

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES December 31, 2024

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on December 31, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice in the Valentine Midland News every week, with the agenda being on file in the office of the County Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman DeNaeyer. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughy, and Deputy County Clerk Samantha Leonard. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman DeNaeyer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board of Commissioners regular meeting minutes from December 10, 2024 were read. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to approve the minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board of Equalization meeting minutes from December 10, 2024 were read. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve claims. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried.

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	293,749.48	.	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	293,749.48		

GENERAL FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,496.96
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$22,647.24
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$701.00
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claims Funding	\$42,016.96
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$42,134.11
Debra Hand	Election Board	\$270.00
Diedre Markus	Election Board	\$303.75
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$3,100.00
Midamerica Admin & Retirement Solution	Administration Fees	\$780.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$6,717.26
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Insurance Funding	\$21,800.24
Postmaster	Services	\$246.00
Cynthia Scott	Election Board	\$303.75
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$546.12
Lindsay Wonnenberg	Election Board	\$303.75
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$4,514.58
Bancroft, Kaetryn	Gross Wages	\$408.00
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$4,785.64
Blume, Ashley	Gross Salary	\$4,680.73
Brockley, Billie	Gross Wages	\$4,271.31
Buechle, Shelbie	Gross Wages	\$6,229.68
Campbell, Lisa	Gross Wages	\$1,228.59
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$5,178.70
Daugherty, Betty	Gross Wages	\$3,742.20
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$3,623.00
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$4,533.64
Eggert, Lorana	Gross Salary	\$4,785.64
Froning, Ellen	Gross Wages	\$5,685.84
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$3,484.40
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$4,967.82
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$4,820.97
Hamlin, Ashtyn	Gross Wages	\$5,051.12
Hammond, Kathy	Gross Salary	\$4,785.64
Hanson, Timothy	Gross Salary	\$2,392.82
Hesse, Sharon	Gross Salary	\$5,208.33
Hunt, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$4,212.40
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$6,755.14
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,503.16
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$4,413.68
Leonard, David	Gross Wages	\$3,691.17
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Wages	\$4,382.78
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,727.80

Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$3,567.65
McConaughey, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$5,827.77
Millar, Eve	Gross Wages	\$100.69
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$2,113.23
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$1,164.44
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$4,938.85
Peterson, Heather	Gross Wages	\$4,335.99
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,842.00
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$4,317.15
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$6,230.71
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$5,798.96
Scott, Adelmica	Gross Wages	\$5,196.18
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,389.48
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$5,382.59
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,453.09
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$5,535.61
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,861.21
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$5,982.90
	GROSS TOTAL	\$342,507.92
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$48,758.44)
	NET TOTAL	\$293,749.48

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ **170,589.32**
and disallowed in the amount of \$ -
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$ **170,589.32**

ROAD FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,809.91
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$9,858.86
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$288.00
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claim Funding	\$17,843.26
Cherry County Implement	Equipment	\$41,610.59
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$18,739.79
Legal Shield	Services	\$33.90
MassMutual	Withholdings/Retirement	\$300.00
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$1,350.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$2,977.94
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding	\$9,568.08
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$234.83
Boyer, Douglas	Gross Salary	\$5,311.29
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$4,643.26
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$4,861.74
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$4,636.53
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,370.00
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,954.63
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$4,352.52
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$4,800.85
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$2,380.44
Hart Benjamin	Gross Wages	\$894.60
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$5,573.12
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$4,033.92
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$2,382.53
Smith, Lloyd	Gross Salary	\$750.00
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$4,541.76
Szakacs, Brye	Gross Wages	\$5,389.67
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,621.75
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$4,935.25
	GROSS TOTAL	\$193,049.02
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$22,459.70)
	NET TOTAL	\$170,589.32

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ **7,499.31**
and disallowed in the amount of \$ -
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of \$ **7,499.31**

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$738.20

EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,335.13
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$183.96
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Salary	\$4,881.37
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$1,680.48
	GROSS TOTAL	\$8,948.35
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,449.04)
	NET TOTAL	\$7,499.31

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	69,728.15	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Claims Fund in the amount of	\$	69,728.15	
HEALTH CLAIMS FUND			
Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims	\$69,728.15	
	TOTAL	\$69,728.15	

