursuant to the "cash in lieu of" program, an elected official will receive "cash in lieu" of health insurance.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Board of Commissioners

Stanton County, Nebraska  
/s/ Dennis Kment  
/s/ Doug Huttmann  
/s/ Duane Rehak

Attest:

/s/ Wanda Heermann  
Stanton County Clerk [seal]

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Discussion held on the courthouse heating system. Ryan informed the board of the constant need to restart the boiler during the recent cold weather. He suggested the need to upgrade to a new version for more efficiency. The board asked Ryan to obtain quotes on a new system and repairs of the current system.

Discussion held on the CDC update on the recommended isolation and quarantine period after exposure to COVID-19 and variants. The CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation for the public per media release December 27, 2021. The consensus of the board was to continue with the guidelines previously approved and revised (recently May 17, 2021) to: 1) if you are feeling ill to remain home; 2) if you develop symptoms, have been tested or exposed to COVID-19 to remain home and follow the CDC quarantine periods as per the CDC media release of December 27, 2021; 3) wear a mask is suggested but this is a personal choice and 4) use common sense when social distancing.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Rehak to adjourn to the next meeting set for Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 8:15 AM.

Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Rehak and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

/s/ Dennis Kment, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Stanton County, Nebraska  
Attest: /s/ Wanda Heermann, County Clerk