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	143,883.54	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Covid American Rescue Plan in the amount of	\$	143,883.54	
2580 Covid American Rescue Plan			
Cherry County Treasurer	Interfund Transfer/Resolution #2024-15	\$143,883.54	
	TOTAL	\$143,883.54	

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,320.53	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of	\$	9,320.53	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND			

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	143.39
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$704.95
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$18.00
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claim Funding	\$1,417.96
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,411.75
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$100.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$205.51
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding	\$733.88
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Coyle, Jessica	Gross Salary	\$4,888.00
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$1,378.26
	GROSS TOTAL	\$11,033.54
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,713.01)
	NET TOTAL	\$9,320.53

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	20,000.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Inheritance Tax Fund in the amount of	\$	20,000.00	
Inheritance Tax Fund			
Cherry County Implement	Equipment	\$20,000.00	
	TOTAL	\$20,000.00	

The board discussed estimates from Dick Clark Construction and Wickett Construction for the construction of walls for the Extension office at the Cherry County South Building. Commissioner Nelson will work with the Extension employees and Dick Clark Construction on final details. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to approve Dick Clark Construction’s bid of \$16,609.05. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Leonard presented the board with Resolution #2024-15 Fund Transfer in re: to ARPA obligations. The fund transfer will move funds from 2580 Covid American Rescue Plan Fund to 0650 Highway Street/Bridge Buyback Fund in the amount of \$87,930.72 for the armor coat projects; and funds from 2580 Covid American Rescue Plan Fund to 0200 Road Fund in the amount of \$55,952.82 for the purchase of millings. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to approve Resolution #2024-15 Fund Transfer. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle updated the board re: North Central 911 meetings, solocom Contract, NCPET plans for regional grant money, potentially dispatching for Keya Paha County, and the completion of 911 dispatch training class. The Valentine Rural Fire Department asked Director Coyle about accessing the county’s sam.gov account for a pass-through grant. The board discussed and decided to follow the grant policy guidelines, the fire department will have to create their own account under their own ID. No action re: agenda item Allowing Valentine Rural Fire Department to access Cherry County’s Sam.Gov Account for a slide in tank grant. Director Coyle updated the board re: the Community Wildfire Disaster Grant Application. The county will be a co-applicant under UNL as the grant owner. Each county can apply for up to \$10 million for the removal of trees. The project can last 4-4.5 years, and the county could potentially hire project managers. The project managers and UNL would choose the ground that gets

cleared. Director Coyle told the board Brown, Rock, & Keya Paha County are all moving forward with the application. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to accept the Cherry County Community Wildfire Disaster Grant Application and authorize Commissioner McConaughy to oversee the project. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried.

Road Foreman Brent Collier provided the board with a District 3 update re: weather conditions, washout material, equipment repairs, and general equipment maintenance being completed. Road Foreman Steve Stichka gave a District 2 update re: a new full-time employee, equipment maintenance, and keeping track of the milling project to move forward with a chip seal project in the Summer of 2025.

Deputy Sheriff Erick Wickman presented the board with a Highway Safety Grant. The grant covers 75% or \$15,000 of equipment for data improvement. The Sheriff's Department used the grant money to upgrade vehicle equipment, GPS connection with dispatch, computers, printers, modems, etc. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve the Highway Safety Grant with the Sheriff's Department to be paid in full out of inheritance tax fund, with the balance not covered by the grant to be paid by the Cherry County Sheriff's Department. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Cherry County GOP presented a Resolution re: the opposition of implementing the Animal EID mandate. The board discussed the resolution and asked County Attorney Eric Scott to review the resolution and advise at the next meeting how to move forward, potentially with a drafted resolution and letter of support. No board action taken.

Valentine Children and Families Coalition provided the board with a contract for \$50,000 of ARPA Funds that are obligated but not spent by the December 31, 2024 deadline, to follow the ARPA guidelines. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to approve and authorize Chairman DeNaeyer to sign the contract as presented. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Resignations from Planning and Zoning Board Members Albert Ericksen and John M. Lee were received. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to approve Albert Ericksen's resignation effective January 11, 2025 and John M. Lee's resignation effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to appoint Samantha Leonard as the full-time Cherry County Clerk, effective January 1, 2025, to fill out the remainder of the term. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board recessed from 11:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Board recessed from regular session to convene as a Board of Equalization from 1:00 p.m. to 1:14 p.m.

The Board recessed from regular session to convene as a Board of Corrections from 1:30 p.m. to 1:44 p.m.

The board recessed from 1:44 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m. the board conducted interviews for the Clerk of the District Court position with Katie Ormesher and Jessica Hanson. At 2:18 p.m. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing potential candidates to fill the District Court Clerk position with the Board, Deputy Clerk Leonard, and County Attorney Eric Scott to be present. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

At 2:23 p.m. the meeting doors were reopened, and the public was allowed to enter. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to come out of closed session. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to appoint Jessica Hanson to fill the remainder of District Court Clerk Lorana Eggert's term, effective January 17, 2025. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

County Attorney Eric Scott presented the board with the modified letter of support re: Kilgore Road for the RAISE Grant Application. The letter of support was modified to reflect the concerns of the board discussed in the December 10, 2024 meeting. This letter reserves the right of commitment after KLJ Engineering presents Cherry County with a plan and design of construction at a later date. The letter is solely an agreement to start the presentation of plans for approval or rejection of any designs presented to the board. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to approve the letter of support to the Department of Transportation Secretary issuing support from Cherry County on the RAISE grant on BIA Road 1 and Kilgore Road. Roll call vote: Nay – Nelson. Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Lloyd Smith provided the board with a Request to Occupy County Right-of-Way from Custer Public Power District. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve the request to occupy county right-of-way submitted by Custer Public Power District. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed the Highway Superintendent position and amended job description to include road foreman duties. The board discussed with Mr. Scott to change the job description to a Cherry County Road district foreman specified by the board and to add the Highway Superintendent job duties. Mr. Scott will draft a new job description to include Road Foreman and Highway Superintendent job duties, to be presented to the board at their next regular meeting. No board action taken on agenda item re: Cherry County Highway Superintendent Position/Road Superintendent job description.

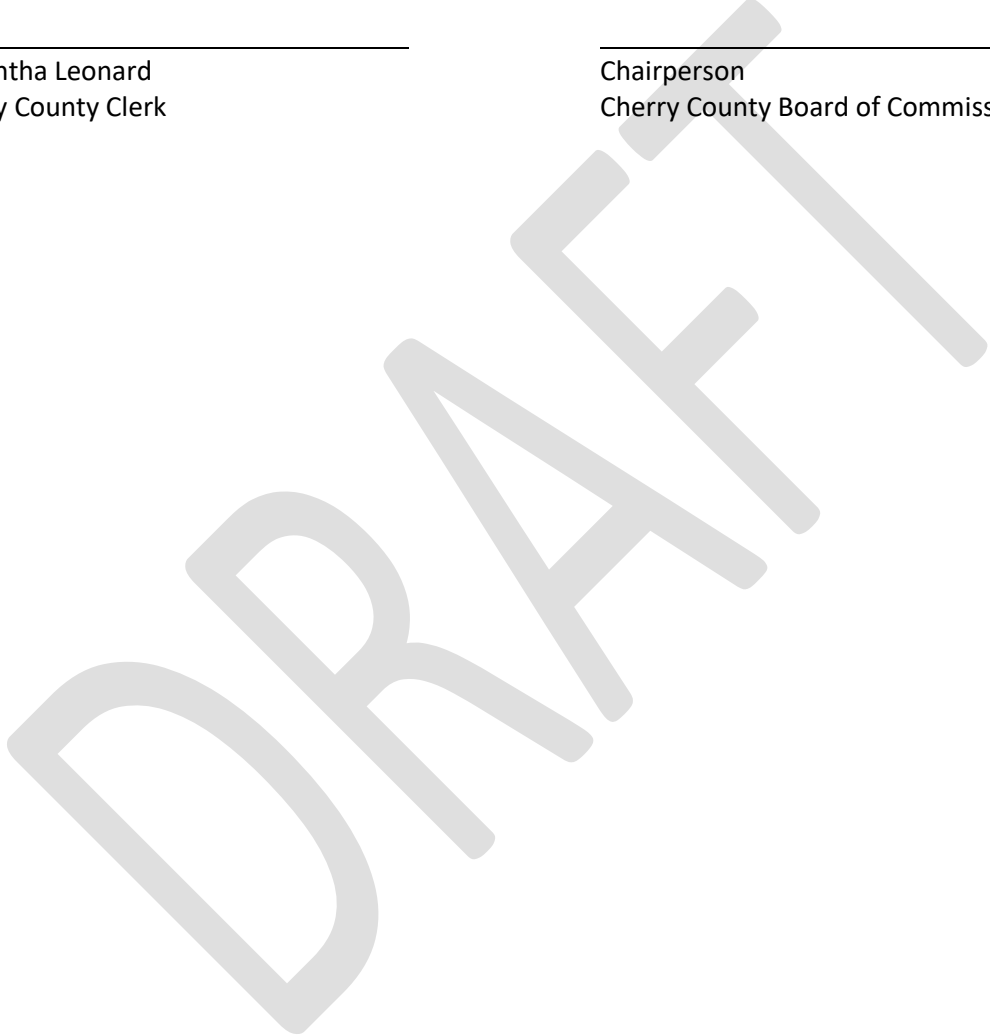
At 3:21 p.m. Chairman DeNaeyer adjourned the meeting.

State of Nebraska,)
) SS.
 County of Cherry,)

I, Samantha Leonard, the undersigned County Clerk of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes are true and are part of the official records of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 14th day of January 2025.

 Samantha Leonard
 Cherry County Clerk

 Chairperson
 Cherry County Board of Commissioners



BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINUTES

December 31, 2024

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Equalization on December 31, 2024 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published December 11, 2024 in the Valentine Midland News, with the 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. Present were Commissioners Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughy, Deputy County Clerk Samantha Leonard, and County Assessor Melissa Bancroft. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman DeNaeyer.

No comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

Assessor Bancroft presented the board with Exemption Application 451 submitted by Valentine Good Samaritan Housing, Inc. with recommendation that they do not qualify for the exemption. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to accept Assessor Bancroft’s recommendation for Exemption Application 451 for Valentine Good Samaritan Housing, Inc. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried.

Cherry Hills Estates LLC submitted Exemption Application 451NF presented by Assessor Bancroft. Based on Medicaid beds on a 3-year average, Assessor Bancroft recommended Cherry Hills Estates LLC’s application be approved for 27%. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to accept Assessor Bancroft’s recommendation of Cherry Hills Estates Exemption Application 451NF. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Tax list corrections were discussed with the Board and Assessor Bancroft. It was confirmed to the Board that all tax list corrections presented were split parcels related to properties being sold. Tax list correction #6 and #7 were split due to property sold, #8 and #9 were split with a deed correction, #10 and #11 were split and updated owner names, and #12 and #13 were split with updated owner names. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve Tax List Corrections #6-13 as presented by Assessor Bancroft. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Property ID</u>
2024	6	160267722
2024	7	160666247
2024	8	160104475
2024	9	160666248
2024	10	160067634
2024	11	160666246
2024	12	160046580
2024	13	166662245

At 1:14 p.m. Chairman DeNaeyer adjourned the meeting.

State of Nebraska,)
) SS.
 County of Cherry,)

I, Samantha Leonard, the undersigned County Clerk of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes are true and are part of the official records of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 14th day of January 2025.

 Samantha Leonard
 Cherry County Clerk

 Chairperson
 Cherry County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES December 31, 2024

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on December 31, 2024 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published December 11, 2024 in the Valentine Midland News, with the agenda being on file in the office of the County Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman DeNaeyer. Present were Commissioners Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughey, Deputy County Clerk Samantha Leonard, and Justice Administrator Sharon Hesse. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman DeNaeyer

No public comment was received during the allotted time.

Justice Center Administrator Sharon Hesse updated the board regarding the staff census, new certified Correction Officers, trainings for officers in dispatch, jail census, and potentially dispatching for Keya Paha County in the future.

At 1:44 p.m. Chairman DeNaeyer adjourned the meeting.

State of Nebraska,)
) SS.
County of Cherry,)

I, Samantha Leonard, the undersigned County Clerk of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes are true and are part of the official records of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 14th day of January 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

